

Statement by Leah Jamieson, President of the IEEE, to the GEO Summit
November 2007

Delegates
Ministers and Guests:

The IEEE congratulates GEO on the significant accomplishments of the past two years. We are honored to be a participating organization in GEO and we are especially honored by the leadership role that we have been permitted to play, as a co-chair of the Architecture and Data Committee and as a co-chair of the User Interface Committee. As the world's largest technical professional organization, with over 370,000 members in 160 countries, the IEEE is a resource for expertise in engineering, science, computing, and information technology. The participants in this summit understand the importance of top down leadership in creating and sustaining the earth observation system of systems. IEEE can help to create the grass roots support also necessary for sustaining GEOSS.

Since GEOSS is being built from existing and future contributed systems, interoperability is essential for success. As a world recognized standards organization, IEEE is a leader for interoperability within GEO. We are pleased to inform this body that we will continue our support and recommend to you that GEO include regional teams for standards and interoperability to accelerate this very critical work.

The IEEE is also committed to bringing our global resources to bear in engaging a wide audience, including young people, in dialogue about the potential impact of earth observation in modeling, prediction, and decision-making. I am pleased to inform this body that this month, IEEE released the first issue of EARTHZINE, a web-based magazine for the general public dedicated to GEOSS and Earth observation. We are also starting J-STARS, a new professional peer-reviewed journal for GEOSS and applications of Earth observation and the first issue, in mid 2008, will be focused on the energy societal benefit area. As part of our support for outreach and architecture, I would like to call your attention to and ask your support in a series of GEOSS workshops entitled "The User and the GEOSS Architecture." The workshops for 2008 will take place on four continents. And finally, we are inviting partners to help launch a two-year international game contest to create an interactive game for 10 to 18 year olds.

The core purpose of the IEEE is to foster technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity. We believe that GEO and GEOSS represent the promise of what can be accomplished through "Engineering for Humanity."

Thank you.