

## **Statement of El Salvador**

**By Luis Enrique Salaverría  
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Excellences, distinguished representatives of the various countries of Latin America and the World, heads of space agencies and fellow colleagues;

It is my great honor to be here with you and on behalf of the People of the Republic of El Salvador; I want to extend my greatest appreciation for organizing and inviting me to such excellent forum.

While El Salvador historically has been absent from the development and utilization of space technology, in recent years this has been changing –albeit slowly.

I can proudly tell you of two start-up companies exploring applications of geospatial data from satellite imagery and another intrepid start-up that is working with sounding rockets and cansats.

Nevertheless, what we would like to see is even more participation in the development and utilization of space technology from smaller countries such as the one I represent.

To answer this question, I would like to share with you a few ideas that might elucidate the problem, or push this subject forward:

From experience in my country, I can tell you that things do not usually work from top to bottom. What I mean to say is that private citizens or enterprises are the first to become interested in exploring, understanding and using space technology and only after they are successful is that the government becomes interested and actually gets involved in creating policies to support and promote these activities. Therefore, a good idea is to identify and support those early actors, such that they can truly make a difference in their respective countries.

Secondly, is that there is bountiful of talented individuals, space engineers, scientists, technicians, and so on scattered all across Latin America that more often than not, are unable to find suitable work in the space sector. If we were able to bring together all those talented individuals from all across Latin America, into one center, belonging, financed and in service to every country in Latin America, we could have an amazing team of talented individuals capable of developing, advanced payloads, satellites, launch vehicles and space exploration missions. Really, why not? We have so much capacity, so much potential, what could we not do? We could explore the moon, or mars on behalf of the people of the Americas. That should be the goal.

Thank you so much for your attention.