

**ESAS 2017**  
**Letter from the Co-Chairs**

Dear Colleagues,

Now that the second [Decadal Survey for Earth Science and Applications from Space 2017-2027](#) (or “ESAS 2017”) is underway, we wanted to take this opportunity to provide an update on our efforts thus far and also to share some thoughts on our goals for the next year and a half. The main objective of ESAS 2017 is to generate consensus recommendations from the environmental monitoring and Earth science and applications community on an integrated and sustainable approach to the conduct of the U.S. government’s civilian space-based Earth-system science programs.

As you may know, members of the [Survey Steering Committee](#) were recently announced and we are looking forward to working with these distinguished scientists, as well as the broader science community, on shaping science priorities into the next decade. The committee plans to actively engage with the scientific community across a wide range of disciplines to ensure robust recommendations to study sponsors: NASA, NOAA, and USGS. To that end, we are requesting your assistance. There are numerous opportunities to get involved in ESAS 2017. For example, we held a [town hall discussion at AGU](#) and we hope that you will join us for similar discussions at the AMS Meeting (Jan. 13, 2016) and the Ocean Sciences Meeting (Feb. 22, 2016). We also have a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) open to help the committee get a more complete understanding of the key challenges for Earth System Science across the spectrum of basic research, applied research, applications, and operations in the coming decade. Responses are intended to help inform the structure of the panels and their membership, and your input is requested no later than January 4, 2016.

Finally, please take a moment to [register for the ESAS 2017 mailing list](#) to be kept up-to-date on the current activities of the committee and panels, especially as we approach the first in-person meeting of the steering committee to be held January 18-20, 2016 in Washington, DC.

We have a challenging task ahead of us, but we are looking forward to working with you to ensure a robust, resilient, and appropriately balanced U.S. program of Earth observations from space.

Waleed Abdalati, University of Colorado Boulder  
Antonio Busalacchi, University of Maryland  
ESAS 2017 Co-Chairs, Survey Steering Committee