

## **WORLD SPACE WEEK ASSOCIATION**

### **Agenda Item No. 14**

**Presented by: Maruška Strah, Executive Director**



Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Your Excellencies,  
distinguished delegates,

I am honored to speak on behalf of the World Space Week Association and address the Agenda item 14, Space exploration and innovation. World Space Week (WSW) is counting almost 25 years of its annual celebration of science and technology, indicating our success in our constant effort to emphasize the importance of space activities and technologies for improving life on Earth and bringing space closer to people.

The World Space Week Association acknowledges the significance of Space exploration and innovation as indicated by this year's theme of World Space Week 2023, "Space and Entrepreneurship". The space sector is a rapid developing field, where many innovative endeavors are occurring. Diversity and cooperation among different profiles of stakeholders could help the space sector to flourish even further. We also hope to provide the ground so more young people can join the global space industry.

As Permanent Observer of UN COPUOS, we focus on encouraging, supporting, and promoting the space activities of all members of this Committee. I would like to emphasize that the WSW is inclusive and open to everyone regardless of gender, age, nationality, or religious beliefs and provides a genuine opportunity to participate in the largest celebration of space in the world. Our year-round goal is to raise awareness of the importance of space on people's daily lives, as well as promote all participants who organize World Space Week events. We are happy and proud that our efforts and focus on the goal of reaching more and more people every year are well received and that we see the number of events grow every year. This success also satisfies our long-term goal to institutionalize UN-declared World Space Week to continue growing worldwide. The one, focused week indicates the common goals, interests, and mutual respect for future space developments.

Mr. Chair,  
Distinguished delegates,

We have already started to prepare for this October 4 - 10, and for the World Space Week 2023 theme, Space and Entrepreneurship. I am pleased to report that the World Space Week Association has been planning a number of exciting collaborations, all of which aim to promote this year's theme and inspire and guide both students and young professionals on how to become space entrepreneurs. We are proud to announce that World Space Week participants will soon be able to join a workshop organized in collaboration with the Space Foundation, which will provide first guidance and instructions on how to plan and formulate a business idea. We are also happy to report that WSWA will be doing collaborating with the European Centre for Space Economy and Commerce (ECSECO), and the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL), where members will be able to share their stories and advice with the next generation of space entrepreneurs. We will also collaborate with educational institutions to provide even more opportunities to World Space Week participants. Furthermore, this year's International Astronautical Congress and World Space Week are overlapping, providing even more opportunities for the organizers of events, as well as participants, to engage with World Space Week.

In the name of the Association, I'd like to encourage this Committee and all its members, to take the opportunity of World Space Week to not only celebrate space, but also to use it to share their own achievements, plans and initiatives.

I can say with no reservation that this year's World Space Week will be another special occasion. Our Association is looking forward to seeing the many events that will be happening all around the world.

Thank you, Mr. Chair and Distinguished Delegates, for your kind attention.