

Date: Feb 13, 2018

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Excellencies :

- Kenyan Government representatives
- AU HSTC
- Director of UNOOSA
- Ambassadors
- President of Italian Space Agency, Prof. Robert Battiston,
- IAF Vice President for Science and Academy,
- Government representatives from Different countries
- Participants of 2<sup>nd</sup> International Space Forum 2017

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to give a statement on the behalf of Ministry of Science and Technology and Ethiopian Space Science and Technology Institute (ESSTI), Federal democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia's space activity was initiated by Ethiopia space science society in 2004 and took lead by Entoto Observatory and Research Center (EORC) starting from 2013 focusing on research, special graduate program training in astronomy, space science, remote sensing, and geodesy and satellite science. The encouraging activities of the observatory and space science society paved the way for the birth of new government institute.

Considering the importance of space science and technology for overall development, national and international collaboration Ethiopian government had established ESSTI in 2016 to lead and coordinate all space activities, represent the country in all international space related affairs and the countries engagement in space related collaboration, and ensure the implementation of treats and laws that Ethiopia has ratified or signed. Taking this opportunity, I encourage UNOOSA, ITU , all space agencies, all space communities, space industries, reach Ethiopia through ESSTI.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Ethiopian government has given special attention for Capacity building in infrastructure, technology, human capital development, Research and Development, International Collaboration, which are very well aligned with National priorities to bring about structural transformation and to achieve its goal of being among one of the Middle income countries by 2025. Space program has got the government's attention to the fulfillment of the above goals.

Ethiopia's geographical location and topography is highly attractive for Observational astronomical research (both optical and Radio) and space research. We very much welcome any interested party to work in collaboration with us. Ethiopia is actively working to promote the importance of Space program for Africa. The African Union is taking critical and solid

steps to establish African Space Agency in the effort to transform the role Africa collectively from user to significant contributor in the space arena. As usual Ethiopia wholeheartedly supports to the success of this African Program.

In my belief, such fora have paramount importance to strengthen collaboration and partnership among us in the region and other parts of the globe. In such fora we can discuss our common challenges and exchange experiences to give moment to space program in our respective countries.

Finally, I would like to thank organizers for organizing such an important event and inviting. I expect more international conference and workshops in Africa to facilitate and promote space programs.

Thank you.