

Thank you Madam Chair

The Science and Technology Community would like to draw attention to the need for integrated land and water management as it was introduced by a number of other speakers by their references to Sustainable Land and Water Management. Trends such as climate change, urbanization, and the expanding use of water rights trading make action on this issue increasingly urgent. Policy for land must recognize and provide stewardship for water which is stored on and in the land. For example, policies dealing with deforestation must consider the impacts of land conversion on changes in evapotranspiration regimes, erosion rates and the associated increases in sedimentation and impacts on runoff. As a community, scientists are developing tools for monitoring and predicting land cover change in all parts of the world including developing countries. We have improved our understanding of the consequences of climate change for land and water and the means to adapt to these effects. Furthermore, the Science and Technology Community is assisting in the development of the Global Earth Observing System of Systems. However, for Sustainable Development to provide the full range of benefits from these developments it is necessary that:

- 1) Stronger support be given to scientific research and observing technologies that are focused on the information needs on integrated and sustainable land and water management,
- 2) The Science and Technology community should be invited to be an active participant in the development of integrated land and water management policies and strategies,
- 3) Partnerships including North-South partnerships and inter-sector partnerships, such as the Science and Technologies partnership with Farmers, are formed to ensure our understanding and technologies are transformed into appropriate technologies that can be applied in the developing world for improved land and water management,
- 4) The Sustainable Development Community provide guidance on the development of the national components of the Global Earth Observing System of Systems, and
- 5) Support for the capacity building be strengthened to enable all peoples of the world to effectively use and contribute to the Earth Observation systems.

Thank you for letting us submit even though there wasn't time for our comments in the main session.