

Address at the Opening of the Kunming Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management

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Your excellency, Mr Wu Hongbo, Under Secretary General of the United Nations,
Your excellency, Mr Liu Huiyan, Vice Governor of the People's Government of
Yunan Province, China,
Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning!

The Kunming Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management is open today. The forum is jointly organized by the United Nations Statistics Division and the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation of China. First of all, on behalf of NASG of China, I'd like to express my heartfelt congratulations on the opening of the forum, and extend my warm welcome to the Chinese and international colleagues attending the forum. My sincere appreciation goes to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN Statistics Division and the Yunan Provincial Government, who have given strong support to the forum.

As urbanization and modernization are accelerating globally, and the 2030 sustainable development goals have become a consensus and actions of the international community, this Kunming forum with the theme of "Cities of the Future: Smart, Resilient and Sustainable" is of practical significance. It meets the actual needs and development trends by providing an opportunity for us to share successful experience on smart city development underpinned by geospatial information, exchange best practices on geospatial information and services for disasters, and explore technical methodologies of using geospatial information to support cities' sustainable development.

As a responsible major developing country, China has always attached great importance to sustainable development. In October 2016, we officially issued *China's National Plan on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, to make our contributions to the global development cause together with the international community. The Chinese government's vision of innovative, coordinated,

green, open and shared development is consistent with sustainable development, which is the trend of the times, while accommodating the bigger interests of people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships as proposed by the 2030 Agenda. Both the concepts aim to unswervingly promote sustainable development.

Friends, ladies and gentlemen,

In recent years, in accordance with the "five in one" overall layout and the "four comprehensive" strategic arrangement, NASG has been adhering to the keynote of seeking progress while maintaining stability, firmly establishing and implementing the new development concepts, centering around improving the quality and efficiency of development, as well as sticking to the supply side structural reform as the main path. With innovation as the driving force, we have implemented the development strategy of "strengthening fundamental surveying and mapping, monitoring geographical conditions, strengthening public services, expanding the geospatial industry, safeguarding national security, and building a country with strong surveying and mapping capabilities". We have speeded up the transformation and upgrade of our undertakings, making remarkable achievements in the development of smart cities, emergency mapping as well as national geographical census and monitoring. The newly revised *Survey and Mapping Law of the People's Republic of China* makes it clear that the surveying and mapping work is fundamental to economic growth, national defense, social development and ecological protection. The law establishes a national geographical monitoring system and an emergency mapping system, takes effective measures to maintain security of geospatial information, and promotes the sharing and application of surveying and mapping results, thus providing a solid legal framework for the reform, innovation and development of China's surveying, mapping and geospatial information.

At present, China is promoting new and people-centered urbanization, which is in line with Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Agenda, "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". Smart city is an important part of the new urbanization, and is closely linked with sustainable development of cities. Geospatial information plays an important role in supporting smart city development. NASG has so far carried out the projects of geospatial framework for digital city in 334 prefecture-level cities and 511 county-level cities. Based on that, we have also launched more than 40 pilot projects on spatiotemporal big data and cloud platform for smart city, some of which have already seen initial results. We focus on improving the reference system, enriching data resources, expanding service functions, building spatiotemporal information cloud platforms. Meanwhile, we vigorously promote the utilization of geospatial information resources and technologies in building smart cities, deepening the applications in key areas such as land resources, urban planning, urban management, police platform, disaster management, public security, market supervision, and tourism services. And we also promote the intelligent services for people's livelihood, including smart transportation, smart medical care, smart

education, and smart community. *The Division of Work for Interdepartmental Coordination Working Group on Building New Smart Cities (2016-2018)* further clarifies the responsibilities and main tasks of geospatial information departments. The role and position of geospatial information in building smart cities will be further demonstrated.

