



GROUP ON
EARTH OBSERVATIONS

GEO-V

19-20 November 2008

US Invitation for GEO-VI

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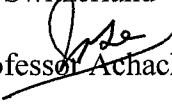
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

SEP 4 2008

Professor José Achache
Secretariat Director
Group on Earth Observations
7 Bis, Avenue de la Paix
Case postale 2300 CH-1211
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Professor  Achache:

The United States has been proud to support the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) since its inception, and GEO continues to be a high priority for our nation. I am pleased to extend our offer to host the GEO Plenary VI in the United States in November 2009.

Our national coordination body is prepared to welcome the GEO Community. We hope the organization of a productive meeting will provide an opportunity for broad engagement between the governmental GEO members, industry, and academia.

The United States remains committed to promoting the ideals and objectives of GEO and GEOSS. The need for integrated global Earth observations is being understood more each day. As hosts of the GEO Plenary VI, we will work to ensure an effective forum to continue the momentum of GEOSS.

We appreciate the GEO's consideration of our offer to host the 2009 GEO Plenary VI and look forward to a favorable reply.

Sincerely,



Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Under Secretary of Commerce for
Oceans and Atmosphere

