Thank you for inviting me to this special session entitled Measuring Deqing’s Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals with Geo-Statistical information. We know the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs in abbreviation) are global goals, ambitious and transformative.

In this special session, we are learning of a pilot project here in Deqing County on measuring and monitoring the progress in SDGs at the county level. Deqing County has embraced these seventeen global goals, implementing these goals locally, seeking to improve the socio-economic and environmental condition of the county. This is very commendable.
I am made to understand that this is a pioneering effort encompassing the entire county, leveraging geospatial information has an integrator to link citizens, activities and events to place. Geospatial technologies and services is allowing data and information to be brought together to provide better understanding and knowledge of local situation, leading to better decisions and actions.

I believe participants here today will learn a lot about these pioneering efforts where local, provincial and central government agencies collaborate to provide the needed data and information to measure and monitor progress. The lessons and the experience can be helpful and valuable to others including from outside China who are wishing to implement the SDGs at the local level for the benefit of the local community, its environment and local businesses. I encourage you to share these lessons and experiences that may well be good practices in the measuring and monitoring of progress in sustainable development at the local level.

I wish you successful deliberations and discussions at this special session.

Thank you.