

## **ITU - IAF GLIS 2016**

Geneva, ITU 7 June 2016

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Dear Prof. Kiyoshi HIGUCHI, IAF President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear GLIS 2016 participants,

I would like to thank IAF for organizing, jointly with ITU, this 2016 edition of the Global Conference on Space and the Information Society – GLIS 2016. ITU and IAF have been cooperating since 1965, when IAF became an ITU member and I am very happy we could, for the first time, host this important event in ITU premises!

As the UN specialized agency in charge of ICT, ITU seeks to ensure the rational, equitable, efficient and economical use of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits.

I am happy to see that the 150 participants from IAF member organizations including scientific, research and academic institutions, satellite operators as well as industry, successfully completed two days of intense work.

These two days addressed the enormous contribution of space activities in shaping the information society. These involve the production of big data, the provision of global positioning information, the distribution of television programs, the provision of emergency services, the prevention and mitigation of natural and man-made disasters, the understanding, monitoring and protection of Earth's natural resources, the prediction of weather, and the connection of the world population to broadband services.

In particular, the session on SDGs showcased the critical role played by satellite systems in supporting each and every one of the 17 sustainable development goals adopted last year by the United Nations.

I am happy that this event also helped the many stakeholders of space activities present at this event to reaffirm their commitment to continue to build a sustainable ecosystem for these activities, in particular in ensuring access to spectrum and orbit resources, protection against interference, security and protection of human lives. You can count on ITU to continue to play its role in supporting these activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you so much for your contribution to the success of this event.

I hope you will have some free time after this meeting to enjoy Geneva and its surroundings, if you fly home tonight I wish you a safe return home to meet your loved ones.

Best regards and see you again in Geneva, see you again in the ITU!