



PRESS
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FRANCE-UNITED ARAB EMIRATES SPACE COOPERATION CNES AND UAESA TAKE PART IN 12TH SESSION OF STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

Wednesday 3 June, at the 12th session of the Strategic Dialogue between France and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), held by videoconference due to the continuing COVID-19 health crisis, CNES and the United Arab Emirates Space Agency (UAESA) reviewed their progress in space cooperation. The Strategic Dialogue provides for an annual high-level meeting to promote and advance cooperation between the two nations. A dedicated Space sub-committee, co-chaired by CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall and UAESA Director General Mohammed Al Ahbabi, governs space cooperation between France and the UAE.

For this 12th session, the two space agencies hailed bilateral advances in Earth observation, space exploration, innovation and nanosatellites. CNES and UAESA reiterated their strong intention to continue and expand their partnership over the course of the coming decade, despite the difficulties brought about by the current pandemic. The two parties recalled their mutual commitment to developing the Space Climate Observatory (SCO), an international initiative set in train by CNES to gauge global climate change and its impacts from Earth-observation data. CNES's President expressed his appreciation for the continuous and strong support of UAESA for the development of the SCO and notably for the organization of its second Steering Committee meeting in Abu Dhabi last January.

The two agencies also recalled their collaboration within the framework of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and, considering the current international situation, welcomed the decision to postpone the organization of the 71st International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Dubai to 2021, and its next edition that will be hosted in Paris to 2022.

After the meeting, Jean-Yves Le Gall commented: "In the space of a few years, UAESA has become a pivotal player in space and a partner of choice for CNES. I commend the excellence of our cooperation in pursuing bilateral projects which I am sure will be crowned with success in the international space arena."

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