



# Press Release

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## France-Mexico space cooperation French-Mexican Strategic Council meets

Monday 16 April, CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall took part in the meeting of the French-Mexican Strategic Council, set up with the mission to nurture proposals and projects aimed at boosting bilateral cooperation between the two nations. After completing the day's business, the 50 French and Mexican members of the council were received by French President Emmanuel Macron before a concluding meeting chaired by Jean-Yves Le Drian, France's Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

Since the signature in April 2014 in Mexico City of their framework agreement, CNES and AEM, the Mexican space agency, have continued to develop ever-closer ties, working notably towards tackling climate change. In particular, the meeting of the world's heads of space agencies in Mexico City in September 2015 and the subsequent adoption of the Mexico Declaration were instrumental in recognizing the key role of satellites during preparations in the run-up to the COP21 climate conference.

In his address, Jean-Yves Le Gall underlined the importance of climate actions. As part of the One Planet Summit organized by President Macron in December 2017, a large number of space agencies including AEM adopted the Paris Declaration that laid the foundation for the Space Climate Observatory (SCO) proposed by CNES. This year will be devoted to defining possible contributions from SCO's partners. On the sidelines of the One Planet Summit, France and Mexico's Ministers for Foreign Affairs also signed a statement of intent on the French-Mexican initiative concerning climate change coping and resilience strategies in the Caribbean, to which the SCO will obviously be contributing.

CNES's President also underlined the many areas in which CNES and AEM are working together, for example in ocean observation, forest resource management, water quality monitoring and image processing, as well as atmospheric science ballooning. He then pointed to the installation in Mexico of the COLIBRI telescope (Catching Optical and Infrared BRiight transients) for the French-Chinese SVOM astronomy mission. Lastly, he emphasized France's excellent industrial and commercial relations with Mexico, buoyed by the successful launches by Ariane of Mexican telecommunications satellites and the supply of optical satellite imagery to several Mexican ministries and military agencies.

After today's meeting, Jean-Yves Le Gall commented: "I am delighted to see how AEM's dynamism has been driving fruitful collaboration with CNES since the signature of our framework agreement in 2014, at institutional, scientific and industrial levels. We will now be sustaining and stepping up this great partnership with a France-Mexico space week in Mexico this autumn, where we will be charting the way ahead for our future cooperation."

### CONTACTS

**Pascale Bresson** Press Officer  
**Raphaël Sart** Press Officer

Tel: +33 (0)1 44 76 75 39  
Tel: +33 (0)1 44 76 74 51

[pascale.bresson@cnes.fr](mailto:pascale.bresson@cnes.fr)  
[raphael.sart@cnes.fr](mailto:raphael.sart@cnes.fr)

**presse.cnes.fr**