

GEO - THE BEIJING MINISTERIAL SUMMIT

NOVEMBER 5, 2010

STATEMENT BY BRAZIL

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Ministers and Delegates,

Brazil thanks People's Republic of China for hosting this II GEO Ministerial Summit. This is yet another significant demonstration of China's commitment to GEO's success. Since 1998, Brazil has been a partner of China in developing satellites for earth observation and has witnessed the substantial progress of Chinese technology in this area.

Brazil praises the GEO co-chairs for their leadership and guidance and welcomes the new GEO members: Gabon, Burkina Faso, Serbia, Ethiopia and Ghana. We congratulate the Director of the GEO's Secretariat, Prof. Jose Achache, and the GEO staff for their intense efforts in preparing the documents for our meetings. The Report on Progress for the Beijing Ministerial Summit shows how much progress has been made in building the Global Earth Observation System of Systems.

Brazil has been an active member of GEO since the First Earth Observation Summit, in Washington in 2003. We currently serve in the Executive Committee for the period 2010-2011. We have responded to this important assignment by increasing our commitments to GEO. Brazil co-chairs the Capacity Building Committee and has accepted to serve as co-chair of the Architecture and Data Committee. We have seconded a senior expert to the GEO secretariat (Dr. Fernando Ramos), who will now be replaced by an equally senior expert (Dr. João Viane Soares). We have also committed to host the 2012 Geo Plenary in Brazil, as part of the events related to the Earth Summit 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil is a leading green economy. Ninety-five percent of new cars made in Brazil have a flex fuel engine, allowing them to run on either ethanol or gasoline. Eighty-Five

percent of the electrical energy used in Brazil comes from renewable sources. Our green economic growth allows us to be able to support other developing nations in making their transitions to a sustainable development.

Given Brazil's unique position, we have chosen to focus Brazil's engagement in GEO in initiatives linked to Data Democracy. "Data Democracy" was proposed by our friends of South Africa, during its CEOS Chairmanship, and it means empowering the world's developing countries to make the fullest use of Earth Observation data. Data Democracy is a powerful force. It can make a big contribution to a global transition to sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman, let me now outline some of Brazil's Data Democracy actions.

The first one is **CBERS (China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellite) data sharing**. At the 2007 GEO Summit in Cape Town, Brazil and China launched the **CBERS for Africa initiative** to share CBERS imagery in all Africa. Brazil and China have signed agreements with three ground stations: Maspalomas, in Canary Islands, managed by Spain; Aswan, managed by Egypt; and Hartebeesthoek, managed by South Africa. Brazil, in partnership with China, is looking forward to cover the Congo Basin. Also, Brazil has signed an agreement with Gabon, in cooperation with France, and has been discussing the use of the Malindi ground station, in Kenya, managed by Italy.

In 2010, Brazil and China signed an update of the CBERS data policy that sets up the principle of free and open access to CBERS data to all developing nations. Brazil is discussing new agreements with Mexico and Argentina that will allow them to deliver CBERS data in Latin American countries that are outside of the reach of Brazil's ground station.

Brazil has adopted an open and free data policy for all of its Earth observation satellites. In 2012, we will launch Amazonia-1, a satellite that aims to monitor forests and agriculture in the world's tropical regions. Brazil develops open source software for processing remote sensing images and building geographical information systems. Our open source software is widely used in Latin America and our aim is to extend its use to developing nations in Africa and Asia.

At the COP-15 climate change conference in Copenhagen 2009, Brazil signed an important agreement with FAO. By the terms of the agreement, Brazil will transfer its technology for monitoring tropical forests to other developing nations, supported by the UN-REDD program. Brazil will help other countries to build their capacity for Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of forest carbon stocks. We have already invested much in support of this task. In July 2010, we opened INPE Amazonia, a new research center in the heart of the Amazon rain forest in Belém. INPE Amazonia is a branch of Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE) dedicated to capacity building. Our aim is to develop and share tropical environment monitoring techniques using earth observation. The primary focus of the INPE-FAO agreement is the Congo Basin, and capacity building for this region will start in the first half of 2011.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Ministers,

Brazil is fully committed to GEO and to sharing its expertise and technology in earth observation with other developing nations. Brazil sees GEO as a great model and remains committed to its principles and will continue to work through GEO to help empower developing countries to make full use of earth observation.

Thank you.