

Statement to
The Fourth GEO Ministerial Meeting
Cape Town, South Africa
30 November 2007

David Halpern
on behalf of the
Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)

Honorable Minister Mangena
Honorable Ministers and Deputy Ministers
Distinguished GEO Delegates

My name is David Halpern and I am Senior Advisor for Earth Science Research at the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, Earth Science Division in Washington.

Today I represent the Committee on Space Research, COSPAR.

COSPAR has nearly one-thousand five-hundred member associates in its Scientific Commission A on the Study of the Earth's Atmosphere, Climate and Surface.

COSPAR became a GEO Participating Organization on Wednesday and a Co-chair of the GEO Science and Technology Committee yesterday.

Professor Roger-Maurice Bonnet, President of COSPAR, wishes to thank the GEO Executive Committee and the GEO Plenary for this honor.

COSPAR welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the building of a Global Earth Observation System of Systems.

A strategic goal of COSPAR is to enable the international community of scientists in the extraordinary challenge to comprehensively understand the changing environment and the global integrated Earth system. The foundation for this understanding is a coordinated, comprehensive and sustained system of observation systems.

COSPAR was established in 1958 in response to the opening of the space age.

COSPAR will celebrate its 50th anniversary next July at the COSPAR Scientific Assembly in Montreal, Canada.

COSPAR looks forward to welcoming GEO Members and GEO Participating Organizations at the COSPAR Scientific Assembly designed to promote international level scientific space research on the global integrated Earth system.

Thank you.