



Prague Declaration

A Declaration ratified by delegates at the XXIII ISPRS Congress calls on international communities to work together and promote multi-disciplinary collaboration towards providing reliable geospatial information to support societal transformations towards global sustainability. This statement emphasizes the ISPRS commitment to realize the full potential of information from imagery through research and development, scientific networking, international co-operation, inter-disciplinary integration and education and training. The declaration proposes advancement of a global geospatial information framework/ infrastructure to be formed through collaboration between ISPRS and other international communities. The Declaration was made at the General Assembly of ISPRS at its XXIII Congress held in Prague, Czech Republic, in July 2016.

We, the members of The International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) and participants of the XXIII ISPRS Congress in Prague, recognize the ever increasing application of imagery in many aspects of life and work today, and the urgent demands on deriving scientific evidence from imagery to monitor and understand global change, support sustainable development and confront global problems.

Noting that:

- governments have agreed to the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) where reliable geospatial information is vital to monitor progress;
- the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties decided in May 2015 to encourage countries to use the best available science to assess, monitor, model, prepare and adapt for climate change;
- the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference, requests the use of geospatial and space-based technologies and related services to assess disaster risk and associated preparedness;
- the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) and its programme to establish a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), has made extraordinary progress in encouraging international cooperation in all areas of geospatial information for the benefit of humankind;
- the United Nations initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) aims at playing a leading role in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information and to promote its use to address key global challenges;

- *the Future Earth international research platform provides knowledge and support for scientists of all disciplines, including natural, social, engineering, humanities and law, to accelerate our transformations to a sustainable world;*
- the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) GeoUnions and the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS) have decided to work together in connecting geospatial communities with decision makers.

Recalling that:

- systematic, satellite-based Earth observation, commencing with the Landsat programme in 1972, has provided a continuous sequence of imagery that is publicly available at no cost to the user and is widely used by international communities to derive scientific- based information about the environment;
- significant technological advances have been achieved in the field of Earth observation, geospatial information sciences and service-oriented computing;
- a number of exemplary, free-of-charge global data sources, of which the GlobeLand30 30-m global land cover data set is a recent example, now provide open access to worldwide geospatial information;
- a collaborative global geospatial information framework/ infrastructure can provide high quality information from imagery to enable advanced geospatial computing and support collaborative problem solving.

We emphasize our commitment to *realize the full potential of information from imagery and its delivery to users through research and development, scientific networking, international co-operation, inter-disciplinary integration and education and training.* We therefore call on international communities to support the advancement of a collaborative global geospatial information *framework/infrastructure* through cross-border and trans-disciplinary collaboration based on a sustainable and secure governance in order to:

- engage in constructive dialogue among scientists, governments, public and private sectors, non-governmental organizations, citizens and society;
- continue providing reliable and standardised geospatial information and services to support global sustainability;
- develop a processing strategy, covering all elements from integrated sensing to spatio-temporal recognition and cognition, for the automatic generation of information and knowledge, also in real-time;
- share resources distributed across regions and disciplines for easy and open access to the massive quantities of available geospatial data and products;
- inspire and educate future generations in applying geospatial data for local to global sustainability studies and initiatives;
- confront global problems such as environmental change, pandemics, natural and anthropogenic disasters, displaced populations, malnutrition, water shortages, rising ocean levels, and many others.

Prague, July 12, 2016