

**REMARKS FOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR GARVER
NATIONAL SPACE SYMPOSIUM PANEL
"The Imperative of Global Collaboration"
April 19, 2012**

Thank you, Dumitru-Dorin (Prunariu). It's great to be here sharing the dais with so many space leaders from around the world.

I think it is the perfect name for this panel – "The Imperative of Global Collaboration." The eight diverse nations represented on the panel are proof of the growing collaboration over 52 years and over 4,000 agreements among 120 nations.

Let me start with where we are. Currently on the International Space Station, where we have had a constant human presence for 11 years, performing 1,200 science experiments from 59 countries, demonstrating how 15 nations can work together productively on a project of enormous scope. Many of our countries have experienced challenges. We have been there for each other. What is that worth to society and to humanity?

Part of fulfilling our international commitment is providing transportation after the shuttle retirement. An overall part of our strategy is increasing technology to reduce risk. Improving innovation by using small satellites where possible has impacted cost and schedule. Infusing competition reduces cost and increases our overall competitiveness. And implementing a more effective and efficient acquisition strategy -- where possible using fixed prices and Space Act Agreements – we know we haven't always been the smartest buyer.

This strategy allows us to advance our technology, reduce the costs of space activities for all users, open new markets, create more jobs and better utilize space for the benefit of humanity.

President Obama has made space activities a key element of America's commitment to building a more peaceful world. In his speech at Kennedy Space Center two years ago, the President said, "No longer are we racing against a global adversary. What was once a global competition has long since become a global collaboration." Thus, the cooperative mandate is not just in the human spaceflight arena.

The full scope of our cooperative efforts can really be seen when you look at our work with the other nations in science. Here are just a few examples of current and recent science missions with significant international collaboration.

Together we are studying everything from the effects of living with our star to searching for distant planets that may foster life, rotating around distant stars. We are exploring our own solar system in its entirety with a continued intense focus on Mars.

Here at home, we cooperate closely with not only other U.S. government agencies but have extended programs and partnerships around the globe. Examples of this include our work through the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, a recent five-year agreement with USAID on Serbia, and a recent Aquarius launch with SAC-D from Argentina.

Since our inception, and perhaps most importantly, we have archived and made publically available all of our data received from spacecraft projects including more than four terabytes of new Earth science data and derived products each day.

So, let there be no confusion, international collaboration is critical to NASA. But let me also be clear that we intend to continue to be a leader in this great endeavor.

As we gather here today, all across the country, NASA employees and aerospace workers are building vehicles to travel to space with names like Orion, Dragon, CST-100, Liberty and New Shepard.

We have a bright future. I spoke earlier this week to the Space Generation Advisory Council and gave them my top ten reasons they should make space their career choice. I won't bore you with the entire list, but I will mention a few of the examples. First is the tremendous growth potential of this industry. It's also a great pick-up line at parties. The number two reason is this National Space Symposium. Seriously, where else can you gather with your best friends and thousands of brilliant people working to make the world a better place? And number one is that space activities promise to deliver the most meaningful, positive advancements for society. We need to tap all of the world's talent to deliver on that promise.

Together we will deliver a space program that advances the human condition and the human spirit.