

Statement of Argentina

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First of all, thanks to the authorities of the Ministry, to all the delegates from the countries that accompany us, to the IAF president, to the ASI president; to all the colleagues who are present with us today.

The truth is that I had prepared a speech, but the question that was mentioned earlier about why in Latin America we probably have more cases of collaboration in this area among Latin American countries and countries such as the United States or different European countries made me change the topic of what I had planned to say today, because I think that was a very good question.

And I actually think the answer, or the first hint of an answer, is: this is why we are here.

I think that it is what encouraged us, CONAE, to be part of the organization of this event.

Because we firmly believe that in spite of the successful collaborations we have had, because we can mention many collaborations with CONAE, for example with Brazil, either in all the cooperation we had in the previous SAC missions of Argentina, performing all the environmental tests in Brazil... and now with the SABIAMAR project, and other bilateral agreements... one that is about to be signed with CONIDA, the Peruvian Space Agency, and also agreements that we are working with the Paraguayan Space Agency...

But the truth is that certainly there is no integrating place that can optimize the cooperation in this area in Latin America and the Caribbean.

So I think that this leads to what we, at CONAE, have been proposing as a great desire, as almost a dream, which is to have a regional space agency.

And I believe that this is the initial step to start organizing and working on the possibility of creating this regional space agency because, clearly, it is the cooperation among the countries what is going to enhance all the initiatives of each one of us.

So also from that idea, we can achieve the other point that was mentioned as a very important one, and I fully agree with, that is: how do we send all the information we generate from space to the community to support the sustainable development of the countries of the region.

So I thank you very much for your presence here.

We are very pleased to receive you in Buenos Aires and we hope this meeting to be useful in order to be a founding seed of integration even stronger than the one we have had so far between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Thank you very much.