

UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Sixty-Sixth Session

Vienna, 30 May – 9 June 2023

Statement of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA)

Agenda item 4: General exchange of views

Presented by Marius-Ioan Piso, IAA Vice-President

Distinguished delegates,

Mr. Chairman, congratulations to you on behalf of the International Academy of Astronautics for seeing you again in the main chair of the Committee. I extend my warm congratulations to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA) for leadership and excellent preparation in organizing this Session. It is commendable that this Session has been unaffected by the time and participation restrictions faced in the past three years.

Founded in 1960, the IAA operates under the principle of electing eminent experts in astronautics from around the world for the betterment of humanity. As an independent non-governmental organization, the IAA was recognized by the United Nations in 1995. Its membership comprises approximately 1100 individuals and corresponding members from 90 countries, including 78 Member States of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

The IAA membership consists of individuals who have distinguished themselves in the fields of astronautics or in branches of science fundamental to space exploration. Election to the Academy is a recognition of an individual's record of service and achievement, with members being leaders in space and airspace activities within their respective countries. New members are elected by their peers, and full members hold lifelong memberships, while corresponding members are eligible for full membership after two years but retire after five years. The commitment to work together for the betterment of mankind through the application of the art and science of astronautics accompanies the membership.

For the past six decades, the IAA has brought together the world's foremost experts in astronautics, facilitating the acknowledgment of their peers' accomplishments, exploring cutting-edge issues in space research and technology, and providing direction and guidance in the non-military uses of space and the ongoing exploration of the solar system.

The IAA actively engages in numerous scientific activities, including conferences, symposia, and meetings in various areas such as space sciences, space life sciences, space technology and system development, space systems operations and utilization, space policy, law and economy, and space and society, culture, and education. Over the last two years, the IAA has conducted 29 conferences, encouraging international scientific cooperation. The Academy publishes studies on a wide range of topics, including space exploration, space debris, small satellites, space traffic management, natural disasters, and climate change. Notably, their journal, *ACTA ASTRONAUTICA*, is ranked number one in the world in the field of Astronautics. The impact factor of *ACTA ASTRONAUTICA* for 2022 is 2.954 and continues to grow, reaching close to 4 compared to 0.6 in 2010. The journal has experienced a significant increase in downloads, surpassing one million, and the number of pages published in 2018 amounted to 7161. Moreover, the IAA publishes dictionaries in 24 languages, with recent additions being Afrikaans and Swahili. The Academy also publishes book series on small satellites, conference proceedings, remote sensing, and history, including a new book series on the History of Space, adding to the existing three book series, resulting in a total of 15 books published in the past two years.

In 2021, the IAA organized 15 regional meetings and standalone conferences, followed by 14 in 2022. Notable events in 2023 include the 9th Annual Space Traffic Management Conference in Austin, Texas, on March 1st, the 2023 8th IAA Planetary Defense Conference in Vienna on April 3rd, the IAA Symposium on Lunar Farside Protection in Turin on May 13th, the 14th IAA Symposium on Small Satellites for Earth System Observation in Berlin on May 7th, the International Conference on Spacecraft Mission Operations in Bangalore, India, on June 8th, the 8th Interstellar Symposium in Montreal, Canada, on July 10th, and the 12th IAA Conference on Space Systems as Critical Infrastructures in Mamaia, Romania, on August 3rd-4th.

In 2022, the Academy made a significant contribution to the International Astronautical Congress, preparing 13 Symposia that featured 893 papers in 62 sessions, accounting for 35% of the entire congress.

Lastly, I am delighted to announce that the IAA Laurel for Team Achievements in 2022 was awarded to the team responsible for the successful launch and precise orbital injection of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), which includes ESA, Arianespace, Arianespace, and CNES.

The IAA is committed to providing ongoing support to the Committee and its Sub-Committees. With its distinguished members organized in Scientific Commissions and Study Groups, the IAA covers practically all areas of competence in space.

Rest assured, Chair, that the International Academy of Astronautics will remain proactive in contributing to the goals and programs that make the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space a unique organization for the benefit of all nations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates for your attention.