



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Mexico City, 11th - 13th November 2015

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
The Group on Earth Observation,
Ministerial Summit, Mexico City, Mexico

On the behalf of the Government of Croatia, I would like to express sincere appreciation to the Government of Mexico for the excellent hosting of the GEO XII meeting and the GEO 2015 Ministerial Summit.

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

Croatia is welcoming progress in the GEO and GEOSS performance, which demonstrates impressively that GEOSS has grown in a remarkable system. 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.

Croatia clearly understands the Global Earth Observation System of Systems as the unique environment that is assembling complex data and information systems.

Croatia recognizes the needs for the global observations on ground, ocean, air and space domains under the umbrella of the GEOSS and highly appreciates all the actions and achievements of the *2015 GEOSS Strategic Targets*. On the top of that, Croatia concurs with the recommendations for the governance, role and future work of GEO starting with the *2016 Transitional Work Programme*.

Croatia has valuable experience trough participation in numerous intergovernmental and international organizations such as are WMO, UNEP, ICSU, IOC, UNESCO, EUROGOOS, EUMETSAT, ECMWF and EUMETNET, which are in charge or related to various global observational networks. On one hand, we could witness suitable observational performance - while on the other - there is still a need for better coordination in a wider range of observations at the global, regional and country level. Here, Croatia recognizes the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) as a vital contributor to the GEOSS community through its advanced WMO Integrated System - WIS, and the WMO Integrated Global Observing Systems - WIGOS.

Performance of many tasks like observation, modelling, research, user involvement, data management and Radio-Frequency Protection are essential for the achievement of the GEOSS Strategic Targets. In addition, Croatia is recognizing high significance in the application of the new technologies in remote sensing like satellites and radars as well as in in-situ measurement.

We would like to draw attention to the 3 areas where Croatia is persistently taking efforts to contribute to GEOSS.

- The first area relates to the reinforcement of our meteorological, hydrological and air quality observation networks through its modernisation by using European Union Funds for the period 2016-2022;
- The second one relays on building capacities for the - Regional Marine Meteorological Centre for the Adriatic Sea Area as a WIS DCPC entity of JCOMM that brings together meteorological, oceanographic and hydrological community in the WIGOS environment.
- Finally, the third contribution we would like to point out is reporting on observation of essential climate variables within UNFCCC National Climate Reports.

Croatia is looking forward for the continuation of the GEO mission up to 2025, and beyond strongly supporting *GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025: Implementing GEOSS* along with a *Reference Document* with understanding of the needs to explore steady GEOSS resourcing mechanism and their modifications but still preserving current nature of the partnership within the voluntary framework of GEO.

Croatia strongly supports the *Mexico City Ministerial Declaration* with a high expectation in expansion and interlinking of existing observation systems and developing new technologies, particularly related to space-based and ground-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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