

Excellencies, ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great privilege and honour for the delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco to participate to this very important forum.

Let me seize this opportunity, to pay a special tribute to all the institutions (IAF, IAA,ASI) that made our gathering possible and create the conditions of a successful undertaking. In particular, I shall mention her Excellency, Minister Stefania Giannini for her full support and of course the local authorities of Trento Province its President Ugo Rossi for their warm welcome

My country, during the last three decades, implemented various projects in the field of space activities. It mainly made a significant use of the available technologies and services, focusing on the following sectors:

1. Agriculture monitoring and crop assessment,
2. Forest management and prevention of fires,
3. Fisheries surveillance and monitoring of illegal activities,
4. Water resources exploration,
5. Natural disasters prevention (flood, desertification),
6. Urbanisation and territory management,
7. Anti-locust action.

The benefits we took advantage of, in all these activities, would not be possible without the backing and support of many friend countries, multilateral institutions and private sector involvement. I shall mention for example the

successful launch and use of our two experimental satellites in 2001 and 2011.

Tangible results were achieved through all these investments. Significant part of these results was shared with our neighbourhood, in the framework of South/South cooperation aiming at exchanging experiences, knowledge and good practices. It is the case of the artificial rain program, we implemented in many Sahel countries using space information, imaging and observation data.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The lessons the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco drew from its modest experience, can be summarized as follows :

1. Space is a common good at the service of the humanity. Drawing shared benefits from this strategic asset, could be achieved only through rules, disciplines and codes of conduct to be adopted at a universal level.
2. Space knowledge, services and technologies are among the major assets needed to face various global challenges. Climate change appears to be among the potential areas to be invested. The adaptation objective adopted in the Paris agreement, opens a large set of opportunities in particular for Africa. Natural resources protection, particularly water and arable land for food security strategic objective, is of an utmost importance particularly for the African continent.

3. Bridging the gap between advanced economies and emerging ones, should be among our top listed priorities. Let me put the stress here on the needed solidarity and mutually beneficial approaches to ease the access of developing countries to the advantages deriving from the exploitation of the space sector.
4. Education and academic training appears to be a pre-requisite condition to a sound access to space technologies.

Based on these lessons, our Government promoted a strategic program taking into account the available resources and human capital.

- Its implementation started with the creation of the **Royal Centre for spatial remote sensing**, the **National Centre for space studies** and the **Royal Centre for research and space studies**. In the pipeline remains the founding of the **Centre of numerical simulation and scientific computation in Space: Big Data, calculation and Simulation**. These institutions operate as a network and among others the Moroccan contribution to international programs such as Galileo initiative. I can also recall the major contribution made to the GIEC program in the field of simulation of big data related to climate change long term scenarios in our region.
- It was followed by the opening of the faculty of Space and aeronautical sciences at EMI ..... Based on our strong belief that training high-level experts is the first step to access the complex and sophisticated space

programs and activities. The strong backing of like-minded institutions, is needed to ensure the success of our initiative. Notwithstanding the fact that the newly created faculty is at its early beginning, Morocco is ready to welcome African brothers interested by this education facility.

- The next step in our strategic plan is the creation of a national space agency. It appears clearly that an instrument of this nature is compulsory to achieve many goals :
  - Coordination of initiatives at national and regional levels, avoiding redundancies and authorizing an optimized resource allocation process.
  - Opening channels for partnership with similar agencies in the world and particularly in Africa and the Mediterranean regions.
  - Contributing to the universal dialogue that is taking place in different institutions worldwide.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I will not take too much of your time, and conclude by renewing:

- Our awareness of the strategic importance of space activities,
- Our willingness to be an active actor within the international space community to better develop,

disseminate and share the merits of the spatial endeavours.

- Our determination to share our modest acquis within the framework of an ambitious South-to-South cooperation. The next venue of COP22, in Marrakech during the next few days, shows the evidence of our involvement and dedication to one of the most complex challenge, humanmankind is facing. Many institutions and high level experts present with us today will participate to this important event. They are most welcome.

Thank you for attention