

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COLUMBIA CLIMATE SCHOOL
CENTER FOR INTEGRATED EARTH SYSTEM INFORMATION (CIESIN)

18 March 2026

Subject: Endorsement of an Independent Satellite Mission

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Center for Integrated Earth System Information (CIESIN) at Columbia Climate School, we are pleased to express our strong endorsement for an independent, high-resolution satellite mission. We believe that such an initiative has the potential to transform crisis response, early warning systems, and humanitarian aid by leveraging Earth observation technology to deliver timely, open data to those who need it most.

The ability to monitor climate-related disasters, forced displacement, food security, and human rights violations from space offers an unprecedented opportunity to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of development and humanitarian efforts worldwide. With rapid advancements in satellite capabilities and geospatial analytics, now is the time to explore how a dedicated humanitarian satellite can bridge critical data gaps and provide equitable access to life-saving information.

As an organization committed to harnessing geospatial technologies to support understanding of human-environment system and informed decision-making through collaborative research and data co-production, we recognize the urgent need for reliable, real-time geospatial data in decision-making processes to address humanity's greatest challenges. We look forward to engaging with this effort and contributing our expertise where possible. We urge other stakeholders to support this initiative and explore collaborative opportunities to bring this vision to life.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further discussions on how we can contribute to this important study.

Sincerely,



Alex de Sherbinin
Director



Dana R. Thomson
*Associate Director of
Science Applications*



Gregory Yetman
*Associate Director of
Geospatial Applications*