

STATEMENT FOR PLENARY

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address this meeting on behalf of EUMETSAT. EUMETSAT is a CEOS Agency and contributes to GEO through its operational satellite programmes.

In July, we launched the fourth and last satellite of the Meteosat Second Generation series, and we are now preparing for the launch of the Copernicus Sentinel-3 satellite and the Jason-3 satellite, which we will exploit in cooperation with European and US partners.

This summer, our 30 Member States approved two new programmes, the EUMETSAT Polar System of Second Generation and Jason-CS, our contribution to the development of the collaborative Sentinel-6 ocean altimetry mission.

These launches and new decisions secure the continuity of our observations of the atmosphere, ocean and land for two decades, and hence our long term contribution to GEO.

EUMETSAT welcomes the GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025, which provides clear objectives and new governance. We are ready to contribute to its implementation in the next 10 years, in particular through the GEONETCast partnership with the Chinese Meteorological Administration, NOAA and the GEO Secretariat, considered as a Foundational Task.

GEONETCast will continue to facilitate access to Earth Observation data and information in developing countries and provide a global and efficient data access mechanism in support to all Societal Benefit Areas.

Thank you for your attention.