



4th International Space Forum at Ministerial level – The Mediterranean Chapter

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6 REGGIO CALABRIA PAGE (to be added to the Trento Space Statement)

4th International Space Forum at Ministerial Level The Mediterranean Chapter “Space Technology and Applications meet Mediterranean Needs”

On September 5th, 2019, the Italian Minister of Education, University and Research, the Ministers and Authorities competent for Space in the Mediterranean countries, as well as the representatives and experts of national and international Space Agencies and Organizations met in Reggio Calabria (Italy) under the auspices of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and the University Mediterranea of Reggio Calabria for the 4th International Space Forum (ISF) 2019 - The Mediterranean Chapter.

After the first International Space Forum in Trento (Italy) and the following regional Chapters focused on Africa (Nairobi 2017) and Latin America and the Caribbean (Buenos Aires 2018), the Mediterranean Chapter triggered open and productive discussions on the wish to increasingly involve Academia and Universities of the region in space programs and activities in order to contribute to find space solutions that meet Mediterranean needs.

Governmental delegates and Space Agency representatives exchanged views, shared experiences and visions, and delivered statements, in which they declared and presented a wide range of valuable views, including:

- **space technologies and related applications** provide and contribute to find solutions to several challenges that affect human life on Earth; they are precious tools for implementing the goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for sustainable development;
- **space activities** require high-level scientific and technical knowledge, as well as a multidisciplinary approach;
- **Academia and Universities** are precious sources of knowledge and human capital; they are very well distributed throughout the world and characterized by a great propensity for international cooperation;
- their interaction with the international **space networks** and their involvement in space activities is highly beneficial and increases the chances to find better space solutions to global challenges;
- **the Mediterranean region is an ideal meeting point to discuss a space agenda for stability, security, development, and identity.**

Three keynote speeches were delivered by distinguished space experts on the following topics:

- **Maritime Surveillance:** improvement of maritime surveillance capabilities in the Mediterranean region through satellite systems; promotion of joint space projects and implementation of platforms for fast information exchange to increase security and stability in the region.
- **Space and Blue Economy:** bringing the blue-economy and space communities together; promoting the use of space applications among public and private actors who deal with the Mediterranean Sea for the provision of services and as a pivotal resource for the development of related commercial activities.
- **Space Education, Cooperation and Scientific Knowledge:** promotion of space capacity building in the Mediterranean region, expanding scientific and academic cooperation in space as a key factor for social, economic, and cultural development.





All delegations noted that:

- since ancient times, the Mediterranean Sea has been a crossroad of communication, transportation, and development for Europe, the Middle-East, and North Africa. It has stimulated virtuous contamination among cultures, languages, religions, political and economic systems, and facilitated the dissemination of knowledge, ideas, inventions and technologies that enriched the peoples of the region;
- these uniting factors of Mediterranean peoples outnumber by far the dividing factors;
- some of the problems that affect the Mediterranean region are common to all of its countries and may be solved jointly by elaborating common decisions and actions, also with the support of satellite information and related data;
- the Mediterranean region and its coasts are a source of wealth; their beauty, climate, agricultural products and marine fauna offer several opportunities that can be exploited at best with the support of space technologies;
- the Mediterranean region hosts some of the most advanced space-faring nations and is the cradle of relevant academic communities, with century-old traditions which contributed to the progress of humankind;
- greater interaction between academic communities and the international space actors would activate a potential innovative space knowledge in the Mediterranean region; this regional networking would enhance capacity building in space disciplines for specific expertise and perspective to be created in the region, in view of playing a greater role in the international space community.

Ministers, Diplomats, Heads of Space Agencies and all distinguished delegates present in Reggio Calabria welcomed the 4th International Space Forum – The Mediterranean Chapter and identified the following main objectives to be pursued in the following years:

- promotion of a **greater cooperation in space disciplines among universities of the region** with the support of national and international space agencies and institutions; in particular, the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) will facilitate this regional networking;
- promotion of a **greater use of space-based data and information** from telecommunication, earth observation, and navigation satellites to support the socio-economic development of all people in the region through several activities such as transport, food, energy, and tourism;
- promotion of a **greater awareness of the usefulness for the Mediterranean region of space programs and satellite systems** such as GALILEO, COPERNICUS and the ESA Sentinels, the GovSatCom satellites, as well as the COSMO-SkyMed constellation;
- promotion of the **use of satellites to safeguard and protect infrastructures and activities**, and to discourage threats and illegal activities through or around the sea;
- **exploitation of the existing national and international space centers and infrastructures** to contribute to the United Nations 2030 agenda at regional level;
- **creation of a Space Curriculum focused on the Mediterranean needs.**

Finally, the delegations of the Mediterranean countries attending the International Space Forum 2019 in Reggio Calabria expressed the wish to work together for a prosperous and peaceful Mediterranean region by sharing common and challenging objectives, in which space technologies and related applications play a stimulating role for both regional cooperation and the expansion of the space economy.

