



**Acronym:** CEOS

**Full Name:** Committee on Earth Observation Satellites

**Website:** <http://www.ceos.org/>

**Established:** 1984

**Location:** Frascati, Italy

**Areas of expertise:** Coordinates civil space-borne observations of the Earth

**Main Partners and Collaborations:** 28 space agencies along with 20 other national and international organizations participate in CEOS planning and activities

**Short Description:**

CEOS was established in 1984, in response to a recommendation from a Panel of Experts on Remote Sensing from Space, under the aegis of the G7 Economic Summit of Industrialised Nations Working Group on Growth, Technology and Employment. The Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) coordinates civil space-borne observations of the Earth. Participating agencies strive to enhance international coordination and data exchange and to optimize societal benefit. Currently 28 space agencies along with 20 other national and international organizations participate in CEOS planning and activities. CEOS coordinates civil space-borne observations of the Earth. Participating agencies strive to address critical scientific questions and to plan satellite missions without unnecessary overlap. CEOS has three primary objectives in pursuing this goal :

To optimize benefits of space-borne Earth observations through cooperation of its Members in mission planning and in development of compatible data products, formats, services, applications and policies;

To serve as a focal point for international coordination of space-related Earth observation activities;

To exchange policy and technical information to encourage complementarity and compatibility of observation and data exchange systems.

**Main activities:**

CEOS works through a 'best efforts' approach. Funding and resources required by activities are contributed in-kind by participating CEOS agencies. CEOS does not have a budget or permanent staff. The work of CEOS spans the full scope of activities required for proper international coordination of Earth observation programs and the maximum utilization of their data, ranging from the development of detailed technical standards for data product exchange to the establishment of high-level interagency agreements on common data principles. Access to CEOS is through the Plenary, a Working Group, or the Secretariat. CEOS can provide the framework for efficient coordination across the CEOS agencies. CEOS is dedicated to international collaboration among space systems and EO missions.

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