

UNISDR STATEMENT

GEO Ministerial summit
Geneva 17 January 2014
Venue: CICG, Salle 1 – level 1

Dear Dignities, GEO Members and distinguished participants,

Let me **express the appreciation** of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for your invitation to this very important event and the consideration that you are given to facilitate In-situ and Space-based Earth Observations for disaster risk management.

In fact, the impact of disasters is on the rise, only by **jointing efforts** to provide sound science and technology, free access of data and information, as vehicle for policy implementation and decision making, we would be able to curb this trend.

Earth Observation and services are key to identify, map, monitor and often forecast both natural and human-induced hazards to alert and get communities and nations better prepared in order to reduce disaster impacts.

As you might be aware, the UNISDR is undertaking consultations on the successor of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, called the **Post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**. A document informing on proposed elements for it has been released in December 2013, and is available in the UNISDR website for your consideration. It is also an opportunity to enhance linkages between the DRR Framework with the Sustainable Develop Framework and possible Climate Change “agreement” to be also considered in 2015.

The current Hyogo Framework requests the promotion and application of ***in-situ and space-based earth observations, space technologies, remote sensing, GIS, hazard modelling and prediction... for risk assessment, early Warning Systems and risk management.***

It also called upon to facilitate training, accessibility of data and information, as well as dissemination. It would be useful that the Earth Observation Community, such as GEO, advocates for similar and complementary requests expressed in this summit for consideration in the post-2015 DRR Framework.

Let me invite you all to actively participate in the **dialogues regarding the post-2015 DRR Framework**. Regional consultations will take place in Africa, Americas, Asia, Arab States and Europa from April to end June this year followed by formal UN preconference in July and November in Geneva.

Finally, we invite you all to participate at the **UN 3rd World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction to take place in Sendai Japan from 14 to 18 March 2015**, where the post-2015 DRR Framework would be defined, and to contribute with **concrete commitments for its implementation** that would be the second document to be discussed in Sendai.

pb, 17 January 2014