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International Heliophysical Year

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Marking the 50th anniversary of the highly successful International Geophysical Year (IGY), in 1957, several groups world-wide are making plans for multidisciplinary and multinational campaigns, mainly as part of an International Polar Year (IPY). As part of this, it is proposed that there be an International Heliophysical Year (IHY) in which we provide some co-ordination of the many solar, heliospheric and near-Earth spacecraft and ground-based observatories, for specific scientific campaigns. Plans for IHY have been under discussion since 2001, with sessions at the 2002 World Space Congress in Houston, and the 2003 EGU/AGU meeting in Nice. IHY is NOT designed to be another red-tape activity. It is being set up as an enabling activity for the grass-roots scientist to drive co-ordinated observations. In this presentation we outline current UK proposals for co-ordinated IHY programmes and invite discussion and participation from the community.