

Statement of Rwanda

Honorable Raychelle Omamo, Cabinet Secretary for Defence,

Ministers here present,

President of the International Astronautical Federation,

President of the Italian Space Agency,

Ambassadors,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I also would like to thank the Italian Space Agency, the International Astronautical Federation, and the Kenyan government for organizing this important International Space Forum – African Chapter. Rwanda has not launched satellites, like the country represented by the previous speaker (Nigeria), but we use space services in many sectors and in line with the 1999 Vienna Declaration, Rwanda supports peaceful use of Outer Space and harnessing of space science and technology for the benefit of all mankind.

In view of the immense possibilities space science and technology can offer, Rwanda gives it the highest importance. Rwanda was among the key champions of the African Space Policy strategy approved by the African Union General Assembly in January 2016. Rwanda has particularly taken advantage of advancement in earth observation technologies as well as increased accessibility and affordability of data driving from space to improve the management of natural resources, enhance disaster monitoring and preparedness, environmental protection and management; for example, Rwanda works with the MIT in storing observatory centre for detecting pollution and upper gases. Aviation, clean based navigation, and infrastructures that supports space organizations. Health care services, e-services like tele-medicine to collect and deliver blood to rural areas. In view of this forum space science and academia for sustainable development in Africa, Rwanda see its national development as great thinking around knowledge development and this makes big data an associated major driver in process.

The country is currently developing a national data reproduction policy to complement other already adopted policies such as open data and smart Rwanda masterplan. This ambition to be data industry is supported by a pool of world class researchers, academies recently established in Rwanda whose aim is to educate and produce expats in the STEM. These academies include African Institute of Mathematical Sciences, African centre for internet of things, the African Centre of Excellence in Data Sciences, and national investees that have recently introduced programmes in this area.

Besides these institutions of innovation there is the Kigali Innovation Cité Exhibition Hub have already begun by producing practical services and data driven products derived from big data analytics.

Rwanda also supports the possibility of partnership and an integrated African space programme. We wish to congratulate our sisters' African countries that have already advanced their space programmes including Kenya that have recently enacted a law establishing a national space agency, a national space policy, and space strategy.

Thank you very much