



**Declaration of Intent by Member Agencies  
of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites  
for Cooperation on  
Mid-Resolution Land Surface Imaging Satellite Systems  
in Support of the CEOS Implementation Plan**

WHEREAS: Several member space agencies of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) currently operate mid-resolution visible to thermal infrared land surface imaging satellite systems, with a ground sample distance resolution of 10 to 100 meters;

WHEREAS: Data collected from these systems are extremely valuable sources of information used to study and monitor Earth conditions and processes and to solve problems to the benefit of society;

WHEREAS: The CEOS Constellations Concept has emerged as the innovative planning process intended to augment national government planning and support international coordination of space-based Earth observations;

WHEREAS: Routine, well-calibrated, and frequent imaging of the Earth's land surfaces and coastal areas at synoptic to global scales has proven to be of great benefit to society and holds even greater promise for the future;

WHEREAS: Important opportunities exist to provide users with better and more consistent data more frequently and more easily through enhanced collaboration and coordination among agencies in their planning, development, launch, and operation of future mid-resolution land surface imaging satellite systems;

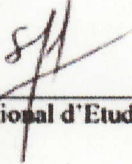
WHEREAS: A constellation of mid-resolution land surface imaging satellites would enhance the benefit of Earth observation to society in many ways, including improved monitoring of the effects of climate change; planning and monitoring of the Earth's resources; discovery of critical energy and mineral resources; enabling societies to better prepare for and respond to natural disasters; studying and maintaining Earth's fragile ecosystems and its biodiversity; addressing human health issues; and helping to undertake many other scientific and practical endeavors beyond the scale of scientific and observational capabilities available today;

WHEREAS: A land surface imaging satellite constellation could improve the quality of life for citizens of all nations, aid in preserving the natural state of the Earth for all future generations, and foster the prospect for peaceful coexistence for all nations and peoples;

The undersigned CEOS space agencies resolve to realize the benefits of a Land Surface Imaging Constellation by actively seeking ways to cooperate more fully in the operation of their existing mid-resolution land surface imaging satellite programs. These agencies will seek to develop the appropriate measures and agreements to manage current and future satellite systems according to a common set of criteria and objectives. These agencies also will consult closely with one another in future development of national satellite systems so as to develop a more robust, coordinated, and comprehensive global approach to global land surface imaging.

The undersigned agencies resolve to work through the CEOS Land Surface Imaging Constellation Study Team to define specific cooperative measures to achieve these objectives.

SIGNED:

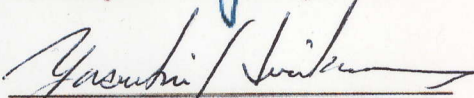
  
Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales

Chinese Academy of Space Technology

  
Comisión Nacional de Actividades Espaciales

  
Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais

  
Indian Space Research Organization

  
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

  
U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration

  
U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of Interior