

Remarks of Allegra Searle-LeBel, World Space Week Association

June 21, 2018, UNISPACE+50 High-level Segment

Muchas gracias Señora Presidenta. Distinguished delegates, members of the committee and UNISPACE+50 participants, it is my honor to briefly report on World Space Week, and close out this segment with what I hope is a message of appreciation for the work being done here and encouragement moving forward to UNISPACE 2030. As you may recall, the creation of World Space Week was a unanimous recommendation of UNISPACE III. In response, December 1999 the UN General Assembly passed this resolution: “UN General Assembly declares 4 to 10 October World Space Week to celebrate each year at the international level the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition”.

The celebration of World Space Week is under the guidance of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs ([UNOOSA](#)) and the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space ([COPUOUS](#)) and World Space Week Association is a permanent observer of UN COPUOUS. World Space Week deeply appreciates the diligent work of UNOOSA and engagement with COPUOUS members.

I am pleased to report that World Space Week has grown dramatically since its inception in 1999. In fact, World Space Week has grown into the largest public space event on Earth. Our first Annual Report was given to COPUOUS for the year 2000, and included just over 100 events from 25 nations. Last year, 17 years later, about 3750 events were held in 80 nations. The celebration has grown rapidly over the past few years, and includes many nations with developing space programs as well as established programs.

By holding simultaneous, diverse events in this common timeframe each October, the global space community creates connections across national borders, different players in the space sector, as well as a news story. The week generates greater public awareness and media attention than if the events were held at separate times. Thus World Space Week is a force multiplier, providing all participants with leverage in disseminating their space messages to the public and in using space to inspire young people around the world to dream and to learn. The connections between hundreds of thousands of people, focusing on their common interest in space, help to ensure that space is considered as a shared benefit to all humanity and that the concept of one nation dominating space does not easily take hold in the global imagination.

As the impact of World Space Week continues to grow, we are paying close attention to its ability to provide a platform to showcase the growth and talent of women and girls. The love of space, science, and humanist exploration knows no gender and is not hindered by language or borders. World Space Week seeks not only to unite us as a global community, but also to lift up and highlight historically marginalized voices. I'm proud to see the ways in which WSW has opened doors and minds about what can be achieved as we work together in our continued study of space.

Looking ahead to this October, the theme for World Space Week 2018 will be “Space Unites the World.” Our Board selected this theme in honor of UNISPACE +50. Around the world this October 4-10, thousands of organizations will celebrate how space brings us closer together in so many ways.

With this theme in mind, I ask each delegate to encourage your organization and others to celebrate World Space Week this coming October 4 to 10, and to add your events to the global calendar at www.worldspaceweek.org.

Señora Presidenta and distinguished delegates, I am pleased to report that the vision of UNISPACE-III of a truly global annual celebration of space has come to fruition. As we celebrate UNISPACE+50, and look ahead to UNISPACE 2030, we ask the Committee to reaffirm its support for World Space Week as an efficient and globally inspiring means to celebrate the vast contributions of space to society.

Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, at the opening of World Space Week on October 4th 2000 said: "It was 43 years ago today that Sputnik-1 became the first satellite to be launched. Ten years later, the General Assembly adopted the landmark Outer Space Treaty, which reserved the use of outer space for peaceful purposes. By commemorating these two events, World Space Week underlines the power of technology and the need to ensure that it is used peacefully for the benefit of all humanity." He concluded, "Our greatest challenge now is to cross the final frontier: to bridge the divide between technology's haves and have-nots, and harness its power to serve all people on this planet."

Thank you all for your hard work towards the Sustainable Development Goals, and I hope to celebrate significant progress with you at UNISPACE 2030.

Le agradezco la oportunidad de dar esta intervención, Señora Presidenta.