International Space Forum al Ministerial level

(Agustín Campero. Secretary for Articulation of Science and Technology Policies. Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation. República Argentina).

Honorable Ministers, Dear Roberto Battiston, Dear colleagues, dear friends,

I am pleased and grateful to represent the Argentinean Republic in this promising Forum at the historical city of Trento, in our beloved Italian Republic.

As you may know, our country is experiencing a new stage of development to achieve prosperity and welfare of all our citizens.

Strengthening our efforts, resources and investment in education, applied knowledge and productive and inclusive innovation to create new job opportunities, reduce asymmetries and improve quality of life of the less fortunate.

We are truly convinced that only by reinforcing historical alliances, and by promoting new strategic partnerships with countries and regions around the globe, we will create synergies to meet jointly global threats.

Most of our global threats are critical for a sustainable growth and future survival as human beings.

But never in History mankind had so many means and tools to achieve global challenges.

Knowledge, science and technology are key elements to accelerate the positive changes that have to achieve humanity.

Space scientific and technological development becomes essential to generate useful, applicable and accessible information to prevent, monitor, evaluate and mitigate natural disasters, emergencies and specific problems with direct socio-economic impact.

Due to its geographical position, and its production structure, Argentina is strongly affected by the impact of Climate Change: increasingly frequent heat waves in the North and East of the country; glaciers retreats in Patagonia; severe precipitations in Central and Eastern areas; upscale range of floods and droughts in the Northwest and South.

Floods and droughts cost the country almost one percent of GDP this year.

Our Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation, and the National Commission of Space Activities as its technical agency, are facing jointly these challenges with urgency but with great confidence.

A confidence in our human resources, efforts and ultimate technology developments that brought new solutions and tools to anticipate problems.

A confidence in the way we encourage and support our scientific community and relevant productive sectors to open to the world, to strengthen scientific-technological international collaboration in Space and Space related Applications, such as Earth Protection, Climate Change and Big Data Management.

We don`t do this alone. Since the beginning, we have strategic alliances with national and regional space agencies that allow us to move forward.

We were strongly benefit from international collaboration in space, and we will deepen our cooperation with the world.

There is a broad range of examples of interactions and knowledge integration University- Academy in Argentina, with Space technology development as a key tool to articulate scientific research with socio-productive needs and demands:

a) Operational teams devoted to design and develop hardware and software for our satellite missions started working in space debris and space weather fields, and their effects on telecommunications, energy generation, navigation/positioning systems, satellite launching and instruments, and even human health.

b) Applications and innovative uses of satellite data and information for sustainable management of forestry, fishery and agriculture, marine ecosystems conservation and its biodiversity, climate status and trends, mining and oil/gas exploration, renewable energy sources, and again human health (such as Dengue, Zika, Chagas, Chicunguña).

c) Strategies and tools jointly developed by students, professors and researchers to exploit satellite data and its integration with other information sources from the academic and public sectors (big data administration, storage, standardization, quality control, etc.).

d) Last but not least, capacity building at national and regional level (training courses, Bachelors, Masters as well as Ph.D. programs).

We know there are huge challenges, and we also know our strengths and achievements: education, knowledge, expertise, scientific progress and technological development.

But we are also fully aware that most of recent outstanding results arise from more ambitious regional and worldwide initiatives.

Because global problems should be faced globally, we have high expectations to perform a leading role in the creation of a regional Latin American Space Agency in the near future, as well as reinforcing International Cooperation bounds with trans-national networks and relevant stakeholders from public and private sectors to promote frontier research, capacity building, facilitate access to research infrastructure, and reach consensus on medium-long term strategies and policies.

From Argentina we are very confident to contribute to the international cooperation, in being a part and strenght the worldwide network of knowledge, in promote the sharing of intellectual resourses and data processing capabilities, open sciencie and open data, and to expand in our country, and help expand worldwide, the university and space science academy expertise.

Argentina welcomes the Space Forum initiative, express appreciation of the work that each of you have already done, recognize enormous challenges ahead and expect jointly fruitful work to achieve our highest dreams and greatest happiness for everyone.

Thank you.