

COPUOS SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE: 2023
SIXTIETH SESSION (6-17 FEBRUARY 2023)
BRAZIL, ITEM 3 – “GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS”

ON BEHALF THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION OF BRAZIL, MS LUCIANA SANTOS

MISTER CHAIR, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES

GOOD MORNING/AFTERNOON.

ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION OF BRAZIL, MS LUCIANA SANTOS, I CORDIALLY GREET ALL THE PRESENTS. IT IS AN HONOUR TO ADDRESS SUCH AN IMPORTANT AUDIENCE TO PRESENT RENEWED VIEWS REGARDING THE CONDUCTING OF SPACE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION IN BRAZIL.

BEYOND SHADOW OF DOUBT, SCIENCE IN BRAZIL FACED DIFFICULT TIMES IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS. IN LIGHT OF THIS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE PERIOD OF SCIENCE DENIAL AND DISREGARDING HAS COME TO AN END. BY ALL MEANS, FROM NOW ON THIS MINISTRY IS COMMITTED TO PLACE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AS PILLARS OF BRAZILIAN’S DEVELOPMENT, ENABLING THEIR BENEFITS TO BE ENJOYED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

IT IS UNDENIABLE THAT SPACE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ARE DECISIVE TOOLS FOR COUNTRIES LIKE BRAZIL, STILL WITH MANY REGIONAL AND SOCIAL INEQUALITIES, IN FACING THESE MAJOR CHALLENGES AND INCREASING THE COUNTRY’S CAPACITY IN STRATEGIC AREAS. THEREFORE, THIS MINISTRY IS BETROTHED TO STRENGTHENING THE BRAZILIAN SPACE PROGRAM. AMONG THE GREAT CHALLENGES TO BE OVERCOME IN A LONG RUN ARE OBTAINING AUTONOMY, BOTH IN ACCESSING SPACE THROUGH NATIONAL LAUNCH VEHICLES, AND IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL GEOPOSITIONING SYSTEM.

FOR THE MOMENT, ONE OF THE PRIORITIES OF THE MINISTRY IS TO ESTABLISH AN INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMAZON REGION. ONE OF THE CORNERSTONES OF THIS FRAMEWORK IS THE PROGRAM FOR MONITORING DEFORESTATION, WHICH IS BASED ON MORE THAN 30 YEARS OF DATA ON THE AMAZON FOREST SYSTEMATICALLY OBTAINED THROUGH THE USE OF SATELLITE IMAGES AND GEOTECHNOLOGIES, COVERING AN AREA OF MORE THAN 4 MILLION KM².

AIMING THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE OBSERVATION AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES IN THE AMAZON AND IN OTHER BIOMAS SUCH AS THE PANTANAL, THE ATLANTIC FOREST AND THE CERRADO, BRAZIL BEGAN IN 2022 THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SECOND BRAZILIAN EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE BASED ON THE MULTIMISSION PLATFORM (PMM). THE PMM WAS QUALIFIED AND VALIDATED IN SPACE DURING THE AMAZONIA-

1 MISSION. BESIDES, ANOTHER MISSION COMPRISED BY A SMALL-SIZE HIGH-RESOLUTION EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE IS BEING DEVELOPED BY A GROUP OF BRAZILIAN COMPANIES. CURRENTLY, THE AMAZONIA-1 SATELLITE IS IN ROUTINE OPERATION, IN ADDITION TO THE CBERS-4 AND CBERS-4A SATELLITES.

BRAZIL HAS BEEN ALSO INTENSIFYING THE USE OF CUBESAT PLATFORMS FOR CAPACITY BUILDING AND SCIENTIFIC AND ACADEMIC DEMANDS. LAST NOVEMBER A CUBESAT DEVELOPED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES NAMED "SPORT" WAS LAUNCHED. SPORT'S OBJECTIVE IS THE GENERATION OF DATA TO BE USED IN STUDIES RELATED TO IONOSPHERIC BUBBLES. OTHER MISSIONS SUCH THE ALFACRUX SATELLITE, THE CATARINA CONSTELLATION, AND THE VCUB-1 SATELLITE WERE CARRIED ON AS WELL.

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DURING THIS ADMINISTRATION, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WILL BE ONE OF THE MAIN ACTION FRONTLINES.

