

Statement of Uruguay

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Distinguished Authorities, distinguished Delegates, distinguished participants in this Forum, good afternoon.

First of all I would like to thank the kind invitation received from the IAF President, the Italian Space Agency President and the Director of the CONAE to participate in this Third International Space Forum, dedicated this time to Latin America. It is an honor for us to attend this important meeting.

The theme of the Forum is “Space Science and Academia for better Solution to Latin America’s Challenges”.

Topics to be discussed are of great importance for all countries and, in this particular case, to Latin Americans: management of natural resources and prevention of disasters, space cooperation, education and training.

This Forum will allow us to know more about space programs linked with these issues that Governments and space agencies are developing.

Uruguay, although is not a space faring country, adheres to the principles of space cooperation and peaceful uses of outer space. By CIDA-E’s initiative, our country has approved all the UN space treaties and is Member of UNCOPUOS since 1981.

Besides this, in our country, many public and private organizations use space technology, they use the information provided by satellites for their daily activities.

The importance of space technology in people’s everyday life was demonstrated once again at the Global Conference on Space Applications (GLAC 2018) which took place in Montevideo last May, and was co-organized by the IAF and the CIDA-E.

For Uruguay - a country whose main activity is agriculture and farming- satellite data are a tool that can help to generate more productive and sustainable returns. The agricultural sector is often affected by extreme weather conditions such as heavy rains, tornadoes, strong winds, storms, frost, droughts and floods.

That makes it necessary to agricultural establishments and other public and private stakeholders to incorporate new technologies.

GLAC 2018 made it clear that space applications help socio-economic growth, they help to have a more efficient agriculture, they are also important in the management of risk, in investigations of the climate and the preservation of the natural resources, among other benefits they provide.

Today, in this Forum, we will have the opportunity to continue exploring ways of cooperation in the region and go on with the investigations about the mechanisms to

achieve a better management of natural resources and to prevent disasters, all activities that need the essential support of a proper education and training.

We hope that the initiative mentioned by Mr. Kulichevsky and by Dr. Mendieta, about creating a regional space agency, initiative presented by Chile in the 80's, become a reality.

The results of this meeting will provide rich information that will help us to continue promoting the development of the space sector in Uruguay.

Thank you for your attention.

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