



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 27, 2007

I send greetings to those gathered for the 2007 Group on Earth Observations Ministerial Summit in Cape Town, South Africa.

The world's response to the environmental challenges of our time will help shape the global economy and the condition of our planet for future generations. Through the Global Earth Observation System of Systems, which my Administration helped launch 4 years ago, we are expanding our knowledge and understanding of changes in the environment so we can better protect the world's natural resources and the well-being of our citizens. This meeting is an opportunity to highlight the importance of the GEOSS and discuss the critical environmental, economic, and societal concerns of countries around the globe. By working together and linking observation systems worldwide, we can address a broad range of issues and help build a more hopeful future for people everywhere.

I appreciate all those involved with the GEOSS for your hard work and dedication to providing the best science and data to make informed decisions. Your efforts help safeguard human life and advance our understanding of the world around us.

Laura and I send our best wishes for a successful event.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack" followed by a stylized flourish.