

III GEO Ministerial Summit (17/1)
Session 4. Item 10. The future of GEO
Intervention (Brazil)

Madam Chair,
Distinguished Ministers and Heads of Delegation,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Swiss Government and all those involved in the organization of this meeting, including you, the Co-Chairs and the GEO Director, Barbara Ryan.

Brazil fully supports the renewal of the mandate of GEO and endorses the “Vision for GEO 2025”, approved in the Tenth Plenary.

Since the foundation of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), in 2005, much has been done to promote full and open access to Earth observations, data and information. We have made substantial progress in our objective to assemble a more comprehensive picture of our planet.

In this context, it is important to recall that the Rio+20 Conference final document, "The Future We Want", in its paragraph 274, explicitly recognizes the efforts in developing global environmental observation systems. The same document also acknowledges the key role of GEOSS, as well as the need to support developing countries in their efforts to collect environmental data.

The Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) is an essential tool to provide quality global information as the basis for sound decision-making to the benefit of society.

My Delegation believes that the Geneva Declaration and the documents we adopted during this week are a good basis for the

work ahead of us, during the next 10 years. A renewed GEO will certainly strengthen our commitment to assure access, sharing and use of Earth observations.

In line with the “Ministerial Guidance on the Evolution of GEOSS”, Brazil concurs that, in the second phase of GEO, we should focus on the advancement of the GEOSS information system and the implementation of data-sharing principles worldwide.

The recommendations set out in the document “Vision for GEO 2025” are in line with our expectations on how we should further advance GEO’s objectives in the future. They should guide the Working Group that will prepare, in the next 2 years, a new Implementation Plan for 2016-2025, to be adopted in the XII Plenary. Brazil is more than willing to contribute to this process.

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Brazil supports a post-2015 GEO that should be able to promote and implement global initiatives such as GFOI, GEOGLAM, GEOBON and the Blue Planet. We expect improvements in GEO’s governance and greater participation of all countries in the decision-making process, particularly of developing countries.

In our view, capacity building programs for developing countries constitute a crucial dimension of the work of GEO and must be given priority. It is not sufficient to make available data. The final users must be trained on how to use the information that is made available, otherwise it will have little value.

We believe that earth observation activities are fundamental to the efficient monitoring and management of our natural resources. The data we produce inform political decisions and help to

address important challenges related to, for instance, food, water, energy security, natural disasters management and environmental sustainability.

Brazil is willing to continue to contribute to fulfill the expectations and to achieve the objectives of GEO and GEOSS in the future.

Thank you.