

## **Estonian Ministerial Statement to Ministerial Summit**

**Mexico City, November 13, 2015**

Honourable Ministers, distinguished Delegates, Heads of Participating Organizations, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Estonian Government recognises the fundamental importance of Earth observation data and information in making crucial decisions at global, regional and national scale. We recognise the ground-breaking role of GEO in advocating full and open access of Earth observation data. Changing the paradigm in this field has been one of the greatest achievements of GEO during its first ten years implementation.

Humankind is facing unprecedented challenges and concentrated global action is the only way to respond to these challenges. Coordinated use of Earth observation from all different platforms and timely, full and open access to this data and information can help us solve the problems, address and mitigate risks, and deliver skilful predictions of the future behaviour of Earth systems. Estonian Government sees GEO as a flexible tool to achieve these targets through coordinating the necessary actions, advocating full and open data access, identifying information and observation gaps, advocating the importance of Earth observations, engaging stakeholders and delivering data, information and knowledge for evidence-based decision-making. Estonia supports implementation of GEOSS, which increases our understanding of Earth processes, enhances predicting capabilities and helps to improve decision-making.

Estonia is pleased to endorse the Mexico City Ministerial Declaration and we thank the Mexican Government for their excellent hospitality at this landmark time in the evolution of GEO.