

**GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS**  
**EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION - GEO VIII**  
**ISTANBUL, TURKEY, NOVEMBER 16-17, 2011**  
**STATEMENT BY BRAZIL**

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

It is a great pleasure for the Brazilian delegation to participate in the Eighth Plenary Session of the Group on Earth Observations in this historical and millenary Istanbul. I would like to thank the Government of Turkey for the excellent organization of this event, in such difficult and hard times, and for the warm hospitality of the Turkish people.

On behalf of the Brazilian Government and people, the Brazilian delegation expresses its solidarity and its most sincere condolences to the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey on the human losses caused by the two recent terrible earthquakes that struck the Province of Van, causing hundreds of deaths and destruction in the eastern area of the country.

I would like to reaffirm our support to GEO's co-chairs and thank them for their leadership and guidance in this very difficult process of implementing GEOSS. Let me also warmly welcome the new GEO's members: Tajikistan and Colombia. I am sure that both have very important contributions to give to the consolidation of GEO.

I also would like to congratulate the Director of the GEO's Secretariat, Prof. Jose Achache, and the GEO staff for their efforts on leading the development of the 2012-2015 Work Plan, which reinforces the implementation of an operational and sustainable GEOSS offering full and open access and including interoperable observing, modelling and dissemination systems.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil has been an active member of GEO since the First Earth Observation Summit, in Washington in 2003. Brazil is currently in the Executive Committee and has responded to this important assignment by increasing its commitments to GEO. Brazil co-chairs the Capacity Building Committee and has seconded a senior expert to the GEO secretariat. I am also very pleased to express the wish of Brazil to host the 2012 GEO Plenary, as part of the events related to the Earth Summit 2012.

Mr. Chairman, very briefly, I would like to highlight some actions in which Brazil has been involved related to GEO's tasks and activities.

With respect to CBERS for Africa Initiative, Brazil and China have signed and updated the agreements for the upcoming CBERS-3 satellite, granting direct image reception of all its cameras to three ground stations: Maspalomas, in the Canary Islands, managed by Spain; Hartebeeshoek, managed by South Africa; and, AGEOS, managed by Gabon. Egypt and Italy have already been approached by Brazil and China in order to join this very important initiative and to ensure CBERS-3 data reception to the ground stations in Aswan and Malindi, completing the full coverage of the African continent.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil fully believes in an open and free data policy. In fact, Brazil has adopted one for all its Earth observation satellites. In 2013, Brazil will launch Amazonia-1, a satellite that aims to monitor forests and agriculture in the world's tropical regions. Brazil has developed an open source software to process remote sensing imagery, to handle geographical information and to analyse spatial data. 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.

Since last year, at the Brazilian National Institute on Space Research's (INPE) training facilities in its Regional Centre in Amazonia, Brazil has been transferring its technology for monitoring tropical forests to other developing nations, supported by the UN-REDD program, helping other countries to build their capacity for Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of forest carbon stocks.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, I just would like to reiterate that Brazil is fully committed to GEO and to the implementation of GEOSS. Brazil truly believes in this process. My Delegation is committed to participate in all meetings of the Post-2015 Working Group and offer its inputs and contributions to the very important task that this Group has to face. Brazil sees GEO as a great model and remains committed to its principles and will continue to work very hard to help empower other developing countries to make full use of earth observation.

It will be a great pleasure to welcome all of you, next year, in Foz do Iguacu, for the IX GEO Plenary Meeting. I am pretty sure that the beauty and power of Iguazu falls will very much inspire all of us to take important decisions in order to be able to move ahead in this process of consolidation of GEO and implementation of GEOSS.

Thank you very much for your attention.