

SWAZILAND STATEMENT MADE DURING THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE FORUM IN NAIROBI, KENYA

Your Excellency, Ambassador Raychelle Omamo – Cabinet Secretary for Defence in Kenya

All Ministers here present today

The President of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF)

The President of the Italian Space Agency (ASI)

Our Keynote Speakers

Distinguished Ladies & Gentlemen

All Protocol Observed

First of all I would like to thank the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), the Kenya Space Agency (KSA) through the Government of Kenya and the Italian Space Agency (ASI) for inviting the Kingdom of Swaziland to the 2nd International Space Forum – The African Chapter;

The Kingdom of Swaziland has a very young Ministry of ICT which recently established a Department of Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (RSTI). In 2016, the Kingdom of Swaziland ratified the Southern African Development Community (SADC) protocol on Science, Technology and Innovation; the country has since received the certificate of ratification from the SADC secretariat;

His Majesty King Mswati III has declared that developing the country's Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) is a top priority. In the wake of this declaration, following the global trends, the country is investing in the modernization of research and development infrastructure as these are requirements for a strong National System of Innovation (NSI);

The Ministry of ICT has embarked on the important exercise of developing, reviewing and amending all STI legislations and policy regimes aimed at creating an enabling environment for research and development and operationalizing the Royal Science and Technology Parks (RSTP). The Ministry of ICT has just completed the review of the National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy in line with the country's National Development Strategy (NDS) and Vision 2022.

Swaziland does not have any Space Program in place but has the Royal Science and Technology Park which could be the best host for any Space Program that can be introduced. The country has the advantage of being a close neighbor to the Republic of South Africa who, as we have heard here today, are far ahead of most countries in Africa regarding Space Exploitation. We are, as a country, in the process of collaborating with the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Kenya on issues relating to STI. These collaborations are expected to foster the much needed growth in Space Exploration.

Swaziland is looking forward to gaining more insight on how to exploit Space for the benefit of the Swazi Nation and the World at large.

I Thank You!