

Ministerial Statement for 2010 Ministerial Summit

The key tasks and the burning issues of Bangladesh today are disaster risk reduction, provision of proper climate services and the maintenance of bio-diversity and environment, food security and livelihood. As a developing and disaster prone country, Bangladesh is very optimistic about GEOSS and its planned services for disaster risk reduction, environmental protection, maintenance of environment and bio-diversity to cope up with the looming climate change impacts on its climate sensitive economy. Free and open access to data, meta data, products and information from GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI) which is in fact the architectural framework essential for implementation of data sharing principle. We hope that GCI will assist members especially the less capable members to develop their Bio-diversity and Eco-system services, Climate Services, and an effective Early Warning System for all natural hazards and Geo-hazards.

Bangladesh attaches great importance to GCI, GEONETCAST and capacity building initiatives of GEOSS particularly capacity development of core stakeholders at national level. The GCI and Clearing house portal should be so framed that the facilities can serve the developing countries with relevant information in time and the GEOSS Clearing house should ensure the support to address the countries needs and assist them in developing a framework for the delivery of the services to achieve societal benefits. As the GCI is the core mechanism that supports the developing countries in making interface between GEOSS infrastructure and national infrastructure down to the end-users level, it will immensely help the developing nations in containing the impacts of climate change, supports the disaster risk reduction efforts and maintenance of bio-diversity and environment.

To reap the full benefits from GEOSS, countries like Bangladesh need to develop their own national capacity. National capacity development in this particular context is of crucial importance. In this aspects, GEOSS should take of the programmes pertinent to make GEOSS's efforts more focused to cater to capacity development and enable the Government, the policy-makers, core-stakeholders and the public to take appropriate decision.