Jaudi
Arabia

Your Excellency the President of the Federal Republic of Austria
Your Excellency Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
Ladies and Gentlemen, Heads of delegations and attendees

Peace, mercy and blessings of God

I am honored to convey to you the greetings of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and the Crown Prince His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and their wish of full success for this conference.

On behalf of my delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I would like to congratulate you on the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space UNISPACE 1968-2018. My delegation appreciates the efforts of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Subcommittees (Scientific and Technical) and (Legal), our thanks go to the Office for Outer Space Affairs, represented by the Director of the United Nations Office, Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo.

Mr president,

We appreciate the efforts made by the delegations participating in this Conference to achieve the goals of the Sustainable Development Plan 2030, as well as the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. We emphasize the fundamental role played by the principles contained in the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, which constitute the international legal framework for the preservation of the peaceful uses of outer space

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me briefly review some of the achievements and efforts made by Saudi Arabia in the field of outer space and its applications. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has made concrete efforts to localize space science and technology and its utilization for the advancement of education, health, water and natural resources management, city planning, environmental monitoring, and space communication and navigation.

The interest of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in space science and technology started with its contribution in the INTELSAT and INMARSAT fixed and mobile communications systems. In 1976, Saudi Arabia played a pivotal role in the establishment of ARABSAT, with its headquarter in Riyadh. It is considered the regional system that provides satellite and direct broadcast services to all Arab League member states. It offers a full spectrum of radio and television services, telecommunications, and broadband services, to tens of millions in the Middle East, Africa, Europe and Central Asia. ARABSAT-1B was launched by the US Space Shuttle Discovery in 1985, participating in that historical mission was the first Arab and Moslem Astronaut, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, who contributed to the launch of the satellite and to the follow-up of scientific experiments designed by Saudi scientists.

Distinguished participants

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has developed a sustainable program for satellite technology and applications by educating and training Saudi scientists and engineers, transferring technology and building the infrastructure necessary to support the Kingdom's space industry. Between 2000 and 2017, it launched 13 satellites in low earth orbits, for communication, remote sensing, and space science experiment, three more satellites are currently in the launch phase.. The Saudi Geostationary Satellite for ka broadband (SGS-1) is scheduled to be launched by

the end of 2018. The satellite is being built in cooperation with Lockheed Martin. The project includes advanced training for Saudi specialists in the satellite design, construction, and testing.

In the field of Earth observation, Saudi Arabia established the first ground station in the region to receive images from commercial satellites operated by a specialized remote sensing technology center at King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology. The station receives satellite data from more than 8 commercial satellites such as the American worldview and the French Spot and Pléiades satellites , with resolutions up to 31 cm. At present, the Kingdom has the capability to build high resolution satellites, this year, two electrooptical satellites will be launched, followed by other satellites in the coming years to meet local needs. Work is under way to expand our fleet of remote sensing satellites through the construction of a satellite constellation that can provide imaging services for local and global markets.

In the field of space science, Saudi Arabia carried out scientific experiment on SaudiSat-4 in 2014, the experiment was developed in partnership with NASA and Stanford University. The experiment generated important results relating to Drag Free control of Satellites. In the field of planetary exploration, the kingdom of Saudi Arabia is involved in exploration missions that study the nature of Near Earth Objects and other celestial bodies such as the Moon and Mars. Currently Saudi Arabia is participating in the Chang'e4 Mission of China National Space Administration. A Saudi remote sensing payload, for imaging the dark side of the moon, was installed on board Longjiang-2 microsatellite orbiting the moon. The partnership is a great success.

Our future space exploration missions will depend on the concept of small satellites, this will eventually lead to significant scientific results at a very low cost compared to current international missions.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen

In conclusion, We assure you that we will endeavor, through the Kingdom 2030 Vision and its implementation programs, to build bridges of constructive cooperation with countries that share our interest in the peaceful exploration of outer space for the benefit of mankind.

Peace be with you, mercy of God, and his blessings.