International Astronautical Federation (IAF), Item 4

United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
66th COPUOS Session
31st May – 9 June 2023

Statement of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF)

Honorable Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my capacity as Executive Director of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to address the sixty-sixth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I would also like to thank Mr. Niklas Hedman for his service to UNOOSA and for the excellent preparation of this session. On behalf of the IAF, please let me assure you of the Federation’s full support and cooperation.

Distinguished Delegates,

In March 2023, the IAF launched the 5th International Space Forum at Ministerial Level - The Central America and Caribbean Chapter (ISF 2023) under the theme “Space Science and Technology for improving regional opportunities and better facing local challenges”. The Forum took place in Panama City, Panama and was addressed to Ministers and Authorities in charge of space activities, research, science, technology, and education. Discussions focused on the topics of emergency management, water monitoring, blue economy, and food safety.

The IAF and its Member, the Norwegian Space Agency, have also recently held the IAF Global Space Conference on Climate Change (GLOC 2023) from 23 to 25 May in Oslo, Norway. I will refer to our recent Global Space Conference on Climate Change as historic for more than one reason. First and foremost is the fact that the conference was a pioneering gathering dedicated to climate protection with a tribute to the global space community and non-space actors which have contributed their time to ground-breaking research on climate protection, its impacts, and interconnected challenges. The conference gathered 600 delegates in-person from 45 countries, and nearly 4000 from remote who all celebrated the theme “Fire and Ice – Space for Climate Action”.
Achieving practical, clear, and cooperative solutions, along with an open and constructive dialogue between nations, is no easy task when addressing climate change and space policy issues. GLOC 2023 kept its promise by triggering an informative and inspirational dialogue between senior representatives of the major space agencies, industries, academia and NGOs, as well as representatives of non-space sectors involved in the climate change debate.

Our event laid out the evidence that there is still hope to trigger actionable and convincing efforts and most importantly a multidisciplinary approach to tackle one of the most pressing global crises of our time. All stakeholders are called upon now to make sure that all these solutions and agendas are aligned and will translate into concrete and sustainability-minded actions.

We have already secured a high-level lecture at the International Astronautical Congress in Baku, which will be the first time we communicate the outcomes of GLOC 2023 to a broad global community. We plan to perpetuate this momentum in many upcoming international forums including the GEO Ministerial Summit to be held in Cape Town and COP28 as well.

Distinguished delegates,

Looking ahead now, the IAF invites you to Save the Date for the upcoming 74th International Astronautical Congress, that will take place in Baku from 2 to 6 October 2023 under the theme “Global Challenges and Opportunities: Give Space a Chance”. Organized by the IAF and hosted by its Member Azercosmos, the Space Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the upcoming IAC will convene in the Capital of Azerbaijan exactly 50 years after Baku hosted the 24th IAC in 1973. This, certainly, will be a major occasion in the history of space industry development in Azerbaijan, aspiring to foster the formation of a regional space ecosystem and to strengthen its position as an emerging space nation.

More than 3500 abstracts have been received for Baku, propelling the IAC 2023 as the World’s Premier Global Space Event with one of the highest abstract ranking. Abstracts have been submitted from an outstanding collection of potential presenters and topped Baku with a record-breaking number in the IAC history covering 95 countries.

The Early Bird Registration is open until 14 June. Delving into the most recent developments in space, the guests and participants will also have a unique chance to experience the unmatched Azerbaijani hospitality and authentic culture.

Dear Delegates,
As per tradition, the IAF, together with UNOOSA and the IAC 2023 Host Azercomos are co-organizing the 30th edition of the Workshop on Space Technology for Socio-Economic Benefits which will be held in conjunction with, and as an associated event of the 74th IAC from 29th September to 1st October 2023. This year’s theme is "Challenges and Capacity-building Opportunities for Emerging Space Nations".

Finally, Sustainability, Investment and Security are the new driving forces behind the IAF’s success outlined in the IAF President’s “SIS” Agenda 2022 – 2025. Current and upcoming IAF endeavors will ensure these commitments will be rapidly translated into concrete actions. To mention just a few:

- The recent GLOC 2023 on “Fire and Ice: Space for Climate Action”;
- the IAF Global Conference on Secure Space (GLOSS 2024) on “Operating Safely in Space: Challenges and Prospects” scheduled in Tel-Aviv, Israel in May 2024;
- the IAC 2024 on “Responsible Space for Sustainability” to be held in Milan, Italy in October 2024;
- and the IAC 2025 on “Sustainable Space, Resilient Earth” planned for end September 2025 in Sydney, Australia.

Honorable Chair,
Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the International Astronautical Federation, let me thank you for your attention. We look forward to welcoming you at our future events and count on your active participation and contributions. We are grateful for your constant support in our endeavors.
United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

66th COPUOS Session

Dr. Christian FEICHTINGER
Executive Director
International Astronautical Federation (IAF)

Tuesday 6 June 2023
Upcoming IAF Events

75th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2024)
Milan, Italy
14-18 October 2024
Theme: Responsible Space for Sustainability
Hosts: AIDAA, ASI and Leonardo

76th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2025)
Sydney, Australia
28 September - 3 October 2025
Theme: Sustainable Space: Resilient Earth
Host: Space Industry Association of Australia (SIAA)

IAF Global Conference on Secure Space (GLOSS 2024)
Tel-Aviv, Israel
May 2024
Theme: Operating Safely in Space: Challenges and Prospects
Host: Israel Space Agency (ISA)
Thanks for your attention!

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