



World Space Forum 2021
9-10 December 2020

Closing Remarks by Simonetta Di Pippo
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Excellencies, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon everyone.

The time has come to call this year's World Space Forum as concluded. Building on the great success of the past year's event, and those preceding the inaugural WSF in 2019, I am honoured and very glad that so many of you have joined us.

Despite the difficult times we live in, I am grateful that we found an alternative solution for hosting this year's event. And as I said in the opening, this allowed us to reach a truly global audience.

Let me, therefore, on behalf of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, express, once again, my **heartfelt appreciation to our co-hosts from the UAE Space Agency** for their steadfast support in organizing the 2020 World Space Forum.

And allow me please to **thank our moderators, panelists, rapporteurs, technicians and all the support staff.**

We have had two days of engaging and interesting sessions with dynamic exchanges covering a wide range of topics.

This event, while still in a sense a new adventure for UNOOSA, builds on our great tradition of multilateralism, and we are looking forward to expanding it in the coming years.

The World Space Forum is unique. It offers us an invaluable opportunity to connect with people we would likely not have met otherwise.

Taking advantage of the unique convening power of the UN, it brings together stakeholders from all corners of society and the world.

And as more and more stakeholders are entering the industry, enabling contacts between actors from different countries, various parts of the space sector, and with a great range of backgrounds benefits all of us.

How is it so?

As we look ahead into the 2020s, an enabling, inclusive and proactive approach is critical for the success in global challenges – both in space and on Earth.

And this is exactly what UNOOSA offers through the World Space Forum.

A platform where all stakeholders are welcome to exchange views and ideas, employing their specific concerns and perspectives to seek a common solution.

Space for sustainable development, safety, security and sustainability of access and operations in space, economic benefits and the transformative nature of spacecrafts for the society and exploration.



Organizing the WSF along these 4 pillars institutes its multi-dimensional focus and truly allows us to consider a wide range of topics from various angles.

As we are closing in on a most unusual year, we see it as the beginning often dubbed as the decade of action.

And while the connotation is generally reflecting the need to step up efforts in addressing climate emergency, it is high time we use the 2020s to target the complex web of different issues and problems we face as one humanity.

We can confidently think that the 2020s will be the decade of space.

Great exploration efforts are underway, new services and applications unlock access to benefits unimaginable only a few years back, and most of us are already using space day-by-day without even thinking about it.

But as we seek progress and appropriate solutions for the world's problems through space, we cannot delay ensuring that what we do in space reflects the highest standards of responsibility, transparency and solidarity.

Let us make this 2020 World Space Forum the beginning of the decade of action for the space industry.

Today, innovative space-based science and technology are accelerating achievement of SDGs in many parts of the world.

And together we can and will upgrade this sentence from "many" to all parts of the world.

"Let us expand access to space benefits to places where millions struggle with what we take for granted.

Let us utilize space not for prestige, politics or conflicts but for the common good.

And let us use space assets to salvage the planet from the peril of our own deeds."

With this in mind, **I would like to announce a concept plan UNOOSA developed to encourage concrete actions on the aspects discussed at the forum.**

At the same time, it will serve as a mechanism for informing about these actions, so that the global space community can benefit from openness, best practices and more inter-agency collaboration.

The objectives of this proposed World Space Forum Action are crystal clear.

- Enhance the use of space for sustainable development.
- Strengthen multilateral efforts in space sustainability and responsible behaviour.
- Facilitate international cooperation and joint endeavours.
- Provide a platform for global space action, and for proactive multilateralism.
- And ultimately, to create continuous reporting under the Series of the World Space Forum and take stock of emerging activities every year.



Similar to the WSF itself, the whole process intends to be as inclusive as possible. **We want to hear from everyone** - the UN Member States, UN entities, NGOs and civil society, national and international space agencies, as well as from academia and research centers.

It is only through a holistic approach that we can progress in space and through space, and eventually succeed in what the international community has pledged for in the global frameworks.

Over the course of each year leading towards the annual World Space Forum, stakeholders will be encouraged to voluntarily submit reports on their progress regarding the **WSF Action**.

The eventual **Action Report will serve as a summary of all the submissions and will form a key element of the future Forums**.

And at the same time, represent a valuable document containing individual as well as joint efforts, promoting collaboration and feeding into our initiatives, including Access to Space 4 All, Space 4 Climate Action, Space 4 Women, UN-SPIDER and many others.

First steps have already been taken and we are looking forward to providing you with more details at the beginning of 2021.

We will be reaching out to all of our stakeholders at the beginning of this decade for action on how we as the space community can contribute towards the overarching 2030 agenda.

So stay tuned!

And before I close, let me once again thank you all for being with us.

I do hope that the exchanges we have heard over the course of these two days were as valuable for you as they were for me.

“Looking ahead, I can assure you that the UN stands ready to work with each of you to facilitate productive and impactful collaboration for a better world for individuals, communities and nations all around our beautiful planet Earth.”

So, stay healthy, stay informed, and let us work together to making 2020s a decade to remember. I already cannot wait to see you all in person at the World Space Forum 2021 back in Austria!

As Mr. Weissenburger already pointed out - the focus will be on climate action. And it will be the time to take stock again of the different advancements through the WSF Action Report.

See you all in December 2021!