



**Nairobi ISF – February 13, 2018.
Statement by Prof. Isaac Ben Israel
Chairman – Israel Space Agency:**

Honorable Ministers and distinguished guests:

Allow me to bring greetings from Israel, a country that is connected to the African continent not only geographically. It is an honor to attend this International Space Forum - The African Chapter.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the IAF for this initiative with the aim of encouraging the discussion on how Space education and technology can support the understanding and exploitation of Space benefits for Africa's socio-economic development.

It is my strong belief that a global Space knowledge can foster development in higher education, science, technology, research and innovation, thus eliminating disparities and promoting the use of Space applications to protect the African environment, to ensure peace and security, to manage natural resources, diversity, and more.

Israel will be happy to work together with you on the utilization of Space to implement the African Union Agenda 2063.

The Israel Space Agency at the Ministry of Science and Technology is based on the recognition of the importance to support scientific research and development with real economic potential, such as the development of unique and innovative technologies.

The Israel Space Agency's goals are diverse, including expanding the cooperation and reciprocal relationships with various countries, promoting infrastructure research studies, leading the world trend of miniaturizing satellites, supporting the development of unique innovative space technologies and aerospace industries.

Another goal of the Space Agency is about education. Space attracts the imagination of children and youth and encourages their great natural curiosity and interest in science. We, for example, organize



activities and events for the public that offer interactive experience in the space fields. The Space Agency organizes national contests for students, supports technological projects for high school students such as the launch of two Nano satellites by two high schools.

Israel celebrates this year 70 years of independence. For that occasion, we plan to launch 70 satellites, by 70 different high schools in the coming years.

The Agency organizes conferences and seminars for educators and develops training programs for teachers and instructors.

Israel has a long-standing successful space heritage, including technological development, applications and durable and competitive products of space industry. The Space Program was established in the 1980s, at which time, Israel was the eighth country in the world to succeed in launching and positioning self-developed satellites in space.

Let me give you only one example that demonstrates the value of space to economy: VENUS - Vegetation and Environment monitoring on a New Micro-Satellite that was jointly built by the French Space Agency (CNES) and the Israeli Space Agency (ISA) and has been successfully launched last August by VEGA launcher.

The less than 300-kilogram satellite will contribute to human knowledge in the areas of precise agriculture, water and soil contamination, pollution and other environmental preservation.

Currently, the Israel Space Agency is involved in several programs with international collaboration, including a hyperspectral mission done in cooperation with the Italian Space Agency.

Concurrently, this unprecedented successful activity encourages Israel's future generation to choose a career in space industry, and is serving as a catalyst for promoting a large number of outstanding professionals in the science and technology industries, in light of the growing needs and challenges of Israel's hi-tech industry.

The Space Agency serves as an open house for entrepreneurs and works to increase public awareness to the importance of space and its direct impact on the quality of our lives.



The field that once was just the product of our imagination has currently become a reality that is here to stay.

Israel is a small country without natural resources but our human capital. Space is one of the main tools we use to develop our human talent.

We have built an indigenous space capacity under severe constraints of being small country and we are ready to share our experience and to work together with Africa for the socio-economic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years, seeking to accelerate the implementation of initiatives for growth and sustainable development through space sciences and technologies.

Excellencies,

Thank you for your kind attention.