

III GEO Ministerial Summit (17/1)
Session 3. Item 6. The future of GEO
Intervention (Brazil)

Mr. Chairman
Distinguished Ministers and Heads of Delegation,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the name of the Brazilian Delegation, I would like to express, through Mr. Bruno Oberle, our congratulations and thanks to the Swiss Government for hosting this meeting and praise the efforts of all those involved in the organization of this successful event, specially the co-chairs and the Geo Director, Ms. Barbara Ryan.

Brazil is deeply committed to the objectives of the Group on Earth Observation. As host of the IX Plenary Session of GEO, we had the privilege to receive 247 delegates in Foz do Iguaçu, in November 2012.

Brazil strongly supports the principles of cooperation and coordination that have guided GEO since its beginning. We have been an active member since the First Earth Observation Summit, in Washington, in 2003, and have participated in the Executive Committee in different occasions. My country is engaged in the implementation of GEOSS and has clearly demonstrated, in several opportunities, its commitment to the principle of open access to Earth observation data and information.

As a follow up to the Beijing Ministerial Declaration, which recommends the establishment of national coordination mechanisms, GEO Brazil was created, in November 2012, with the participation of different national agencies involved in earth observation activities. We are committed to strengthening this initiative in the near future, which will allow for a greater engagement of Brazilian experts and institutions with GEO's activities.

Brazil attaches great importance to the AfriGEOSS project. Through the CBERS for Africa Initiative, launched together with China, in the Cape Town Ministerial Summit in 2007, we have been cooperating with our African partners with capacity building projects and we are committed to projects aimed at providing Earth Observation data relevant to different aspects of their environmental strategies.

An unexpected condition prevented the CBERS-3 satellite from reaching its orbit, last December. In order to fulfill the objectives of the CBERS program, Brazil and China have started technical discussions aimed at anticipating the assembly and launching of CBERS-4.

Brazil believes that global monitoring projects, such as the Global Forest Observation Initiative (GFOI), the GEO Biodiversity Observation Network (GEOBON), the GEO Global Agricultural Monitoring (GEOGLAM) and the Blue Planet Initiative constitute important dimensions of GEO's work that must be strengthened. Brazil's large experience in preserving the Amazon rainforest has been put at the disposal of the international community, mainly through the GFOI initiative.

In this context, it is important to mention that the Government of Brazil and the Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) have agreed to share resources from the Brazilian Amazon Fund with the other seven ACTO member States (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela) to combat deforestation in the Amazon. Last July, the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research (INPE) and ACTO signed a cooperation agreement and the project “Monitoring of Deforestation, Forestry Exploration and Land Use Changes in the Amazon Rainforest” shall start in February of 2014.

Brazil is a country with plenty of initiatives aimed at preserving biodiversity. Coherently with this stand, my delegation welcomes the efforts of GEOBON to improve the world`s biodiversity observation network.

Brazil is an active participant of GEOGLAM and the Agriculture Market Information System (AMIS), which constitute important initiatives to reduce market volatility for the world`s major crops.

In the past five years, Brazil has been providing, as in-kind contribution, senior experts from INPE as secondments to the GEO secretariat. The last one, Dr. João Viane Soares, stayed in Geneva for 3 years and had an important role in the GEO Secretariat as coordinator of GEOGLAM.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

To conclude, I would like to reiterate Brazil`s commitment to promoting improved governance in GEO and implementing GEO primary objectives.

Taking into account what has been achieved so far, we are very much optimistic about GEO's accomplishments in the near future. My Delegation fully endorses the Geneva Declaration and the renewal of the mandate of GEO through 2025, retaining the current nature of the partnership.

Thank you for your attention.