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**Statement submitted by Ibero American Institute of Aeronautic
and Space Law and Commercial Aviation, a non-governmental
organization in consultative status with the Economic and
Social Council**

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.



Statement

Outer space and sustainable development

The science, technology and innovation needed to promote sustainable development include a spatial dimension. We consider that the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (Outer Space Treaty) was a pioneer as the first international instrument on space law, including sustainable development. The Treaty, in its article I, states that the exploration and use of outer space shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic and scientific development, and that outer space shall be free for exploration and use by all States without discrimination. Those principles are contemplated in the 1963 Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space. Sustainable development is also covered by the 1996 Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and Interest of all States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries; the 1982 Principles Governing the Use by States of Artificial Earth Satellites for International Direct Television Broadcasting, aimed at contributing to educational, social and economic development, especially in developing countries; the 1996 Principles relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, with particular emphasis on reducing the risk of accidental radiation exposure to the public; and the 1986 Principles relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space.

In July 1999, the States participating in the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space approved the document entitled Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development, in which they recognized the importance of space science and space applications for the fundamental knowledge of the universe, education, health, environmental monitoring, management of natural resources, disaster management, meteorological forecasting and climate modelling, satellite navigation and communications, and the major contribution that space science and technology make to the well-being of humanity and specifically to economic, social and cultural development. The Millennium Declaration introduced a number of challenges for the future that are accomplished with good forecasts. The United Nations Organization has organized several practical courses whereby States have strived to contribute to sustainable development from space thanks to the results of the application of space technology and geospatial data. These courses have included such issues as the preservation of cultural heritage, the safety of maritime navigation, land management, Earth's environment, the international space station for medical operations on Earth, space weather, seismic early warning, disaster management and emergency response, mapping refugee maps in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, humanitarian assistance with the United Nations Children's Fund, and livelihoods and food security with the World Food Programme.

We must continue to work for sustainable development at all levels. Geospatial data has provided excellent results on this matter, however, the most important issue is to provide the world with access to this technology and data, and in good time to prevent possible Earth disasters.