

Honorable Madam Chair and participants!

Thanks for the granted opportunity to make the speech.

Azerbaijan is the country, which has started to engage in space research and development and has already contributed to the outer space activity.

To date, Azerbaijan is an emerging space country with its three satellites (Azerspace 1 and 2 and Azersky). It is important to underline that in October 2017, the President of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev signed an Order, under which, functions on coordination of works carried out within international space projects and participation in them, cooperation with relevant international organizations and space agencies of foreign states in using outer space for peaceful purposes were transferred to Azercosmos. Thus, Azercosmos has become responsible to represent Azerbaijan in international space arena.

On April 27, 2021, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev issued a decree on the creation of a legal entity of public law "Azerbaijan Space Agency" (Azercosmos). As of today Azercosmos is the youngest Space Agency in the whole world. Considering Azercosmos' accomplishments over the past 10 years since its establishment, the company is positioning itself towards becoming the business and space hub in the region. During these years, the main activity of the company, along with the provision of commercial services, has been of state and public importance for the country. First, this includes contributing to socio-economic development, supporting scientific research and participating in international space initiatives. Azercosmos will continue to further operate in this direction.

The transformation of Azercosmos into the Space Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan will help our country to benefit more from the rapid technological progress in the world and improve space industry in our country. It will give a new impetus for the more effective implementation of functions of state and public importance, our country's participation in

international space projects, and cooperation with international organizations, relevant public and private institutions of foreign countries. At the same time, the functions and scope of the Agency's activities in the field of space research, training of local specialists, space industry construction will bring a new phase. In short, the work done on behalf of our country in the space field will be implemented by the Agency with full responsibility in a more systematic and structural form.

With a sense of pride and happiness, I am honoured to inform you that the 74th International Astronautical Congress will be held in Baku, the capital of my country, Azerbaijan. This event has the great importance for us and the whole world community.

First of all, hosting the IAC in Baku complements and supports the Government's the goal of transforming our country into a key space science and technology hub of the region. Holding the IAC in Baku will be a chance for the people of Azerbaijan to showcase that we can do the best in space sphere. This event will definitely encourage the youth to become a part of the global space community.

The 74th International Astronautical Congress in 2023 will bridge the gap between the established and emerging space nations, encourage the latter to get involved in space-related activities; as well as break the long-standing silence in our proximate region.

We firmly believe that IAC 2023 in Baku will make a significant contribution to the accelerated transfer of space technologies to our country and further development of human capital. It will enable us to demonstrate our country as the contributor to the development of outer space activity in the world. It will also support establishment of closer ties with foreign space agencies, companies and organizations as well as will guide and direct the energy of the young generation towards the reliable and intellectual usage and further exploration of the outer space.

Thank you!