

COSPAR STATEMENT AT GEO-XII PLENARY

COSPAR thanks the GEO-XII Plenary for the opportunity to briefly describe some selected contributions toward GEO's objectives, future collaboration, and ongoing and planned initiatives.

COSPAR, the Committee on Space Research, was established in 1958. COSPAR has actively participated in GEO since 2007 when COSPAR joined GEO. COSPAR promotes scientific research in space, with emphasis on the exchange of results, information and opinions, and provides a forum, open to all, for scientific discussions.

The President of COSPAR, Professor Lennard Fisk, and the Executive Director, Dr. Jean-Louis Fellous, are unable to be with you because, at this very moment, they are convening the COSPAR Symposium on Water and Life in the Universe in Foz do Iguacu in Brazil, where the GEO-IX Plenary took place.

Science is the core principle that drives COSPAR and COSPAR served as co-chair of the former GEO Science and Technology Committee. COSPAR, with its attention equally devoted to Earth's atmosphere, land and ocean, attracted a highly distinguished group of researchers, led by Professor Adrian Simmons, to produce the Roadmap on Observations and Integrated Earth System Science in the GEO 2016-2025 Era. The concept to produce the roadmap was announced at GEO-IX as a major contribution of COSPAR. The COSPAR roadmap is almost completed and a final draft version is available on demand. The roadmap will be published early in 2016, and its content will be largely publicized to space agencies, decision-makers and the science community at large.

Building scientific capacity is an underlying foundation of COSPAR and GEO. COSPAR has long experience in sponsoring capacity building workshops. Three examples are: (1) ocean sciences in the Indonesian Seas in January 2014 in Indonesia; (2) water cycle remote sensing in July 2014 in Russia; and (3) water resources in November 2015 in Vietnam. COSPAR advanced the concept of building scientific capacity with a Fellowship Program, which makes possible a 2-4 week visit to laboratories to conduct joint research.

An open and free data policy is critical for COSPAR to advance understanding of the global integrated Earth system. COSPAR is co-chair of the GEO Data Sharing Working Group and co-chair of the GEO Data Management Principles Task Force.

COSPAR continues to support a variety of GEO Tasks. In 2015, COSPAR has representatives on GEO Task WA-01 (Integrated Water Information), GEO Task AG-01 (Agricultural Monitoring and Warning), ID-04 (User Driven GEOSS), SB-01 (Oceans and Society), and the GEO Capacity Building Working Group.

COSPAR believes in the future development of GEO and GEOSS and, therefore, is a candidate for a position on the GEO Program Board.

In conclusion, Professor Fisk, Dr. Fellous and I invite you to participate in the next COSPAR Scientific Assembly on 30 July to 7 August 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey.