

RESOLUTION OF THE THIRD EARTH OBSERVATION SUMMIT

(As adopted 16 February 2005)

We, the participants in the Third Earth Observation Summit held in Brussels, Belgium, on February 16, 2005:

Recalling the Declaration of the first Earth Observation Summit, held in Washington, D.C., on July 31, 2003, and the Framework Document adopted at the Second Earth Observation Summit, held in Tokyo, on April 25, 2004;

Building on the commitment made at those Summits to move toward a comprehensive, coordinated, and sustained Earth observation system of systems, taking into account the particular needs of developing countries;

Remaining cognizant of the fact that observing and understanding the Earth system more completely and comprehensively will expand worldwide capacity and means to achieve sustainable development as envisioned in our commitments in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, and will yield advances in many specific societal benefit areas, including disaster reduction, health, energy, weather, climate, water, ecosystems, biodiversity, agriculture and combating desertification;

Acknowledging the achievements of the established national, regional, and international observing systems, including those sponsored and cosponsored by a number of UN Specialised Agencies and Programmes; and

Determined to build upon, strengthen and expand, where appropriate, the established observing systems by working with and through existing planning and coordination mechanisms;

Affirm our support to the process, recognizing the increased attention to our initiative with more countries and organizations participating since the first Summit;

Acknowledge with appreciation the work of the *ad hoc* Group on Earth Observations (GEO) to develop a 10-Year Implementation Plan, based on user requirements and building on existing systems, and seeking to undertake concerted capacity-building efforts, especially within developing countries;

Endorse the 10-Year Implementation Plan as the basis for its further development and for establishing a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) to fulfill user requirements among various socio-economic benefit areas;

Note with appreciation the extensive supporting information compiled in the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan Reference Document prepared by the *ad hoc* GEO;

Establish the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO), to take those steps necessary to implement GEOSS in accordance with its implementation plan;

Encourage the governments of all UN member states to participate in GEO and invite the governing bodies of the UN Specialised Agencies and Programmes and other relevant international and regional organizations, which sponsor and cosponsor established global, regional, and national observing systems, to endorse the implementation of GEOSS and to encourage and assist GEO in its work;

Request GEO to consult the intergovernmental and other sponsors of the component systems of GEOSS on progress and on issues involved in implementation of the Plan;

Affirm our intention to provide the support necessary to execute the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan;

Resolve to meet again, before the end of 2007, to take stock of progress and provide further guidance towards the successful implementation of GEOSS; and

Resolve to conduct a mid-term assessment of GEO by 2010.