

Earth Observation Summit
DECLARATION
A Comprehensive Coordinated Earth Observation System

We, the participants, call for and intend to participate in a comprehensive, coordinated Earth observation system that is used for the benefit of humankind and thereby contributes to sustaining the Earth for future generations. We reaffirm the need for timely, quality, long-term, global information as a basis for sound decision making. To monitor continuously the state of the Earth, to increase understanding of dynamic Earth processes, to enhance prediction capabilities for changes to the Earth system, and to further implement our environmental treaty obligations, we recognize the need to support:

- (1) The exchange of observations recorded from *in situ*, aircraft, and satellite networks, dedicated to the purposes of this Declaration, in a full and open manner with minimum time delay and minimum cost;
- (2) A comprehensive, coordinated, and sustained Earth observation system that will meet collective requirements for observations, minimize data gaps, and optimize the utility of the system;
- (3) Preparation of a 10-year plan for the implementation of a comprehensive, coordinated and sustained Earth observation system, building on existing systems, with the Framework being available by next spring's Tokyo ministerial conference and the full plan available within one year for discussion and subsequent adoption;
- (4) A coordinated effort to work with developing countries to improve and sustain their contribution to observing systems, as well as their access to observations, thereby building local scientific and technical expertise; and,

To effect these objectives, we establish an *ad hoc* inter-governmental Group on Earth Observations and commission the group to proceed, taking into account the existing activities aimed at developing a global observing strategy in addressing the above, in particular specific actions of the participants for coordination of observing systems.