

## **Statement of Paraguay**

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Thank you very much, Mr. President and thanks to the government of Argentina and the organization of this great event ISF2018. I have the high honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Paraguay the President of AEP Cnel. Liduvino Vielman cannot make it today, but he send his regards, we are very proud to be here in the International Space Forum 2018, Paraguay historically was landlocked by geography, but now we are finally looking to the stars and we know that we will not be landlocked anymore through the cooperation in space, we are totally committed to seek for a comprehensive, inclusive and strategic orientation on strengthening of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. We believe that space research is a strong tool to stimulate STEM/STEAM education, those improvements in technical education have benefitted space research and, indeed, all aspects of society.

The Republic of Paraguay subscribes to the principles of exploration and use of space for peaceful purposes, for the benefit of all humanity; and in particular, for the achievement of sustainable development, without leaving anyone behind, for the reduction of disaster risk and for dealing with the consequences of climate change; and highlights the need to guarantee international responsibility for damage caused by space activities and to continue working on the design of an appropriate legal framework for that purpose.

Mr. President, for space to be a driving force and a decisive element in achieving the objectives of sustainable development, it is necessary to strengthen coordination and support at all international levels, including through better access to spatial data, applications and infrastructure THROUGH A FREE AND OPEN DATA POLICY. We believe that we can work together to take advantage of and strengthen the opportunities for international cooperation offered by the exploration of outer space, as well as the development and application of space science and technology; such as precision agriculture, disaster response and natural resources management. All countries, regardless of their level of economic or scientific development, should participate in the exploration and use of space for peaceful purposes, contribute to it and benefit from its results. We emphasize in this regard, the need to take into special account the needs of emerging and developing economies, mainly, in the development of their capacities to explore and use outer space for peaceful purposes, without discrimination, under conditions of equality and in accordance with international law.

In this spirit, the Paraguayan Government, which recently ratified the Treaty on the principles that should govern the Activities of States in the Exploitation and Use of Outer Space, It has also created the Space Agency of Paraguay, made up of public and private institutions, with the aim of promoting and implementing the development policies of national space activities and to take advantage of outer space in a peaceful manner. The Space Agency of Paraguay, which has been in operation since 2017, in this short life of his Space Agency we were very active in international forums, in this matter we were accepted as a full member of UNCOPUOS approved by the General Assembly in October, and also as a member of IAF in Bremen. We also where invited in a study group of STEM in the IAA. Now we are currently preparing the National Space Activities Program and has promoted cooperation initiatives with similar institutions in other States, most recently with the Mexican Space Agency and CONAE here in Argentina, also we are working with the Paraguayan ministry of science and education in a broad CanSat program and we are planning to launch our first CubeSat satellite in 2021.

Finally, Mr. President and distinguished delegates, convinced of the importance of the creation of national capacities and of their relevance as a cooperation platform between the States, the Paraguayan delegation advocates the strengthening of the capacity-building activities of the States in the field of space science, technology and its applications and in the development of legislation and spatial policies. We believe that if we improve STEM / STEAM education for the benefit of space research, we will improve the type of skills that have been so successful in other fields, such as robotics, medicine, engineering and others, in our universities. Secondary schools and, yes, to INSPIRE younger generations. We must continue to persuade governments, foundations and private industries to help. WHILE LEARNING FROM THE PAST, WE NEED TO LOOK AT THE FUTURE AND BE PREPARED FOR IT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.