

(Draft)
Speech by Chinese Delegation on Earth Observation Summit

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, on behalf of the Minister of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Mr. Xu Guanhua, I would like to express our thanks to respected Mr. Donald L. Evans and Mr. Spencer Abraham for their kind invitation, and to the host country for its warm hospitality. It is a great pleasure to be here for this Summit and discuss important topics on Earth observation.

As we all know, the past 25 years have witnessed significant progress and remarkable achievements in the global Earth observation. To improve the monitoring of the state of the Earth, it is imperative that all countries work together and establish a comprehensive, coordinated Earth observation system. To that end, this Summit is of particular significance. China is always committed to global Earth observation and to international cooperation in this field. China will continue to be a strong supporter and active participant in global undertakings of Earth observation.

In the past 10 years, China has come a long way in Earth observation by making full use of its limited satellite resources. For instance, the successful launch of the "Fengyun-I" and "Fengyun-II" satellites has played a huge role in the monitoring of climate change, natural disasters and global and regional biological environment. We and Brazil worked together and launched a China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellite known as the CBERS-I. Recently, we have also sent into orbit the Oceanic Satellite-I and two scientific research and experiment satellites and launched unmanned test flights of "Shenzhou" manned spacecraft. In the future, more meteorological satellites, resources satellites, oceanic satellites and small environment and disaster monitoring satellites will be launched to observe and monitor the land, atmosphere, and oceanic environment of China, the peripheral regions and even the whole world.

Having said the above, we are fully aware that the world is still confronted with multiple problems threatening the sustained development of humankind, such as environmental degradation and natural disasters. We hope these problems will be resolved through international cooperation on Earth observation. With regard to the establishment of a comprehensive, coordinated Earth observation system, our principles and

position are as follows:

- 1. In general, China is interested in the draft Declaration and agrees on the concept of the Comprehensive Coordinated Earth Observation System.**
- 2. We emphasize that the Comprehensive Coordinated Earth Observation System should be mainly used on disaster reduction and prevention, scientific research on global changes and improvement of quality of people's life.**
- 3. We emphasize that the Comprehensive Coordinated Earth Observation System should be carried out on the basis of United Nations Charter and give sufficient consideration to the national security and independence.**
- 4. China is a developing country. We strongly hope that the developed countries will offer favorable aid for the developing countries in earth observing field.**

Mr. Chairman,

China always supports the utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes and stands for stronger international cooperation in space on the basis of equality, mutual benefit, mutual complementarity and common development. We believe that as our economy and technological capabilities grow stronger, we will contribute even more to the world in the field of Earth observation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman!