

COMMUNIQUE RELATING TO SUPPORT FOR TSUNAMI AND MULTI-HAZARD WARNING SYSTEMS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE GLOBAL EARTH OBSERVATION SYSTEM OF SYSTEMS (GEOSS)

(As adopted 16 February 2005)

We, the participants at the Third Earth Observation Summit, 16 February, 2005, Brussels, Belgium:

Expressing our sincere condolences and deep sympathy for the people and countries affected by the earthquake and tsunami that struck the Indian Ocean region, 26 December 2004;

Welcoming the discussions on the importance of tsunami early warning systems at preceding meetings, including the Special ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on Aftermath of Earthquake and Tsunami, in Jakarta, Indonesia, 6 January 2005; the Ten-Year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, in Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005; the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, in Kobe, Japan, 18-22 January 2005; the China-ASEAN Workshop on Earthquake-Generated Tsunami Warning, in Beijing, China, 25-26 January 2005; and the Ministerial Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements, in Phuket, Thailand, 29 January 2005;

Welcoming the efforts of various governments and regional initiatives toward development of regional and global warning systems;

Noting that within the GEOSS Ten-Year Implementation Plan, disaster reduction is one of the high priority, socio-economic benefit areas to be addressed as we pursue our efforts to achieve a comprehensive, coordinated, and sustained GEOSS;

Request the GEO to:

Support, through GEO activities, the expansion of multi-hazard capabilities for disaster reduction at national, regional and international levels, considering the framework of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and with particular focus on reducing loss of life and property from disasters, by recognizing and building on relevant existing and developing capabilities of GEO Members and participating organizations; and,

Support the coordinating activities of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and related national and regional initiatives to realize effective tsunami warning systems in the Indian Ocean and other regions of the world, as an integral part of a multi-hazard approach supported by GEOSS.