

Good Will Message

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United Nations Space Law Conference "Emerging Issues in Space Law and Policy: Perspectives for African Nations", Dec. 8-10, 2020

Distinguished guests, Invited participants Conference partakers;

Greetings!

As Director General of the ESSTI, I take great pride in welcoming all the attendees to Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, though turned out to virtual due to the Pandemic, for this historical meeting entitled "**Emerging Issues in Space Law and Policy: Perspectives for African Nations**", organized by UNOOSA.

Space law can be described as the body of law governing space-related activities. Space law, like any international law, comprises a variety of international agreements, treaties, conventions, and United Nations General Assembly resolutions as well as rules and regulations of international organizations. In addition to these international laws and treaties, many states have national legislation and regulatory frameworks to govern the conduct of space-related activities. Today, several nations including Ethiopia have given due respect and recognition to various UN space laws and treaties and follows to prepare national space legislations and policies for achieving national development agendas and improve the well-being of their citizens.

Cognizant of this, the government of Ethiopia established the Ethiopian Space Science & Technology Institute (ESSTI) in October 2016 mandated to undertake space related activities planned to the advancement of space science and technology that contribute to the economic growth and development of the country. The ESSTI together with Chinese space agency has also launched the first Earth observation satellite ETRSS-1 in Dec. 2019 and is receiving various images which we are utilizing for several purposes.

Currently, Ethiopia is a member of UN Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and has signed international treaties. Additionally, the ESSTI has enacted national space legislations and space policy from the perspectives of both adhering the international space laws and taking a number of approaches in dealing with national space activities such as studying the earth from space and exploring space from the earth.

Based on this space policy, ESSTI developed various space programs to effectively exploit space science and space technologies and their applications for socio-economic development, environmental resource conservation and management, disaster management, peace-keeping and security, space exploration and discovery as well as strengthening international cooperation in space sector.

Finally, on behalf of my Institution and as a member state of UNOOSA, please allow me to kindly express our commitment for the success of UNOOSA mission for Regional Space development and to host the follow-up on site exercise of the dedicated Space Law Project TAM 2021 here in Addis, once this Pandemic is over.

Last but not least, I would like to thank UNOOSA in providing the required assistance whenever our institute desires and also in organizing this conference to share international experience in space laws. I wish this great conference to be fruitful especially to the newly emerging African space actors, including Ethiopia!

I thank you!!