IN THIS SENSE, WE TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MENTION THE BRAZILIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE ARTEMIS ACCORDS. BRAZIL HAS ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTED TO THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE ARTEMIS HIGH-LEVEL OBJECTIVES. MOREOVER, BRAZIL IS PROSPECTING, THROUGH THE BRAZILIAN SPACE AGENCY, THE COUNTRY'S PARTICIPATION IN A BRAZILIAN MISSION UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ARTEMIS PROGRAM. IN THIS REGARD, WE ARE PROUD TO INFORM THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC DEEP SPACE NANOSATELLITE MISSION CALLED SELENITA, WHOSE OBJECTIVE IS TO STUDY THE SPACE WEATHER AROUND THE MOON.

ADDITIONALLY, WE CALL ATTENTION TO THE ONSET, IN 2022, OF THE OPERATIONAL PHASE OF THE SPACE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE BRICS BLOC. THE INITIATIVE AIMS TO ESTABLISH A CONSTELLATION OF REMOTE SENSING SATELLITES TO SHARE DATA WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF FACING CHALLENGES RELATED TO GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTER MANAGEMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, PREVENTION OF WATER SCARCITY AND PREVENTION OF FOOD SHORTAGES. THE PARTIES WILL WORK COOPERATIVELY TO SPREAD THE USE OF REMOTE SENSING APPLICATIONS AND TO FOSTER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

FURTHERMORE, WE DO BELIEVE THAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THE PROBLEMS GENERATED BY SPACE WEATHER PHENOMENA WILL BE LARGE ENOUGH TO AFFECT THE PLANET WITH FINANCIAL LOSSES, IN ADDITION TO A LONG RECOVERY PERIOD. IN THE COMING YEARS BRAZIL INTENDS TO DEEP ITS RESEARCH TOWARDS THE PROTECTION OF THE COUNTRY'S TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AS WELL AS, TO CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVE GLOBAL COORDINATION, IN LINE WITH THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE "EXPERT GROUP ON SPACE WEATHER (EGSW)". AS PART OF THIS OBJECTIVE, BRAZIL, THROUGH THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SPACE RESEARCH, SIGNED A COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR THE FORMATION OF A LEAGUE CALLED "ALL4SPACE", COMPOSED BY INSTITUTIONS IN ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CHILE AND MEXICO, FOR CONDUCTING SPACE WEATHER STUDIES.

REGARDING LATIN AMERICA, WE ALSO SPOTLIGHT THE JOINT 3RD IAA LATIN AMERICAN SYMPOSIUM ON SMALL SATELLITES AND THE 5TH IAA LATIN AMERICAN CUBESAT WORKSHOP HOSTED IN THE CITY OF BRASILIA, IN NOVEMBER OF 2022. MOREOVER, SPECIFICALLY WITH ARGENTINA, WE ARE GLAD TO MENTION THAT THE MINISTER ANNOUNCED TWO WEEKS AGO, IN BUENOS AIRES, THE RELAUNCHING OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, BY BRAZIL, OF THE EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE SABIA-MAR B, WHOSE MISSION IS TO MONITOR OCEAN ECOSYSTEMS AND COASTAL ZONES.

FINALLY, IT IS WITH ENTHUSIASM THAT BRAZIL COMMUNICATES ITS INTENTION TO RESUME THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR NEW JOINT MISSIONS IN THE UMBRELLA OF THE CHINA-BRAZIL EARTH RESOURCES SATELLITE PROGRAM (CBERS PROGRAM), WHICH COMMEMORATED 30 YEARS IN 2018. THE CBERS PROGRAM HAS ALREADY LAUNCHED SIX REMOTE SENSING SATELLITES, AND THE PRIMARY GOAL IS TO RESUME TALKS WITH CHINA FOR THE JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF CBERS-5 AND CBERS-6 MISSIONS.

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IN CONCLUSION, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE BRAZILIAN HISTORY WE HAVE A WOMAN AS MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION. MORE THAN AN EVENT TO BE CELEBRATED, IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO HIGHLIGHT OUR SUPPORT TO THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE FIELDS OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT TO THE NEXT UNITED NATIONS SPACE FOR WOMEN MEETING TO BE HELD IN CANADA AT THE SECOND HALF OF THIS YEAR.

THANKS FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION.