

H.E. Dr. Yinager Dessie, with the rank of Minister, Commissioner of the National Planning Commission of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Welcome Statement on the Fourth High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)

✚ H.E. Dr. Mulatu Teshome, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia,

✚ Honourable Ministers,

✚ Distinguished Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

✚ Distinguished Delegates of Member States,

✚ H. E. Dr. Li Pengde, Co-Chair of the Committee of Experts of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)

✚ H.E. Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director of United Nations Statistics Division

✚ H.E. Mr. Oliver Chinganya, Director of the ECA African Centre for Statistics

✚ Leaders and Experts on Geospatial Information Management,

✚ Ladies & Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to welcome you all to Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, to participate in this Fourth High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management.

I also would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for honouring our invitation and taking time off your busy schedules to attend this high level global conference.

Today is an historic moment for Africa in general and my country in particular, as it is for the first time that representatives of so many countries and international organizations, global industry leaders as well as world-renowned experts on geospatial information have gathered in one place for the first time in the African continent.

It is an honour and a pleasure to hold such a meaningful meeting at the United Nations Economic Commission Head Quarters in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, and hope that this Fourth High Level Forum on UN-GGIM would enhance the global collaboration in the field of geospatial information.

Finally, Let me wish you productive and exciting deliberations in the coming three days. Please also try to take time off your busy schedules to enjoy the various cultural and recreational attractions of Addis Abeba and its environs.

With this brief statement, I call upon H.E. Dr. Mulatu Teshome, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to officially open the 4th High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management.

Thank you.