

Statement of Cyprus

**By Talal Al Kaissi on behalf of Mohammed Al Ahbabi
Director General, UAE Space Agency**

On behalf of Dr. Mohammed Al Ahbabi DG of UAESA and VP of IAF, I would like to thank the IAF for inviting the UAESA to take part in this important forum.

- I would also like to thank the city of Reggio Calabria for hosting and the wonderful hospitality.
- My name is Talal Al Kaissi...
- We are a small country but one with big ambitions in space o Started in 2014 ... and since then:
 - Mars mission launching next year – like Mr. Le Gal mentioned space exploration plays a big role in helping understand and mitigate challenges we have here at home.
 - Launched the Space Policy, Space Law (special), Space Strategy
 - Signed MOUs with over 25 countries.
 - Launched the National Plan for the Promotion of Space Investment
 - Built and launched the first emirati satellite Khalifasat
 - Became members of key organizations like the UN Copuous and ISECG o Signed and agreement to participate in the steering committee of the SCO
 - Astronaut this month going to ISS. Sustainable HSF Program
 - Announced the Ambitious 100 year Mars 2117 plan
- We share similar challenges to those that are the focus of this Forum.
 - Maritime surveillance – we live in a tough neighborhood! Important passageway for global shipping and trade o Building human capital
- Blue economy – red tides that were mentioned by Ms. Sharafat from UNOOSA
- One thing I am really proud to have played a small role in is the recently established Arab space cooperation group. This is symbolic but also tangible due to the UAE leaderships generous gift of a hyperspectral satellite that will be dedicated to this group.
- 3 main drivers, diversification, exploration, and geopolitical
- There should be plenty of opportunities to collaborate with Mediterranean countries and we would be delighted to explore potential opportunities.
- Lastly I would like to invite you to visit the UAE at any time, we will be hosting IAC2020 in Dubai.

Thank you.