



Statement by the Chairman of the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL) Professor Sergio Marchisio

Madam Minister, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

As Chairman of the European Centre for Space Law, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address the participants to this African Chapter session of the International Space Forum.

Let me begin by giving a brief overview of who we are and what we do. The ECSL was established under the auspices of the European Space Agency in 1989, with a mandate to promote the awareness, knowledge and development of space law. As such, the ECSL organises a range of activities and events to encourage capacity-building in space law and policy within Europe, but also beyond. We are happy to observe that each year we usually have African students or professionals taking part in our activities.

As in Europe, the African space sector is developing. The emergence of more accessible, cheaper and better technology means that more countries, universities and private companies are manufacturing and launching satellites. In addition, we are excited to note the African Union's Space Strategy, signalling an ambitious new space era in Africa. Overall, this implies many great opportunities, but also a need for law and policy to regulate emerging activities.

The UNISPACE+50 process has identified good governance and a sound regulatory framework as essential for ensuring the sustainable uses of outer space. To achieve this, knowledge of and education in space law are essential. The ECSL will continue to support the UNISPACE+50 process and the SPACE 2030 agenda, by ensuring capacity-building opportunities for student and professionals within the field of outer space regulatory frameworks.

Our efforts will include the continuance of ECSL's core annual activities, such as the ECSL Summer Course on Space Law and Policy, organized every year in cooperation with a European University, to spread knowledge of the legal instruments governing outer space activities: the UN treaties and other legally binding instruments, national legislation and non legally binding instruments,



such as the 2007 COPUOS Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the Guidelines on the Long Term Sustainability of outer space activities currently under discussion within the COPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. As 2017 was the 50th anniversary of the Outer Space Treaty (OST), I urge the African countries to adhere to the United Nations treaties on outer space.

While the ECSLs' mandate is primarily to ensure an offer to the European region, we perceive international cooperation as essential. We held in the past decades several initiatives in cooperation with African Mediterranean countries, but we hope that future initiatives could also be organized to the benefit of the entire African region. Already in 2011, the Mombasa Declaration on Space and Africa's Development, adopted by the 4th African leadership Conference on Space and Technology for Sustainable Development underlined that the dissemination of knowledge in space law in Africa was essential for cooperation and mutual understanding in space activities. This concept has been reiterated by the African Space Strategy adopted by the African Union in 2017.

I am sure that this Second International Space Forum, the African Chapter, could be a starting point for identifying concrete ways to promote space education in Africa and support the understanding of space benefits among the international space community.

We hope African students and professionals will keep engaging with our activities. The ECSL is always happy to consider new ways of cooperating and sharing our experience and expertise. As Chairman of the ECSL, I therefore invite anyone interested in our activities or looking to develop new partnerships or initiatives to contact us. For more information and contact details please consult our webpage www.esa.int/ecsl.

Thank you for your time and attention.