

28<sup>th</sup> May, 2014

## Tokyo Statement

The participants of the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) Asia-Pacific Symposium, hosted by the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), encourage United Nations Organizations to recognize the benefits of the application of Earth observations in the formulation of next generation UN-led initiatives, such as the post-Hyogo Framework for Actions (HFA) within the overall post-Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agenda, the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD, achievement of Aichi targets). In this context, the participants welcome the emerging initiative, led jointly by World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to integrate Earth observations with other data and information in tackling the challenges of monitoring the complexities of the water sector in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, as well as activities undertaken by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). To succeed in these endeavours, and ultimately help countries achieve their goals and aspirations, development partners and donors need to extend their assistance in support of concerted efforts from both the Earth observations community, including the data providers, and the participating UN agencies.

Across the Asia-Pacific region today, earthquakes and tsunamis, floods and droughts, ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss in freshwater, coastal and terrestrial environments, high mountain ecosystems, and climate change impacts, endanger the security of water, food, energy, health and ecosystem services. As the world is closely inter-connected, the impact of an event immediately crosses borders and can lead to a cascade of consequences, even in geographically remote countries. Sustainable development must therefore be based on a comprehensive assessment of such disaster and environmental risks, along with their potential ramifications for environmental security and human well-being. Needless to say, as Asia-Pacific is home to more than sixty percent of the world population, with countries in varied levels of development, focus in this vast, diverse and complex region is critical for the achievement of next generation global goals and targets.

The participants discussed a case study in Cambodia which exemplifies the cross-cutting and inter-related nature of various Societal Benefit Areas (SBAs), including climate and ocean, water, agriculture, biodiversity and ecosystems, before entering a more in-depth discussion on each individual SBA. The participants therefore recognized that, with respect

to disaster risk reduction and environmental conservation, special efforts are needed in the areas of harmonizing research and operational activities. The participants agreed to establish the "GEOSS-AP ocean data networking system" to accelerate data sharing, with the view to mitigate possible weather and climate disasters in the Asia Pacific region. Further, these efforts should be conducted in a cohesive and coherent manner such that they produce integrated and actionable information and knowledge on temporal spans ranging from real-time to climate-scale and spatial scales from local to global. In this regard, the participants also noted the significance of facilitating collaborations with international initiatives such as the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction which will be held in Sendai, Japan, March 2015, UNFCCC (COP-21) which will be held in 2015 in Paris, and the ongoing discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which will be integrated into the post-2015 Development Agenda.

GEO has been promoting regional cooperation, including capacity building, networking of existing facilities, and data sharing through the Asian Water Cycle Initiative (AWCI) and the Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network (AP-BON), as well as the Asia rice crop team (Asia-RiCE) activity under the GEO Global Agriculture Monitoring initiative (GEO GLAM) and the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI). Additionally, discussions have recently begun within the GEO community regarding the importance of data integration across the jurisdictional waters of multiple countries. Full documentation of these projects and activities is essential for the promotion of benefits arising from mutual linkages between SBAs, which includes collaborating and harmonizing with these international efforts and taking into account the requests from data users. Further, these projects and activities are especially important as they relate to the co-creation of value-added information, and serve as a model for regional cooperation, enabling scientists, practitioners, decision-makers, citizens and other stakeholders to work together towards achieving sustainable development. Finally, the participants encourage the development partners to break out of the silos of MDG framework and build much needed cross-sectoral linkages and add trans-disciplinary activities as they design the next development post-2015 framework.