

(October 2024)

## 38<sup>th</sup> CEOS Plenary Montreal Statement

We, the assembled participants of the 38th Plenary meeting of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), taking place in Montreal, Canada, on 23 and 24 October 2024 in the year of CEOS' 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary:

**Building** upon our collective commitments to coordinate our Earth observation satellite missions in response to needs expressed by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), UN Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN Conventions on Biodiversity and Desertification (UNCBD and UNCCD), the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO), the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Programmes, the Group of 20 (G20), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and other stakeholders.

**Confirming** our Primary Mission to ensure international coordination of civil space-based Earth observation programs and promote exchange of data to optimise societal benefit and inform decision making for securing a prosperous and sustainable future for humankind.

**Recognising** that the successful development of the space-based Earth observations, and the integration of Earth observation data into information products and services, is the result of sustained collaboration and often substantial investments made by CEOS agencies.

**Noting** the global mobilization on the triple crisis of climate, biodiversity and pollution, and the relevance of coordinated space-based Earth observations for key strategic priorities, including the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the Group on Earth Observations (GEO).

**Noting** the increasing service offer by commercial Earth observations providers.

**Declare that:** we have agreed to continue to enhance our cooperation to respond effectively to Earth observation users' needs, and have renewed our commitment to:

- Monitoring the environment and climate from space through the coordinated planning, production, improvement, interoperability and availability of space-based climate data records on a global scale for maximum impact on climate policy development and implementation, and pursuing a coordinated approach to the CEOS contributions for the UNFCCC Conferences Of Parties (COP), particularly in the use of space-based Earth observation in support of the Global stock take (GST);



- Supporting disaster risk management and enhancing the contribution of space-based Earth observations in support of disaster risk reduction, mitigation and post-event recovery.
- Supporting GEO post 2025 Strategy to achieve its ambition of “Earth Intelligence for All” and continuing to enhance the provision of quality assured space-based Earth observations across the GEO work programme by ensuring interoperability and accessibility of data, thus maximising the benefits such observations bring through their integration with other data types, such as *in situ*.
- Ensuring that the activities CEOS members commit to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) where appropriate and practicable.

In addition, CEOS will continue to promote free and open space-based Earth observation data that is accessible to all, to strive to address data democracy considerations, to address user needs for satellite Earth observations, to ensure robust data quality assessment, to continuously seek to improve data discovery and access, and to build capacity through the various CEOS entities – the Working Groups, Virtual Constellations, and *ad hoc* Teams. CEOS commits to working with its network of Associates, including UN organisations, to enhance stakeholder engagement in CEOS activities. Furthermore, CEOS Agencies will continue to share best practices and seek practical means to benefit from commercially-derived Earth observations in response to global challenges.

