

Statement of the HSA (Hellenic Space Agency)

**By Christodoulos Protopapas
Chairman, HSA**

Dear Ministers, Heads of Delegations, Distinguished Guests, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, in my capacity of Chairman of the newly founded Hellenic Space Agency I would like to express my appreciation for being invited to participate in the “3rd International Space Forum – The Latin American and Caribbean Chapter”.

Hellenic Space Agency was officially established almost 9 months ago, as a long awaited consequence of Greece participating in various space activities, programs and initiatives, starting from 1985 with participation in Intelsat, Inmarsat and Eutelsat IGO and also becoming a first protocol member in ESA since 1994. A crucial milestone for us was the official membership to ESA in 2005 together with the formation of the Hellenic Association of Space Industries in 2009. Greek space industry poses 41 space companies, as being identified by EU primes and ESA. Greece is also a member of all major organizations related to Space up to now.

At the same time, we must not forget that numerous Greek scientists have been embodied during the last decades in the global space industry, working in high caliber programs in NASA, ESA and other space agencies, industrial and academic institutions as well as famous manufacturing and launching companies as well as satellite operators around the world. Greece commences its national space program with the launch of the first communication satellite back in 2003 which will henceforth be enhanced in order to satisfy the needs and expectations of the Greek citizens since one of the major milestones of the Greek civilization remains the welfare of the citizens of the country. We are now in the verge of implementing our first steps of the enhanced national space program, which is going to be executed within the next years and is being composed mainly of the following pillars:

- a. Complete design and launch of a microsatellite constellation (11 microsatellites), in order to support mainly downstream applications for the benefit of Greek citizens, academia and industry
- b. Official participation in high caliber projects, such as Orion mission and generally the Gateway to the Moon.

Creation and design with interested European and International partners of a big satellite constellation for EU, trying to provide to Europe a complete and reliable early awareness system for the prevention of physical disasters and mainly the extension of forest fires. This is primarily an aftermath due to the fact that Greece suffered the tragic killing forest fires event this summer, where our country suffered 100 human losses.

We know that even though our Space Agency is still rather young and small yet we strongly believe that in the years to come we will be able to participate and support global space activities, with all of our powers and means considering that Greek scientists, researchers and professionals have been injected to the global space community through our efficient educational system.

Concluding I would like to wish fruitful and prosperous meetings during the conference and convey the message that only through strong partnerships, concrete relations, commitment, and inspiration we can offer quality of life to the citizens of the world as well as beyond Earth frontiers. We are obliged to offer to the next generations the hope that there is enough fuel to transfer them to the future safely and with a vision.