

Joint Statement Concerning the International Year of Planet Earth

The Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the President of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS),

are pleased to announce the decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations to declare 2008 as the United Nations Year of Planet Earth,

and the designation by the United Nations of UNESCO as the lead agency, in collaboration with IUGS, in the implementation of the science and education activities during the International Year of Planet Earth.

They further,

Emphasize the great potential contribution of the International Year of Planet Earth to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals and to achieve the objectives of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, and

Consider that UNESCO, in successful partnership with IUGS in the international coordination of geoscience activities in general and particularly through their joint International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), provide excellent opportunities for cooperation between geoscientists worldwide.

Convinced that financial contributions from industries, international organizations and foundations are crucial in the implementation of the activities during the International Year, they,

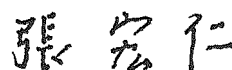
Recognize that geosciences have made important progress in understanding the Earth processes over the past decades and that society should apply this knowledge for achieving a healthier, safer and more prosperous world for all,

Share the view that «Earth Science for Society» is an appropriate subtitle for the International Year of Planet Earth, as it highlights the equal importance of education, outreach and research activities during the International Year, and

1. *Encourage* the geoscience community to take advantage of the International Year of Planet Earth to find satisfactory answers to future dangers faced by the Earth and to let society benefit from the opportunities provided by a sustainable use of the Earth's resources;
2. *Invite* intergovernmental, international, national and private space science organizations to make their observation systems available to support this initiative;
3. *Encourage* industries, international organizations and foundations to join and support this initiative to raise awareness and appreciation of the Earth as the ultimate resource for our everyday needs and the foundation of global society and economy.



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