



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Beijing 05 November 2010

STATEMENT OF REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
THE GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATION,
MINISTERIAL SUMMIT IN BEIJING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

On the behalf of the Government of Croatia, I would like to express sincere appreciation to the Government of People's Republic of China, and the Chinese Meteorological Administration for the excellent hosting of the GEO VII meeting and GEO 2010 Ministerial Summit.

Croatia has participated as member of the Group on Earth Observation and Global Earth Observation System of Systems since 2004.

Croatia recognizes the needs for the global observations on ground, ocean, air and space domains under the umbrella of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems and welcomes all the actions for achieving the targets of the GEOSS 10 - Year Implementation Plan as well as the Strategic Targets related to the GEOSS Implementation by 2015.

Recognizing that strengthening of the international cooperation on the Global Earth Observation System of Systems contributes to better organization and expansion of observation on regional and country levels, Croatia encourages all achievable actors on a national level: users, scientific community, governmental organizations, public relation and others, to prepare and to establish national GEO coordination mechanisms.

Adaptation to climate change, protection against natural and human-induced disasters, biodiversity and ecosystems protection, improved management in health, energy, water, agriculture and other parts of human activities indicate huge benefit outcomes for humankind when carried out under the Global Earth Observation System of Systems.

Croatia is welcoming progress in the GEO and GEOSS performance, which demonstrates impressively that GEOSS is becoming more and more remarkable and incentive. Lot of earth observing systems have long-term operational background in many parts of the world and various GEOSS components are already present in the operational mode. The main assignments at international and national levels are (1) coordination between existing components and (2) strengthening of components that need more development and modernisation.

Croatia is participating in numerous international organizations such are WMO, UNEP, ICSU, GOOS, GCOS, EUMETSAT, ECMWF, EUMETNET, which are in charge or related to various world observational networks. On one hand, we could witness suitable observational performance - while on the other - there are still needs for better coordination in a wider range of observations at the world, regional and country levels.

The societal benefits of the GEO Earth Observation areas (Disasters, Health, Energy, Climate, Water, Weather, Ecosystems, Agriculture, and Biodiversity) cannot be achieved without sharing data. Croatia supports the GEOSS Data Sharing Implementation Guidelines and the Action Plan and urges for more rapid realization.

Many tasks like observation, modelling, research, user involvement, data management and Radio-Frequency Protection are essential for the GEO 10 – Year Implementation Plan and the Strategic Targets: GEOSS Implementation by 2015, achievement. Croatia notes high significance in the application of the new technologies in remote sensing like satellites, radars, automatization, but also notes high importance in the remaining care about existing conventional observational networks.

Croatia strongly supports Draft GEO Beijing Declaration: Observe, Share, Inform - with a hope in expansion and interlinking of existing observation systems and developing new technologies, particularly related to space-based observations, as way ahead to achieve the GEOSS vision.

Croatia urges for efficient and effective exchange of the new technologies for the improvements in the capacity building between developed, developing and the least developed countries as the crucial mechanism in filling the gaps at the Global Earth Observation Networks.

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