Dear colleagues and friends gathered here for the GeoBuiiz Summit in Monterrey.

On the website of this event it says “Meet Geospatial Business Leaders In-Person”….. well, I am neither a business leader nor am I there in person with you – therefore I am all-the-more grateful for this opportunity to send you a short greeting message. And I promise I will keep it brief. We have all been staring at video screens too long in the past two years.

The theme of your event is “Innovation to impact” and as a United Nations official, I am of course mostly interested in positive impacts on socio-economic development for ALL around the globe: How can we use the considerable power of geospatial information and knowledge for the good of all, for accomplishing our ambitious United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, leaving no one behind.

And I am sometimes amazed how far we have come already with our Public-Private Partnerships. Since the very beginning of our GGIM programme at the UN in 2011 – our Global Geospatial Information Management programme, it was built as a multi-stakeholder community and business leaders have played an important role.

And today I have two simple messages for you:

1) Thank you for your individual and collective engagement and thought leadership and
2) Invite you to continue our common journey together.
There are two specific opportunities for which I want to extend a heartfelt invitation: Our annual GGIM meeting in the first week of August in New York and our Geospatial World Congress in Hyderabad/India under the theme: Geo-enabling the Global Village. In his message to the recent Geospatial World Forum in Amsterdam the Prime Minister of India said: “In today’s technology-driven age, geospatial knowledge plays a crucial role towards socio-economic development” and of course, I couldn’t agree more.

So, let me wish you an exciting and inspiring event in the next two days, and I hope to see you soon, in person, either in New York or in Hyderabad.

Thank you.