

Statement of Group of Latin American and Caribbean Counties (GRULAC)

**By Ronnie Nader
CE/CTO & Space Operations Director, Ecuadorian Civilian Space Agency**

The IAF GRULAC is an administrative committee within the Federation that groups the Latin American and Caribbean institutions affiliated to the IAF, and it may seem that this cooperation for sharing earth observation data is extremely important, vital I would say, however that is not enough, as many other countries here have stated, like El Salvador and Honduras, is not enough because we need more development, more action.

Because of this, since 2017 the IAF GRULAC has started a fast development experimental program that includes 3 axis: Education, Exploration and Human Space Flight. when you are part of the GRULAC, as part of the IAF, you have access to the Latin American Lunar Program, which first mission is scheduled to launch on 2021 with the participation of Colombia and Ecuador and the first technology test for this mission will be launched in just 20 days. We also have a very modest but realistic Human Spaceflight Program, with multinational suborbital manned missions that we expect to start launching in 2021/2022, the first crew is already selected and the aim of this program is to fly into space at least one citizen for each Latinamerican and Caribbean country in the next 5 years. and our Education program aims to inject real time weather satellite data into schools classrooms for the whole region, starting with Ecuador and Colombia, where we already are doing this since many years ago.

The message is: Join the IAF, join the GRULAC, we can cooperate, we can work together in real space projects that can show that cooperation for development is multilevel, not only the big data for serving our countries but also exploration and education, because our peoples needs inspiration, because programs like these provides the inspiration that produces engineers and scientists that are the ones that in time make possible the kind of wonderful applications like the ones (SAOCOM) we have seen here today.