



## **Statement for the GEO Ministerial Summit in Geneva 17 January 2014**

Interventions regarding the future of GEOSS

### **Statement of Kiyoshi Higuchi President, International Astronautical Federation**

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to address the GEO Ministerial Summit on behalf of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) the contributions by IAF to GEO/GEOSS and its future.

First, as a newly approved GEO Participating Organization, IAF congratulates the efforts of GEO Members and Participating Organizations in reaching the completion of the initial 10-year implementation plan and supports the renewal of its mandate beyond 2015.

Second, as the world's leading space advocacy organisation with 273 members from 64 countries including all major space agencies, industry, research institution societies and associations worldwide, the IAF is proud to contribute to strengthening the advocacy and role to promote GEO's key objectives – including areas such as climate change and disaster management – to stakeholders around the world. One of the first of such contributions would be the Global Applications Conference to be held in Paris in June 2014 co-organised with UNESCO.

Third, the IAF is pleased to promote the engagement with the private sector to broaden GEO's stakeholder base, resources and reach. Currently, the largest member category of the Federation is "Industry" which consists of 87 organisations – followed by Associations and societies and space agencies.

To conclude, for the development of the new 10-year Implementation Plan, the engagement of stakeholders would be crucial, and therefore IAF is proud to offer the ideal platform for this purpose.

Thank you.