China is one of the most severe disaster-prone countries in the world. There are various types of disasters in China, distributing widely, happening frequently and inflicting heavy losses. In recent years, in response to disasters such as earthquakes, landslides, debris flow, rain and snow storms, mountain fires, floods, and infectious diseases as well as other emergencies, China's geospatial information sector leverages its professional advantages, obtains data and makes maps at the first moment, and plays an irreplaceable role in disaster assessment, decision-making for command, disaster relief, as well as recovery and reconstruction. Currently, China has incorporated emergency mapping into the national emergency response system and the comprehensive disaster prevention and mitigation work system. The national emergency mapping capacity building project has been officially approved for implementation. The national geospatial information public service platform has been connected with the State Council emergency command center. Emergency mapping has become the legal duty of the surveying, mapping and geoinformation departments. The role of geospatial information has been constantly strengthened in emergency management of the country. At this new starting point, we will accelerate to upgrade the emergency mapping capacity, comprehensively enhance the capabilities for rapid acquisition and processing, command and dispatch, as well as resources sharing and services, so as to bring emergency mapping services to a new level.

Scientific decision-making on sustainable development requires accurate economic, social and environmental data. Over the past three years, under the leadership of the State Council and with the strong support from various departments and provincial governments, NASG organized and completed the first national geographical census. Through the census, we have gained a complete understanding of the conditions and spatial distribution of natural features like mountains, rivers, forests, farmlands and lakes, as well as man-made features, and acquired massive seamless and high-precision geospatial information covering the whole country. Such a census of national geography will provide fundamental data support and technical tools for understanding national conditions and making national policies. The census bulletin was officially released to the society last month. For the next step, we will speed up the establishment of legal framework for national geographical monitoring, improve the monitoring mechanism and operation system, comprehensively carry out basic monitoring and thematic monitoring, continue to tap the value of the census and monitoring results, promote results sharing and application, serve economic and social development as well as ecological protection, and promote the new modernization featuring harmonious development of human and nature .

Friends, ladies and gentlemen,

Achieving sustainable development is the common responsibility of the international community. The improvement of global geospatial information management capacity is closely related to sustainable development of the world. The Chinese government always attaches importance and gives support to the development of UN-GGIM, actively promotes international cooperation and exchanges in the geospatial information fields, and helps to build global geospatial information management capacity. In 2012, with the Chinese government's donation, a trust fund was set up in the United Nations to implement the project of Geospatial Information Management Capacity Development in China and other Developing Countries. Over the past five years, the Chinese government, in close cooperation with the United Nations, successfully organized a series of capacity building activities under the trust fund project, making outstanding contributions to geospatial information management capacity development in developing countries. In 2014, the Chinese government provided 30 meter resolution global land cover data, Globeland30, to the United Nations for free use by the Member States, the UN system agencies and the international community. So far, with users from 120 countries, more than 600 international and national research institutions and over 600 universities, Globeland30 has been effectively used in climate change, disaster prevention and mitigation, land use and land cover change monitoring, ecological environment, urbanization and many other areas. The extensive development and application of the datasets have turned it into a common contribution by the global geospatial information community to sustainable development. In the future, we will, as always, actively participate in and support UN-GGIM and sustainable development, contributing China's wisdom to international cooperation for development.

Friends, ladies and gentlemen,

Today's China takes itself, its neighbors and the whole world as a "community of common destiny", which shares weal and woe. The Belt and Road initiative, proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping, has received positive response and support from many countries and international organizations. A series of major projects have been launched, boosting many countries' economic development. The Belt and Road initiative, though originated in China, benefits the whole world. To actively contribute to the Belt and Road initiative, NASG has launched the global geospatial information resource development project to provide geospatial information support for the implementation of the initiative, and to promote closer cooperation in geospatial information fields with the countries along the Belt and Road. In a few days, the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation will be held in Beijing, which will provide new opportunities for international cooperation in surveying and mapping. NASG is willing to work together with countries and relevant international organizations to face up to challenges, actively participate in cooperation, establish collaborative mechanisms, promote exchanges, and strengthen capacity building, so

as to achieve coordinated development and common progress, and make contributions to sustainable development and a better future of the human society.

Finally, I wish the forum a complete success. I wish you all a healthy and pleasant stay in Kunming. Thank you.