



Organizers:



Reggio Calabria, Italy
5 September 2019

"Space Technology and Applications meet Mediterranean Needs"



Statement of IAF

By Jean-Yves Le Gall

President, International Astronautical Federation

Distinguished Ministers,

Distinguished Heads of Delegations,

Dear Colleagues,

It is a real pleasure for me, as President of the International Astronautical Federation, to address you today at this fourth edition of the International Space Forum at Ministerial Level – The Mediterranean Chapter, focusing on the theme of *"Space Technology and Applications meet Mediterranean Needs"*.

Since its creation in 1951, the IAF has proudly cherished its central mission of connecting all space people by continuously fostering international cooperation worldwide, by encouraging the advancement of space knowledge and by nurturing dialogue between scientists, engineers and policy-makers for the benefit of humanity.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of its founding fathers and all the zealous volunteers who followed, the Federation is today the world's leading space advocacy body with 366 members, including all key space agencies, companies, societies, associations and institutes across 68 countries. Over 40 administrative and technical committees support the Federation in its mission.

In order to successfully answer the needs of the space sector for an optimal global cooperation, the IAF focuses on six leading missions:

1. Promoting cooperation: the IAF's International Astronautical Congress and various IAF committees provide unique collaborative platforms for experts from space agencies, industry and research.



2. Advancing international development: the IAF is building a future of cooperation, development and international friendship, bringing together experts from developed and emerging space nations.
3. Sharing knowledge: the Federation has many well-established channels to disseminate information within its global network and the wider space community.
4. Recognizing achievements: the Federation's prestigious awards are presented annually to individuals and groups who have distinguished themselves in the global space arena.
5. Preparing the workforce of tomorrow: to nurture new talent, the Federation has many activities targeting students and young professionals.
6. Raising awareness: the global network of the IAF, and IAF publications, help promote the public appreciation of space activities worldwide.

When taking over the Presidency of the Federation in 2016, I made it my firm intention and my obligation together with the experienced team of Vice-Presidents, to guarantee a sustainable development of the IAF, taking into account and responding to global challenges ahead of us. Convinced that the scientific and academic expertise represents an essential element for a long-term sustainable development of the future space activities and under the auspices of the IAF Global Innovation Agenda 2016 – 2019, we decided to focus our efforts on better involving worldwide universities in the IAF and space community.

With the guidance of the, at the time, IAF Vice President for Science and Academic Relations, Roberto Battiston, Former President of the Italian Space Agency, the Federation created in 2016 the International Space Forum at Ministerial Level – ISF, with the aim of encouraging a global discussion on the need of promoting a greater involvement of Universities and national Academies into space activities.

The successful series of International Space Forums at Ministerial Level, was initiated in Trento in 2016, thanks to the cooperation of the International Astronautical Federation – IAF and the Italian Space Agency – ASI. The series continued in 2017 and 2018 with two new regional editions: the African Chapter that took place in Nairobi Kenya, and the Latin American and Caribbean Chapter, that took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina. During these past editions, representatives from the two regions engaged in interesting discussions about the role space technologies could play in facing some of the challenges in the respective areas, and the



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opportunities for their countries' socio-economic development that could be facilitated by the development of the space sector.

Today, we are gathered here in Reggio Calabria for the 4th edition of this Forum - The Mediterranean Chapter, jointly organized by the IAF, the Italian Space Agency and the University "Mediterranea" of Reggio Calabria, which, I am happy to report, has recently applied to become a Member of the Federation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Why focusing on the Mediterranean region for this edition of the ISF?

The answer is simple: we need to protect and preserve this unique area of the world. Surrounded by three continents, Africa, Asia and Europe, the Mediterranean region's cultural and natural richness is exceptional. It is a region of constant change and it is today at the heart of great economic and social exchanges.

The IAF acknowledges that the Mediterranean basin has been, for the past decades, under tremendous pressure, in particular due to human activities. Climate change is an increasing concern and, over the last few decades, we have witnessed exponential growth in potentially catastrophic environmental changes. The constant threats of water shortages and fires, the yearly rising of the air and sea temperature, leading to a warmer and drier ecosystem, and the ongoing maritime traffic – legal and illegal – represent some of today's main challenges for the area. It is exactly for these and many more reasons, that space technology and its application can be crucial in providing countries the necessary information to carry out major operations both on land and at sea. Now more than ever, the dialogue and scientific exchange between policy-makers and key stakeholders is of vital importance.

In light of these reflections, this edition of the Forum aims at stimulating the discussions between Ministers and Authorities of the Mediterranean region on the opportunity to take common actions and launch joint initiatives to increase the participation of their scientific and academic institutions in space activities, to contribute to meeting the needs of the Mediterranean populations and develop their capacities and abilities. By focusing on topics such as Maritime Surveillance; Space and Blue Economy; Space Education, Cooperation and



Scientific Knowledge, I am convinced that today will mark a new beginning of cooperation and collaboration between countries of the Mediterranean regions.

Distinguished participants,

Our world is facing many challenges, and it is our task and our duty to build a healthier and safer global society where the benefits of space technology can be appreciated by all humanity.

With this in mind, and following its motto “*Connecting @ll Space People*”, the IAF will continue in the years to come, to help bridging the gap between established and emerging space nations, and will continue to offer a global network encouraging cooperation and promotion of international development.

The Federation will support the organization of further regional chapters of the International Space Forum, and will continue taking actions in fostering the dialogue between the scientific community, academic institutions and experts, on the need of expanding the discussion on space capabilities and technology opportunities for a greater socioeconomic development.

To reconfirm our commitment, it is my pleasure to announce that together with the Italian Space Agency, works have already begun to finalize the organization of the next International Space Forum at Ministerial Level, with that will take place in 2020 for a Southeast Asian Chapter.

I would like to thank once again the organizers of this Forum as well as the local authorities that welcomed us here today. Meetings like these are an invaluable asset to face the many challenges ahead of us.

Thank you for your attention.

Jean-Yves Le Gall

IAF President