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FROM CYBERSPACE TO SPACE ECONOMY: BUILDING EL SALVADOR'S READINESS FOR EMERGING SPACE OPPORTUNITIES

INTRODUCTION

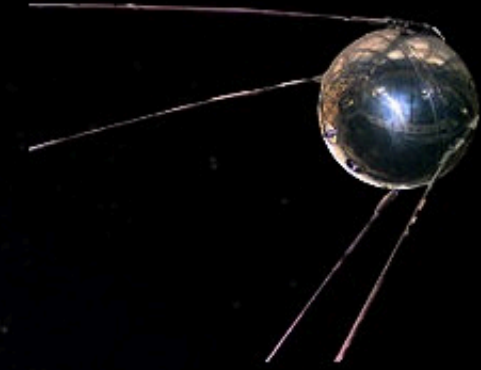
This presentation examines how El Salvador's recent progress in digital transformation and technology governance can serve as a foundation for future participation in the space economy. As an emerging country without a mature space sector, El Salvador's pathway begins by strengthening the policy conditions that make space-based applications possible: cybersecurity, digital infrastructure, data governance, innovation, investment frameworks, and international cooperation.

THE INVISIBLE DEPENDENCE ON SPACE



Emerging countries often use space-based services every day without having domestic space governance. This creates a paradox: we depend on space infrastructure, but we may not yet have the legal, institutional, or cybersecurity tools to protect it, regulate it, or strategically use it for national development.

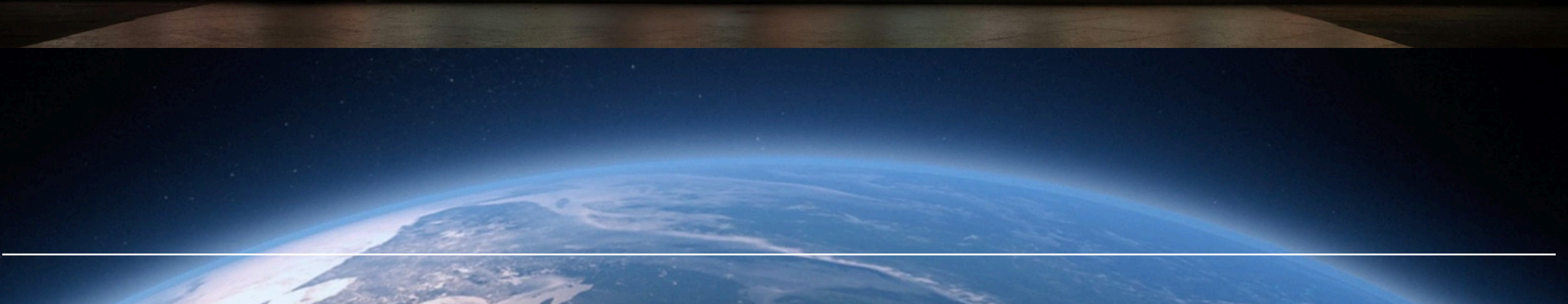
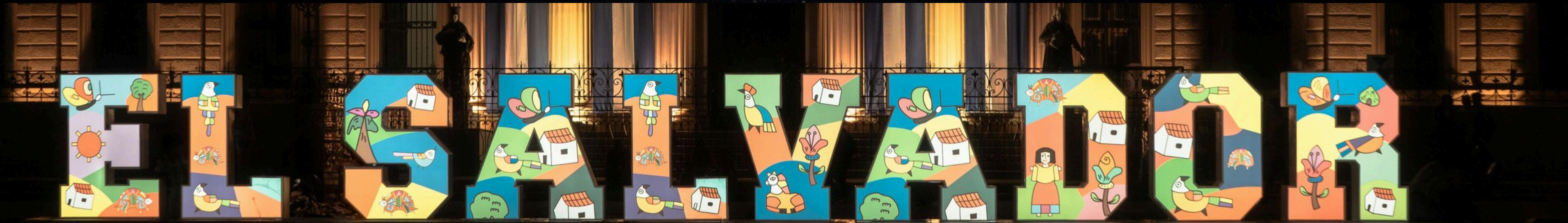
EL SALVADOR'S DIGITAL GOVERNANCE FOUNDATION



El Salvador's recent progress in digital transformation, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, investment frameworks, and emerging technology regulation provides a relevant foundation for future space economy participation.



HOW EMERGING NATIONS CAN START



Step 1: Recognize space infrastructure as critical digital infrastructure

Satellite services should be understood as part of the national digital ecosystem.

Step 2: Integrate space risks into cybersecurity policy

This includes satellite links, ground stations, data systems, and service continuity.

Step 3: Create institutional coordination

A space-cyber coordination mechanism could involve cybersecurity authorities, foreign affairs, telecommunications, defense, academia, and the private sector.

Step 4: Build regulatory readiness

This does not require a large space bureaucracy at the beginning. It can start with legal principles for authorization, oversight, liability, data use, public-private partnerships, and international cooperation.

Step 5: Use space applications for resilience and development

Focus on disaster risk management, agriculture, climate resilience, connectivity, logistics, territorial planning, and public services.



CONCLUSION

For emerging nations, entering the space economy does not always begin with launching satellites. It can begin with governance, cybersecurity, institutional capacity, international cooperation, and the strategic use of space-based applications for development. El Salvador's experience shows how a country advancing in digital transformation can begin to build the foundations for a future space economy that is inclusive, resilient, and connected to national development priorities.

