



Chongqing Declaration on Digital Earth

25th April 2025

Preamble

The International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE) has now been in existence for twenty years. Over this time, extraordinary progress has been made through its symposia, summits, and associated journals. Notably, publications such as the *Manual of Digital Earth* and *Digital Earth: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow* have attracted a significant number of scientists who have eagerly accessed these valuable resources.

Today, we are living in a time that raises serious concerns. Despite the efforts of peace-seeking nations, conflicts persist across the globe. Economic uncertainty is also widespread.

Our magnificent Earth—*our home, our only planet*—remains in an unhealthy state, despite the tireless efforts of many countries to implement the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Climate change continues to cause disasters affecting many parts of the world. In some regions, populations still struggle to meet their basic needs for survival.

Geospatial data has made remarkable advances. Many countries now recognize the value and the need to endorse of open-access data. Large volumes of Earth Observation data are available freely. However, not all countries possess the capacity to effectively utilize all this geospatial data.

The Participants of the **14th International Symposium on Digital Earth (ISDE)**, held in Chongqing, China, we were exposed to the expertise of worldwide known experts who illustrated examples of Digital Earth in action; Big Data being used to support the implementation of the UN SDGs; the benefits of using geo-spatial-temporal data to derive intelligence; the need to establish a Digital Earth Alliance.

Declaration:

- **Acknowledge** the significant role ISDE has played over the past two decades in advancing Digital Earth research and serving as a platform for knowledge exchange and relationship building through its symposia and international scientific journals.
- **Support** ISDE to continue its close association with the academic sector, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration by connecting with other scientific communities. ISDE should raise awareness about existing knowledge gaps and act as the steward of the Digital Earth Research Agenda.

- **Recommend** that ISDE strengthen ties with industry and the private sector, by inviting representatives to present their technological advancements and developments at ISDE conferences.
- **Encourage** ISDE to invite decision-makers to ISDE events, with the goal to engage them to jointly explore how Digital Earth can support an evidence based decision-making processes.
- **Congratulate** ISDE on its collaboration with key partners in the Digital Earth community, such as the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) initiative and the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), which has recently launched a Digital Earth working group in close cooperation with ISDE.
- **Endorse and support** the proposal from the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS) to set up a new initiative under the name The Digital Sustainable Development Goals Programme (DSP), under the framework of the UNESCO's International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development. The aim of this programme is, in collaboration with worldwide located research institutions, to assist sustainable development transition and to guide policy, integrating integrated digital science and technology.
- **Recognize** that ISDE's initiatives aimed at engaging the younger generation, raising awareness, and building capacity in the field of Digital Earth are vital to its ongoing evolution.
- **Emphasize** the importance of associated Digital Earth educational activities in order to create awareness and build knowledge on the use of evidence-based information to strengthen their competencies to manage the complexities of our world and the society.
- **Pledge** to work together with ISDE towards a shared vision of Digital Earth—as a universal platform that supports national and international cooperation for sustainable development and disaster resilience. We consider that Digital Earth should also be seen as a vital tool for a sustainable economic foundation, social well-being, and environmental protection. Above all, every child should view Digital Earth as a gateway to understanding and exploring our world.