

Speech delivered by Professor Tahar HADJAR, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, ALGERIA

Dear Chairperson;
Honourable Ministers;
Excellencies;
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a distinct honour to share with you the launch of this important event devoted to the "Space Science and Academy for Global Challenges". I would like to congratulate the organizers of today's meeting for this initiative and I hope a franc success and a long life to this forum.

The mastery of space is essential not only for telecommunications, navigation, positioning, weather forecasts, but also salutary to opening up isolated areas, to territory management and adaptation to climate change affecting the planet and society for generations to come.

Satellites offer privileged means of peaceful uses to face many security challenges and environmental threats (desertification, floods, landslides, seismic monitoring, locust invasions), but also as natural resource management means, biodiversity, agriculture and food security.

Algeria, by its geographical position and the extent of its territory, has bet successfully since 2002, for deploying its national space program horizon 2020. This program implemented by the Algerian Space Agency (ASAL), is threefold: a sustainable economic development, strengthening of national sovereignty and the establishment of an operational and autonomous human capacities. The recent launch of three satellites produced and tested by engineers of the Satellites Development Center (CDS) of Oran, an operational entity of the ASAL, confirms the qualitative jump forward, made by the Algerian engineers in space science.

After Alsat 1A orbited in 2002, Alsat 2A launched in 2010, the two new satellites Alsat1B and Alsat 2B, came to increase the frequency of photography shooting, and enhance the country coverage capabilities. Alsat-1B answer among other related objectives, the protection of the environment and different natural ecosystems, it is part of the international constellation "DMC" (Disaster Monitoring Constellation), for disaster management in the framework of the international charter "space and major disasters".

Concerning the exploitation of Alsat-2B images, it will allow to invest significant thematic and economic domains, including monitoring of infrastructure and structures, establishment and updating of the steppe, Saharan cadastre, prevention and management of natural hazards. The Alsat-1N nanosatellite developed by a team of Algerian and British researchers is as part of the implementation of the cooperation agreement with the UK Space Agency (UKSA), it is intended for a scientific mission of technological demonstration.

The wealth of advanced nations is the dynamic interaction of its human skills, the development of knowledge and technology. So the strenght of the ASAL is in its Ph.D. School of Technology and Space Applications (EDTAs) Created in 2007. This doctoral program is build on a network of five Algerian universities (Algiers, Constantine, Oran, Sétif and Tlemcen) covering five specialities: Space Optics and precision Mechanics, Telecommunications and Computer Space, instrumentation, Image processing and Geographic Information Systems.

In terms of international cooperation, as soon as the ASAL was created in 2002, Algeria has joined to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) (where it chaired the sub scientific and technical committee in 2008-2009 and the COPUOS committee from 2014 to 2016). Since then, various cooperation frameworks have been deployed under bilateral and multilateral partnership, with space advanced countries and the emerging and developing countries. We share fruitful continental collaborations and welcome the establishment of the African Space Agency. Algeria is aware of the value of establishing trusted scientific collaborations that serve the universal values of peace and progress. It is in this context that Algerian teams are participating in the JEM-EUSO program alongside 300 researchers from 16 countries. We are for interconnected networks of human capacity which we are convinced, will help and stimulate scientific research, technological development and innovation, to counter ecological threats and ensure sustainable and equitable development.

For ending, I would like to renew all my best wish of success to this initiative and our full commitment to create the necessary synergy of mutually beneficial cooperation.

Thank you for your kind attention