

**Country Statement**  
**by**  
*Mr. David Grimes*  
*Assistant Deputy Minister,*  
*Meteorological Service of Canada*  
*Environment Canada*

*On behalf of*  
**The Government of Canada**

**At the 2015 GEO Ministerial Summit**  
**Mexico City, Mexico**  
**November 13, 2015**

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to express our appreciation to the Mexican Government for their leadership in organizing this 2015 GEO Ministerial Summit.

Canada is proud to have been an active participant in GEO's developments since the beginning.

This Summit is an important milestone for GEO and the implementation of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), as it marks the beginning of a new chapter. As we enter this new decade, we can reflect on the value that GEO and GEOSS have brought to the world and to Canada since 2005:

- Canada recognizes that GEO has played a pivotal role in coordinating international efforts to observe and understand the Earth, providing data and observations from a wide array of systems, particularly from space missions and satellite data, which are vital to ensuring that environmental, economic and social programs and policies are informed by sound science.
- GEO's value is found in its convening power. It has helped bring together international communities of end-users and experts, and enabled key science questions and observation needs to be defined.

- Canada recognizes that all countries benefit from this international collaboration by informing decision making, increasing our understanding of the air, land and water cycles, helping foster sustainable management of our agricultural, forestry, biodiversity and energy resources while helping disaster response and adaptation to climate change.
- Canada recognizes the important contribution the GEOBON initiative which has focused on assisting national governments in the design and implementation of national Biodiversity Observing Networks, and is proud of our leadership role in this initiative.

Mr. Chairman, Canada is a committed partner in this important endeavour. We look forward to GEO broadening its engagement with the UN, private sector and user communities, to maximize the benefit of Earth observations now and into the future. The Societal Benefit Areas (SBAs) are the focal point for this engagement and enable GEO to address domains that are all affected by climate change. In turn, by addressing these SBAs, GEO is also enhancing the world's resilience and ability to adapt to climate change.

I would like to express Canada's full support for the *Mexico City Declaration*, which acknowledges the unique value of GEO and its power to convene users and experts. As GEO moves forward over the next decade, this convening power will be what ensures GEO's success and its ability to support the global agenda, including the world's efforts to combat and adapt to climate change.

I would also like to express Canada's support for the *GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing GEOSS*, which builds on GEO's success and sets a framework for the future.

It's only through concerted global action that we can tackle the societal challenges of the future, to ensure a safer and healthier planet for all.

Thank you.