

Third ICAO/UNOOSA Aerospace Symposium  
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Welcome Remarks  
by  
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Distinguished participants, Good Morning.

On behalf of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, I warmly welcome you all to the third joint ICAO/UNOOSA Aerospace Symposium. This is a unique inter-agency cooperation effort between my Office and ICAO on subject matters of utmost relevance to our respective organizations and to the space and aviation communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to ICAO for hosting the first Symposium held in Montreal, Canada in 2015, as well as, United Arab Emirates for hosting the second in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates in 2016.

I would also like to thank ICAO and the Chair, Ms. Dorothy Reimold from the FAA, for the work of the Space Learning Group. Yesterday we had a fruitful discussion at its Face-to-Face Meeting. We look forward to further discussing and identifying the overlapping areas of space and air activities, on our respective mandate, and to determine the necessary procedures to enhance safety of sub-orbital commercial spaceflight operations.

The main objective for these coming three days will be to bring together representatives of the aviation community and the space community at large, including the commercial and private sector, and to explore existing regulatory mechanisms and operational practices in aviation and space transportation. We will explore challenges and opportunities related to emerging space activities, in particular future space traffic management in comparison with air traffic management. We will also look into the area of protection of systems, assets and infrastructures. Furthermore, we expect to have observations and outcomes as we conclude this cycle of three Symposia. The report on this Symposium will be issued in all languages of the UN on time for the 55<sup>th</sup> session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in 2018.

Distinguished participants,

The United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), which is the only global intergovernmental platform for international cooperation in space activities, has set in motion a roadmap towards the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first United Nations conference on space exploration and cooperation, which was held in 1968. This effort, branded as UNISPACE+50, aims to become a major milestone for the strengthening of global governance of outer space activities.

The present Aerospace symposium addresses several elements related to the process towards UNISPACE+50 and beyond. Its areas of consideration, such as in understanding

legal regulatory mechanisms under international air law and space law to ensure safe and sustainable operation of civil aviation, suborbital operations, and space activities; air traffic management and future space traffic management; and assessing capacity-building needs, are some of the areas of relevance to the overarching objectives of UNISPACE+50, in particular Thematic Priority 2: Legal regime of outer space and global space governance: current and future perspectives and Thematic Priority 7: Capacity-building for the twenty-first century, not to forget Thematic Priority 1: Global partnership in space exploration and innovation. Also, these are relevant to the long-term perspective towards Space2030 which will connect space governance with the global agendas for development. The core pillars of space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy will define the outputs for considering space as a tool for sustainable development.

This is one of the fundamental strengths of this Symposium, namely to provide a cross sectorial platform for innovative approaches and dialogue among the broader aerospace community, including aviation, space activities, and suborbital flights, giving impetus to an enhanced dialogue among all involved stakeholders.

Distinguished participants,

Given the growing number of benefits derived from space science and technology applications, the conduct of space activities by all the main players continues to expand rapidly. Space tools are fundamental to meeting the challenges to humanity and sustainable development and the overarching space security environment in its broader sense caters for global space governance. It is in this context that I see outstanding prospects for strengthened involvement and exchange of experience among all relevant stakeholders in this emerging field of innovative space activities and civil aviation.

I, therefore, look forward to this third ICAO/UNOOSA Aerospace Symposium and to an engaging dialogue over the upcoming days.

Welcome!