

Distinguished Speakers, dear participants, dear Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to be here in Tashkent to attend this important event. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Shukhrat KADIROV, General Director of Uzbek Space Agency, UZBEKKOSMOS for his kind invitation to Space Technology Conference 2022.

Throughout the history, Turkish nation has contributed humanity's understanding of the cosmos -which is mostly overlooked- with scientists and astronomers such as Ali Kuşçu, Uluğ Bey, Kadızade Rumi, Takiyyüddin Er Raşit, Fergani also known as Alfraganus, Omer Hayyam, but unfortunately, we have remained earthbound so far. With the establishment of Turkish Space Agency and the development of our National Space Program, this is rapidly changing.

Space industry, especially due to the rise of the concept of “New Space” has been growing exponentially in the past years. As the new space economy develops, it increasingly overlaps with sustainability in areas such as Earth observation, energy and communications. Along with that, sustainability is one of the more exciting and underappreciated subdomains of the emerging space economy. Space and sustainability could increasingly align, thanks to innovative applications of satellite technology and the many exabytes of data that space infrastructure will produce over time. In the coming years, these technologies could enable us to have a more powerful global view of climate data and environmental science. Those insights, in turn, can help enable a deeper integration of sustainability considerations into investment decisions. Navigation, communication, financial services, weather prediction - this is but a short-list of what space assets offer us on a daily basis. Their positive impact is so significant, that we cannot risk losing the benefits it offers, not even for a short-period of time. To make the right decisions, adopt the right policies, and implement tailored and effective governance, authorities around the world must be able to harness the power of new technologies. The transformative nature of space makes it truly a game-changer.

Turkish Space Agency is only two years old. But we are working hard to keep pace with Spacefaring Nations in this New Space Age. In this regard, the National Space Program is developed presenting 10 Main Goals for the duration of 10 years.

NSP aims to make Türkiye one of the capable actors in the space field. Complex and demanding goals of NSP such as Moon Mission, Regional Positioning-Timing System and Establishment of a Spaceport will be realized with contributions by a wide pool of international partners. The proper implementation of NSP would benefit not just Türkiye but also neighboring countries and regions. These benefits include creating global partnerships by sharing challenging and peaceful goals; inspiring society and especially the younger generations through collective and individual efforts; and enabling economic expansion and new business opportunities.

The new space program and the establishment of Turkish Space Agency are aimed at enabling the Turkish industry and innovation ecosystems to be vital players of the global space economy and increase Türkiye's share in that market. As a sign of progress toward this goal, many Turkish space start-ups and technology companies, amid the pandemic-related lockdowns, have accrued inward investments; demonstrated progress in the R&D of the space-technology prototypes; begun to form strategic partnerships with their counterparts; and made outward strategic investments in space technology, particularly in the telecommunications and remote-sensing verticals.

Another major driver of Türkiye's space program the impending Fourth Industrial Age that is redefining the technical specifications of existing space technologies as well as complementing many new and emerging Industry 4.0 technologies for space applications. For many years, the state institutions interacted with the private sector through the classical vendor-supplier relationship. This private sector was mostly working on the templates offered by the state institutions and had little scope for innovation. Today, Turkish national laboratories possess the necessary competence and wherewithal in terms of conventional space technologies, the private sector is present on equal footing in terms of its know-how in R&D, manufacturing, and commercialization of Industry 4.0 enabled space technologies. The privatization of the space programs of other countries and the new operating models demonstrated by third-generation spacefaring countries have set an example for the space privatization drive. Now as TUA, we aim to increase Türkiye's share in the global space economy using this privatization.

TUA has initiated National Space Program to assist space-related start-ups that seek greater support. Early-stage Turkish space start-ups are also seeking access to commercially favorable partners and investors from across the world, from other friendly countries. With greater private-sector participation and Turkish

companies' eagerness to join the global space economy, industry-led bilateral and minilateral space cooperation agreements will come into vogue.

The space industrial ecosystem in Türkiye is growing at a pace faster than ever. This growth will be further accelerated with the enactment of the space program; a policy framework for the private sector participating in space hardware and software services, manufacturing, and operations; and a clear national space vision illustrated by the Presidency.

However, beyond these domestic rearrangements, what will be of far greater importance is the way these efforts assist the Turkish space sector in engaging with the global space economy. This engagement will depend on strong bilateral and multilateral strategic space partnerships with the friendly countries.

Türkiye has a successful track record of using space affairs for diplomatic purposes. With a comprehensive expansion of Türkiye's space capabilities, TUA is bound to increase the space-related diplomatic pursuits at bilateral, multilateral and minilateral levels.

After the recent space reforms, TUA is certain to use space diplomacy to bolster Türkiye's outreach via joint industrial and economic partnerships, academic cooperation, joint start-up ventures, acquisition of subsidiaries, attraction of investments, and strategic overseas investments.

We want to grow and strengthen our relationships with partners across the world, working together to solve humanity's greatest challenges, forging new bilateral partnerships, and expanding existing ones. Improving our bilateral relations will give us the chance to participate and contribute some of the worlds most important commercial and scientific endeavors together with the dynamic and emerging space economies. We will work together with our partners to test new technologies, processes and operations that can underlie the development of more advanced space capabilities.

Before ending my speech, I would like to extend my sincere compliments and express my appreciation to the staff of Uzbek Space Agency on their hard work and dedication for the organization of this successful event.

Thank you.