

IAF –MMoP’s Forum – Quito – Tuesday 17 May 2022

Dear Space Enthusiasts,

Dear Space Friends,

I am delighted to be, with all of you in Quito, to strongly reaffirm that No!

No, Science, innovation, technological progress, as well as the research for our origins, the understanding of the universe, the benefits of space exploration for Earth ... are not the exclusive prerogative of scientists, researchers, and engineers.

It is - and it must be - also a prerogative of - women and men - engaging in politics.

Unfortunately, for most us space is not a priority! And it’s real worry situation because today:

- More than ever, Space is about Defense & Security, which means autonomy of countries.
- More than ever our world depends on space assets and data in all domains!
- More than ever space represents thousands of billions of dollars worldwide to advance science and technology
- More than ever Space solutions are omni present in our daily live and are a lever for public management
- More than ever, space has become an indispensable ally for our economy, our security, our independence, for the evolution of science and the well-being of civil society.

I’ll get back to this later on.

I’m very grateful to IAF for having understood, very early, that it was essential to associate politicians -men and women - on the importance of space for each country and for the world

For nearly 11 years now, Christian Feichtinger and his team organized the Members of Parliaments Meeting.

I'm really appreciative to them for giving me the opportunity to rethink and reshape the MoP's Meeting which became now Ministers & Members of Parliaments Meeting.

Before discussing the content of our day, I would like to join Christian Feichtinger, in thanking and congratulating SIDERALIS by hosting the Global Conference on Space for Emerging Countries 2022, for all Latin America, here in Quito.

My warm thanks go to **Vianna Maino**, Minister of Telecommunication of Ecuador to accepted to be Co-Chair with me today. Thank you for your time and your availability!

Of course, I'll not forget to thank all of you for your presence and your participation.

Dear Excellences and Colleagues,

It's a chance to be IAF Vice-President, with the portfolio on «Parliamentarians» when you are a former Parliamentarian! It's a wonderful opportunity to initiate a new vision of the MMoP's Meeting through a parliamentarian eye.

What is our vision, our ambition?

Our ambition is to make the MMoP's Meeting the place that brings Ministers & Parliamentarians together, the place that resembles us, the place that meets our expectations, our interests.

We want to make this place "The place to be".

"The place to be"!

For all Ministers & Parliamentarians all over the world coming from countries using space solutions or not.

Our aim is to give us the unique opportunity to learn and inspire one another by making our Meeting a one-end shopping of ideas of operational space solutions.

What does that mean practically?

We want

- To give the opportunity for Ministers to present their country's space strategy
- To give to Parliamentarians the opportunity to meet, exchange, share experiences, information, good practices on space solutions and seize synergies.
- To make space more accessible, more understandable!

Our motto should sound like: "What it's possible in your country, should be possible in mine too!"

What is changing from the past?

- > We are no longer spectators by listening to the speeches of space experts.
- > We become actors, we are on the driving seat, we are now guiding the Meeting.
- > We explain relevant space solutions in our country and our own specific challenges.
- > Our presentations are policy-to-policy, peer-to-peer. Explained in a concise, understandable, non-technical manner, where the topics covered are in direct relation to our concerns.

Why did we choose "Space Solutions for the Benefit of Civil Society"?

- Because space solutions have never been more present in the lives of all our citizens;
- Because space solutions can be an incredible ally in meeting specific national needs,
- Because space solutions create benefits in all aspects of our daily lives
- Because Space solutions are a lever in day-to-day management of a city but not only also in rural areas, be it agriculture, water management, transport, security, mobility, health care, emergency, education and many others....

A little anecdote, before coming to Dubai last year for the IAC, some Parliamentarians were not especially interested by space

But by preparing their statement they became aware on the benefits of space solutions and how space can help people in their daily lives.

For many, it was a discovery

What is the next step?

Given to the success and the enthusiasm of the Parliamentarians at our 1st Mop's Meeting last year in Dubai.

We'll launch the 2d edition - by now associating the Minsters- the 17 September in Paris during the IAC.

To inform everyone on the organisation of the Meeting and to help you to prepare your statement, we plan a video conference on the 16 June.

Please save the dates: 17 September for our MMOPs Meeting in Paris and 16 juin for the video conference

I conclude:

The MMoP's Meeting is the unique place where Ministers & Parliamentarians all across the world (Est & West; North & South) have the opportunity

- to focus on their expectations and interests on space solutions
- to learn and inspire one another thanks the experience of colleagues

Please keep in mind and don't forget our moto:

“What it's possible in your country, should be possible in mine too!

Wsh you an excellent Forum!

Let's jump into our Forum

- 1.** We have the pleasure to welcome our 1st Speer ***Klaus-Peter Willsch***,
Chairperson of the Aerospace Group, German Bundestag
Klaus- Peter the floor is yours

Conclusion

I want to thank you all and especially our friends from South America. Today, we are one step closer to a major Forum that will involve more and more Ministers and Parliamentarians. A Forum where we inspire each other on space solutions and where our expectations, our interests are met

But we can make much more, we must convince our colleagues that the MMoP's Meeting is the place to be! Convince them that space can benefit all countries on earth an especially those who not yet connected to space.

