

**Speech delivered by His Excellency Beyene Russom,
Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to the Republic of
Kenya, at The Second International Space Forum-
Ministerial Level, the African Chapter (ISF 2017) on 13th
February, 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya**

Dear Cabinet Secretary of Defense of the Republic of Kenya, Honorable Ambassador Raychelle Omamo

Dear President of International Space Forum

Honorable Ministers, Leaders and representatives of space authorities, space agencies, international space organizations and senior experts

I am thankful for the invitation extended to my country Eritrea and I feel proud and humbled to participate in this forum of ISF, Nairobi chapter representing my minister.

I would like to extend my appreciation and gratitude to the Kenyan Defense Ministry, the Italian Space Agency and the International Astronautical Federation for organizing this very open and productive discussions for the benefit of Space-Science and its Development.

The world has reached unprecedented level of Technological advances in Space Science and Technology in a very short time. It is clear the Space-Science is expected to grow at a very high pace for the coming 10 to 30 years.

Eritrea is at the beginning stage of Space-Science that is only in theory and preliminary level of the sciences of the field.

The benefits of Space-Science as has been demonstrated so far cannot be over emphasized. Its applications in Agriculture, Management of Natural Resources, Climate Change, Transportation/ Navigation, Environmental Conservation and Management are vital to the success of those sectors in achieving Sustainable Growth goals and generally the wellbeing of humankind.

The importance of Space-Science in our Agricultural efforts to achieve food security and Environmental conservation are recognized.

The adverse effects of global warming & climate change are ever more increasing and are visible in our region which is located in the Sahle Sahara desert. Frequent droughts have devastated this frontier region in the past and have resulted in untold damages to livelihood and the economies at large. How can such adverse consequences of climate change be prevented? Can space science with the tremendous data it collects save humanity in the future?

As Eritrea is not endowed with good rains, lakes or rivers, it is striving to harvest every drop of water by building dams and developing irrigational schemes.

Eritrea has also taken strides in successfully launching and implementing Agricultural projects in its own capacity to achieve national goals of sustainable growth and Food Security, striving to do away with drought, hunger and aid.

Data collected in climate change and drought through space-science and fast developing techniques is very important in achieving food security and agricultural management.

As such, Eritrea welcomes cooperation on this sector with regards to information sharing and capacity building to achieve sustainable development goals.

In the coming 2-3 decades Space Science and its technology will have developed beyond the imagination of those who are working in the field. By that time habitable planets or moons may be discovered and what is seen as science fiction might soon be reality in the same way that what is witnessed today was once considered part of science fiction some few decades ago.

I hope, as humankind strides forward and discovers the uncharted part of the universe and galaxies, the findings will be used to the benefit of humanity and mankind.

I would like to close my statement by wishing everyone participating successful and productive discussions in 2nd International Space Forum at Ministerial Level- the African Chapter.

Thank you very much