

GEO SUMMIT - BEIJING, November 05, 2010.

## STATEMENT OF ARGENTINA

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic, we would like to express our recognition to the Government of China for the excellent organization and the warmth they have put into organizing this Summit of GEO, and to congratulate the government and the people of this great country for their great efforts and their success in the implementation of observation systems, so useful for GEO. Today's launch of FY-3B is a good example of this.

There is not much that can be added to the statements made by the speakers before us in relation to the significance of GEO.

As we said in the Ministerial Summit in South Africa, Argentina has supported and promoted GEO since the very moment in which the idea was stated. And our support and commitment stays and will stay firm.

Although our enthusiasm with the original idea – which would later give origin to GEO - was based on the conviction that it would aim at the creation of an integrated system of Earth Observation, the subsequent evolution towards a Systems of Systems for Global Observation of our planet has not decreased our enthusiasm. In effect, we have not lost our hopes that we will finally end up in an integrated system. Why do we say this?

Simply because, when we take the fundamental idea of GEO - to serve certain areas of social interest through the provision of adequate and timely information on our planet - we see that we will finally end with the creation, even without saying it explicitly, of an integrated system.

Or how could we really achieve, for example, the provision of timely and adequate information on the essential climate variables without an integrated system? This is why we are convinced that the System of Systems that we seek to have operative by 2015 shall be much more like an integrated system than a system of systems.

Indeed, in his speech this morning, Dr. WAN Gang, Minister of Science and Technology of China used in several opportunities the phrase *integrated system*.

A further reason for us to keep our hope that this will occur is what is happening with CEOS, the space component of GEOSS.

In effect, the concept of virtual constellations naturally leads to abandoning the methodology of joining data from diverse pre-existing satellite missions with the objective of generating adequate and timely information on certain issues and, instead, it

continuously insists on the need that countries, when developing their missions of Earth observation, seek to fill the information gaps identified thanks to the said constellations. In other words, we are talking about designing satellites that answer a priori to such global requirements. This is a goal, for example, of the joint Argentine Brazilian project, SABIA-Mar that seeks to cover certain aspects of the Ocean Color Radiometry Constellation.

Mr. President,

There is an aspect of this process that we would like to highlight again. We have stated this in South Africa and we reiterate it here: GEO conceptually leads to an equalization between developed and developing countries. In effect, once the data is available, converting it into a useful product is no longer a matter of investing in physical capital, but in neurons. And as we have said in different opportunities, we do not think that the quality of the neurons can be measured by the income per capita.

It is this kind of projects and activities that show the strong relationship between grey matter, science and economics. And any country can make and receive remarkable contributions to and from any other nation.

When we talk about the relationship between science and economics, this implies that the GEOSS must seriously help to protect biodiversity. In other words, it must generate adequate and timely information for a responsible use. Otherwise, we may could, for example, finish with the fishing wealth of our seas in a very short time. Indeed, the poor fish have today the same ways of defending themselves from the fishermen as they had 10,000 years ago. And man has available more and improved information to catch them. It is evident that this is not the target of GEO.

This is why we insist that GEO will be in the future a great tool that will contribute to the democratization of science, technology and to a substantial improvement in the quality of life.

Evidently, looking at this, how could Argentina not continue to give its full support to GEOSS?

And of course, we support the Beijing Declaration.

Thank you very much.