

Statement of Mexico

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The Mexican Space Agency (AEM) gratefully thanks the International Astronautical Federation for the opportunity to present our vision in this International Space Forum (ISF), as well as the Argentina Government through the “Ministerio de Educación, Cultura, Ciencia y Tecnología” and the “Comisión Nacional de Actividades Espaciales” for their local organization of the ISF.

In Latin America, space agencies and industry are growing their activities both for their society challenges (connectivity, natural disaster management, agriculture and natural resources, security...), as well as for the technological and economical development, with a clear commitment to the transfer of knowledge technology and production to our countries, in order to develop the space sector with more and better jobs and with stronger links with the academic world and international community with an increasing commitment in the assessment of the planetary challenges from the space perspective.

By transitioning from predominantly state-run programs to one with increasing participation of the private sector, and taking advantage of the ongoing international cooperation in research and development, Latin America is having a unique opportunity to develop its space industry, for which I consider that several aspects are necessary:

- **Leadership:** at the head positions in the agencies or companies, leaders who are ready to challenge conventional ideas and trends, driving their companies in the great opportunities of the “New Space” concepts, and incorporating information technology (IT) both in upstream and downstream applications.
- **Human talent:** in the old days space talent tended to cluster around government agencies, but the growing sector has focused on attracting those highly specialized individuals, recruiting all types of professional beyond the traditional profiles, such as life scientists, data scientists, etc.
- **Financial muscle:** It is no surprise that the space industry requires huge investments that will probably yield returns only after for a number of years; having a dependable financial muscle to rely on is vital for the space companies to adventure in these endeavors.

I have no doubt that in Latin America we have all the potentiality qualities to develop our space industry. Speaking specifically about my country, Mexico’s aerospace field has grown significantly in recent years and constitutes a sector in constant evolution. In the course of the last decade, Mexico has become one of the most competitive countries for productive investment in the aerospace sector: we are presently number 15th in aerospace exports, number 6th in providers to the USA market and number 4th in foreign direct investment.

This industry, which contributes significantly to the Mexican economy through the creation of high level employment, the transfer of technology, the promotion and training of human resources, however this is predominantly aeronautical, but with a clear transition to the production of space devices and systems.

In the space sector we are in the process of incorporating this modern vision that involves the “NewSpace” approach for the development of national added value in synergy with other rapidly developing sectors in Mexico such as information technologies (IT) and with new business models; this should allow us to strengthen our scientific and innovation capabilities, as well as to be more competitive in both manufacturing activities and services. The opportunities offered by this industry go beyond the creation of new business lines and national economic development: it also offers solutions that address the needs of the population in different areas.

Mexico is committed to the development of the space sector, with dedicaion to generating international cooperation, joining forces, establishing alliances, attracting investments and efficiently using available resources to position our country as a pole of spatial development to carry out highly competitive work with clear socioeconomic impact. For this Mexico is committed to integrate in Latin American space initiatives, programs and, in a mid-term, a possible Latin American space organization.