

## **Declaration: The Role of Space Agencies and the International Collaboration in Tackling Climate Change**

It all started back in 1992 when the international community strengthened cooperation and organized efforts in an institutional manner within a legal framework, adopting the UN Framework Convention in Climate Change (UNFCCC), at the Rio Earth Summit in Brazil which was the first coordinated and coherent international endeavor to tackle climate change and its implications. This Convention has been ratified by 195 countries and started as a way for governments to work together to limit global temperature increase and climate change, whilst coping with their impacts. Twenty-six long years have passed since then, and this international effort has shaped the world in becoming more aware, conscious and proactive regarding its behavior and its repercussions to climate change.

By now, most countries in the world have created specialized government agencies and institutions dealing with climate change issues at a national level. At the same time, there are domestic laws, regulations and directives that set a legal framework comprising the efforts that each nation must provide in order to achieve the goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Furthermore, the academia throughout universities and research institutes has incorporated study plans and programs that focus on the study and research of climate change, its implications and consequences.

After the Rio Earth Summit appeared the UNFCCC, then came the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, and then the Paris Agreement, intended to enter into force by 2020. In addition, the new international agenda for 2030 includes as a priority the objective to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (Sustainable Development Goal 13). All of these are the international commitments to tackle climate change and cope with its impacts. In a nutshell, the world is way more aware and conscious about climate change and its threats. Moreover, in present times we have the support of the space technology and its applications that are designed to study, analyze and monitor GHG emissions and the effects of the climate change itself. These powerful tools offer a unique perspective to understand and to attack this specific problem.

It is clear that as humankind we have failed in achieving the goals originally set, and we have failed in reducing our GHG emissions to a less dangerous rate that might mitigate the effects of climate change in our daily lives.

Nevertheless, we believe that it is the time to put additional determination to fight this threat and international cooperation it's our best option to do it. We must strengthen our work in combating climate change from the perspective of space agencies, it is clear that

we should work with more coordination, sharing important data and information, working in a more streamlined fashion to make the best out of our efforts. Some of these efforts just to mention a couple of examples are the Declaration of Heads of Space Agencies in Mexico in 2015, and the Declaration of New Delhi that followed the Declaration in Mexico. Space agencies, as responsible of developing and operating space systems, we are committed to promote the use of the space systems and the information it provides; to share valuable data that could be relevant to find solutions to climate change. We must be ready to fully commit to this activity, to foster collaboration between space agencies and to make the best use out of the space systems to combat this problem that affects the whole planet.

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