

Statement of IAA (International Academy of Astronautics)

**By Livio Gratton
Member, IAA**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues:

On behalf of the International Academy of Astronautics, and particularly being a Latin American member of the IAA, I want to express how much the Academy celebrates this initiative, and the focus on the region, as expressed in this event organized by the IAF in general, and in particular by CONAE, and by an agency with such a rich tradition and long standing history in cooperating with Latin America, as is ASI.

I am saying nothing new when stating that these initiatives at the highest level are necessary, to give direction to the different efforts, and express the willingness to make particular changes for the well-being of our societies. We have here an Ambassador, a Secretary of Government, Heads of Agencies, former Heads of Agencies, amongst many other authorities.

But I am saying nothing new either when saying that these initiatives need partners to translate these ideas into actual actions and results. In that sense, the IAA has always been the ideal partner of the IAF, as it brings in the energy and concrete ideas of its members, which as you well know are individuals.

I would like to spend one or two minutes talking about an example of this kind of partnership, already mentioned by the Director of CONAE earlier; the 1st IAA Latin American Symposium on Small Satellites, as it includes many topics that were discussed here today. It was a group of IAA members linked to DLR that put in the time and the effort to evaluate the feasibility of doing this event in Buenos Aires with a short time to prepare it. As this was an event with a strong component of Academia, it was only natural that this connection, from a group mentioned today by the Head of the Executive Board of DLR did this, but acting as members of the IAA. Based on this, it was established that the symposium would be organized by the Colomb Institute that belongs to both CONAE and San Martín National University.

As the Institute was recently created at that time, two other factors were critical in ensuring the success of the event. The first one was when INVAP committed to sending several papers, which guaranteed the quality of the local participation. This was closely followed by several IAA members from Brazilian IAF organizations committing to sending several works, which guaranteed early in the process the quality of the regional participation. Those two factors, plus the important participation from many others, ended up in the venue having to be changed for an unexpected quantity of registration, as was mentioned here today. I could enumerate a long list of specific collaborations and results that came out directly from contacts and ideas arising from the event.

At the IAC in BREMEN, the IAA determined the 2nd Latin American Symposium on Small Satellites also be organized by the Colomb Institute in Buenos Aires on November 2019.

I would like to invite the IAF members, and CONAE and ASI in particular as organizers of this forum, to see this IAA event that will take place in this same building next year, as the arm and muscle that will make concrete results come out in the direction indicated in this forum.

Thank you