

November 30, 2007

## **GSDI Statement at the GEO Cape Town Ministerial Summit**

Honorable Ministers, GEO Co-Chairs, Executive Director,  
Delegates, and Ladies and Gentleman

On Behalf of the President, Officers, Board and members of the Global Spatial Data Structure (GSDI) Association, I would like to thank for this opportunity to provide our Statement this afternoon.

As a Participating Organization, we would like to congratulate GEO on its accomplishments and success since the adoption of the Global Earth Observations Systems of Systems (GEOSS) 10-Year Implementation Plan.

In 2 years we have demonstrated remarkable progress --as showcased by the events this week---and especially during the Exhibition.

The GSDI is an organization with over 40 members from governments, academia, and private industry developing Spatial Data Infrastructures throughout the world --these Infrastructures provide access to geospatial data, information, applications, technologies, and information for a variety of needs to its user community. This community is comprised of over 2 million users and experts, --- which collect, process and disseminate geospatial data and information.

The GSDI vision is very consistent with the GEO and GEOSS goals and objectives. During the past several years, GSDI members from countries, universities and the private sector have provided their expertise and resources to support the development of GEOSS to advance our mutual interests. Making spatial data

and information readily available is critical in addressing the nine societal benefit areas.

We would like to express our appreciation the GEO process, -- which has provided excellent results. This is truly an indicator of the commitment and capabilities of the GEO member countries and the Participating Organizations. We also recognize that this process of openness, flexibility, and collaboration provides a venue for effective and efficient problem solving ---with excellent benefits.

Many of the interoperability standards and architecture best practices being implemented through GEOSS have been well grounded in establishing GSDIs for many years—thus providing excellent opportunities to share geospatial data and information across these initiatives.

We look forward to participating in additional GEO and GEOSS activities to develop and promote key cross-cutting solutions in data management, data quality, interoperability, standards, and capacity building. These opportunities will enhance our abilities to address the problems of today and in the future.

We are pleased that the Cape Town Declaration includes reaffirmations and commitments that we believe are essential in realizing the both the vision of GEOSS and GSDI Association.

In closing, we thank the South African government for its wonderful hospitality and we congratulate them on the very successful events this week.

We are pleased to continue our ongoing participation in GEO as we embark on this journey to provide sound, effective earth observations data and information to users and decision-makers.

Thank you very much