

Third ICAO/UNOOSA Aerospace Symposium
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Closing Remarks
by
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Distinguished participants,

As I pointed out in my welcome remarks on Tuesday, 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. In my view, after three engaging days of the Symposium, we were able to successfully strengthen involvement and exchange experience among all of us.

Distinguished participants,

We have clearly met the main objective for this Symposium. We brought together representatives of the aviation community and the space community at large, including the commercial and private space sector, to explore existing regulatory mechanisms and operational practices in aviation and space transportation. We have been able to explore challenges and opportunities related to emerging space activities, in particular the future space traffic management in comparison with air traffic management. We have also been able to look into the area of protection of systems, assets and infrastructures. Furthermore, we had agreed earlier today on the observations and conclusions, including the work of the Learning Group.

We have made efforts to facilitate the strengthening of a dialogue between the two communities, and as we have concluded, this series of joint ICAO/UNOOSA Aerospace Symposium can only be just the first step in our collaboration. This unique inter-agency coordination effort between ICAO and UNOOSA should now be reflected in the second phase of this cooperation and to the work of the Learning Group, and it is with great pleasure I note that we are concluding this series of symposia in great success.

Over these three days, I have received a number of positive remarks by participants to the effect that we are on the right track in providing the means for this important cross-sectorial dialogue.

Distinguished participants,

As mentioned in my opening remarks, the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) has set in motion a roadmap toward the 50th anniversary of the first United Nations conference on space exploration and cooperation, which was held in 1968. This effort, branded as UNISPACE+50, which aims to become a major milestone for the strengthening of global governance of outer space activities.

The present Aerospace symposium addressed several elements related to the UNISPACE+50. In this context, this Symposium provided 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. And I am convinced that what we have discussed over those past three days deserves to be included in the consideration of UNISPACE+50, in particular Thematic Priority 1 Global partnership in space exploration and innovation, 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. Furthermore, this series of symposia deserves attention in the discussion of the long-term perspective towards Space 2030, which will connect space governance with the global agendas for development.

Distinguished participants,

As a next step, I will inform the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS at its 55th session starting on 29 January next year of the successful completion of the series of Aerospace Symposium and of the observations and conclusions that we have agreed to earlier today, including on the important work of the Learning Group. A report from this series of Aerospace Symposia will also be issued in all official languages of the United Nations to that session.

Finally, once again 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, and the United Arab Emirates for hosting the second in Abu Dhabi, in 2016.

This series of ICAO/UNOOSA symposia has fulfilled its objectives, and we have collected a lot of inputs and elements for further reflection. From this extremely positive experience, we can take stock in order to build the future of our joint activities. As we have already indicated, UNOOSA and ICAO will now embark on a closer cooperation sparked by this series of Aerospace Symposia. I look forward to working with the ICAO Secretariat on those highly important matters

This remains my firm conviction and I thank you all for your dedicated and inspiring participation in this Symposium.

Thank you!