

GEO Summit,
Mexico City, 13 November, 2015

Dear ministers, participants to the GEO summit, ladies and gentlemen,

Romania is very pleased to participate to this event representing a very important milestone for GEO (Group on Earth Observation) in a moment in which programmatic challenges are expected to significantly improve the effectiveness of our efforts towards building GEOSS (Group on Earth Observation System of Systems), a voluntary endeavor showing a huge potential in many socio-economical areas.

My country recognizes the important role GEO is playing in the global effort aiming to provide an adequate decision-making framework, a framework in which Earth Observations plays a more and more important part.

Romania has been showing its recognition of GEO and the importance of developing GEOSS by hosting the GEO Plenary in 2008, only one year after joining GEO and by constantly being present in GEO activities.

As a representative of the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research, I am pleased to mention our continuous process of investing in research, development and innovation in Earth Observation. Contributing to the development of GEOSS is a permanent topic in our national program for research, development and innovation which recently entered a new phase of development for the period 2015-2020.

The Space and Earth Observation are included in our national Strategy for Research and Innovation (2014-2020). Space and Security is one of the 3 main national priority fields for smart specialization.

The same time, being an European Union and an ESA member state, Romania is bringing its contribution to the development of the Earth Observation systems and the various applications contributing to many societal benefits areas as promoted by the GEO.

By the means of a free and open access to data and information policy, the European Earth Monitoring program, Copernicus is already providing an excellent framework for an accelerated exploitation of Earth Observation data, and this is already contributing to the development of GEOSS.

While concluding my statement, I want to express my confidence that GEO will successfully follow its new programmatic directions to accomplish its task towards effectively developing GEOSS in the next decade.

We will encourage and support our GEO community to share data and information to be used in the GEO societal benefit areas, and will continue our efforts for initiating and developing regional initiatives in support of GEOSS.

At the end, I want to thank our Mexican colleagues, for the invitation and for the excellent organization of this GEO event, and express my confidence for a good continuation of GEO activities.

Mihai Sorin Cimpeanu
Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, Romania