

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,

It is with great honour and pride to welcome you here today representing the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, better known as UN-GGIM. As co-chair of this global initiative I would like to emphasize the importance of geospatial information in our societies. To achieve a better world for all, as embodied in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, we have all taken upon us an important commitment. In order to measure progress in achieving these sustainable development goals, it is of utmost importance to collect, use and analyse geospatial information.

All of us gathered here today at the UN World Geospatial Information Congress witness the importance of informed decision making. With accurate up to date geospatial information we can contribute in achieving this better world for all and leaving no one behind.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to the Ministry of Natural Resources of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Zhejiang Province for hosting this first Congress.

Thank you.