



**STATEMENT BY THE GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS (GEO) SECRETARIAT**  
PLENARY SESSION  
COP-3 OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Mr President,

Distinguished delegates,

I am speaking on behalf of the Group on Earth Observations Secretariat.

The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) **is pleased to be accepted as an observer organisation** to the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

GEO is an international partnership of more than 100 UN Member States and the European Commission as well as over 100 International Organisations as partners, including Associates from the private sector. GEO is working to improve the availability, access and use of Earth observation information for the benefit of society.

The **GEO Flagship Global Observation System for Mercury (GOS<sup>4</sup>M)** promotes actions intended to provide comparable and high-quality global monitoring mercury data, validated modelling frameworks and a dedicated platform as a part of the GEO Knowledge Hub to support policy assessments and decisions.

To achieve this objective, **GOS<sup>4</sup>M promotes the establishment of a federation of existing regional and global mercury monitoring networks and programmes** for the purposes of the Minamata Convention.

GOS<sup>4</sup>M aims to support all interested Parties in the implementation of the Minamata Convention, in particular in relation to capacity-building and technical assistance to developing country Parties



(under Article 14); research, development and monitoring (under Article 19); and effectiveness evaluation of the Convention (under Article 22).

GEO would like to **invite all Parties to join the GEO Work Programme activities and the GOS<sup>4</sup>M federation** to support the full implementation of the Minamata Convention. More information can be obtained at the **Mercury Air Transport and Fate Research Partnership Area** booth.

I thank you for your attention.