



Reggio Calabre, September 5, 2019

## ***Statement of Tunisia***

***By Prof. Kamel BESBES.***

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***The representative of Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Tunisia.***

Thank you very much, Mrs. President and thanks to the government of Italy, to the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), and to the organizing committee of this great event ISF2019.

Distinguished Ministers, Distinguished Heads of Delegations, Dear Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

The Republic of Tunisia subscribes to the principles of exploration and the use of outer space for peaceful purposes, in the interest of humanity; and in particular for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, SDG2030 of UN.

The government is actively engaged in defining and developing a coherent strategy in collaboration with the United Nations and friendly countries.

To contribute to this, the Tunisian Commission for Outer Space (CNEEA) is working to coordinate the activities of the different departments and agencies concerned with outer space and to raise awareness of the benefits by exploiting the possibilities offered by space technologies and its applications.

Recently, an ambitious program of space accessibility was launched in March 2018 by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research with strategic departments such as the Ministries of Defense, Agriculture, Environment and the Digital Economy.

The program began with a strategic event entitled "Towards a Tunisian Space Strategy". Among the guests that participated: a high and prestigious representative of UNOOSA, ESA, CNES, ISRO, a delegation from CAST and of course the representative of Italian Space Agency.

The conference served to convince political decision-makers and to bring together several actors and beneficiaries of space products in order to propose a new strategy, in the short and medium terms, taking into account the means and the applicable policy.

Space education is very important. In addition to the teaching of space technologies and applications in some universities and support to the activities of youth associations, the National School of Agricultural Engineers has launched a new master's degree in 2019, on space applications to agriculture, called "Erasmus + GEOMAG ». In addition, recently, we are conducting a collaborative project to develop our capabilities in space technology training, with a project to build our first CubeSat satellite in 2021.

To implement some applications of space, we are currently working on the launch of a new national collaborative development program under the responsibility of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. The SAMA Tunisia program currently consists of 7 technical groups, which define strategic actions that can improve the results of this phase of the strategy: legal and regulatory aspects, space technologies, space communications, Earth observation, astronomy and space weather, GNSS and GIS, space culture and the media.

The ambition of Tunisia today is to be part of the new international collaborative movement, particularly with its Mediterranean and African neighbors, to better exploit the products of space in order to benefit from it in the framework of its national sustainable development policy.

As a country associated to the European H2020 program, we are trying to integrate the European approach in the implementation of our Innovation and Research policy also in the space field.

Applications in agriculture, monitoring and control of energy and water resources, better management of land and cities, optimization of logistics and transport fleets, as well as the digital and industrial transition, are the main goals.

We therefore encourage programs that allow us to use all the information generated by the community from space to support sustainable development, the blue economy and climate change prevention.

In addition, we support collaborative projects to be jointly developed on security in the sub-Saharan region, protection against illegal immigration, small boat control and rescue at sea after multiple accidents endangering many people.

Mrs President. Distinguished delegates, I thank you all for your kind attention.