



Collaboration in space for the common good of humanity

ACES Worldwide, Item 4

Statement of ACES Worldwide to COPUOS 68th Session, Agenda Item 4, General Exchange of Views

Thank you, Chair.

On behalf of Alliance for Collaboration in the Exploration of Space or ACES Worldwide, I am honoured to present before the COPUOS a brief overview of our efforts to make outer space and its benefits accessible to all. We congratulate you on your election as the Chair of COPUOS and the UNOOSA team for excellent organisation of this session.

Honourable Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Founded in 2021, ACES Worldwide is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation that uniquely bridges space policy, law, and development. Our Board of Directors comprises eight distinguished individuals from four continents, reflecting diversity of generations and professions. ACES Worldwide partners with 12 other space sector organisations, who are our *Alliance Partners*. Our *Global Advisory Council* is highly geographically diverse, comprising 36 experts from 23 countries, including the BRICS, G20, and SAARC countries. Notably, this Council includes two former UNOOSA Directors and a former Chair of COPUOS. Our Chair, Dr. Joseph N. Pelton, is Dean Emeritus of the International Space University and was involved in establishment of that university, whose home campus is in France.

We aim to promote the exploration and use of space technology for the sustainable development of all, and we recognise the critical importance of multistakeholder collaboration to achieve this goal. Today, in particular, I wish to present our *Space and Sustainability Compact Agreement Initiative*, which advances the *UN Sustainable Development Goals*, the *Pact for the Future*, and the *Space2030 Agenda* by fostering cooperation between the providers and the users of space technologies. We have facilitated *Space and Sustainability Compact Agreements* among entities in India and Nepal, focusing on sustainable fishing, aquaculture, and space education. Guided by the principle of leaving no one behind while respecting national laws, we aim to expand this



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initiative to all countries, with the support of our network members. Over the past four years, ACES Worldwide has organised sessions and presented at several conferences, including the *U.S.-Africa Leadership Conference*, *Science Summits*, *International Astronautical Congresses*, and the *ITU's Kaleidoscope Conference*, thus contributing to global space governance discussions.

Our application for permanent observer status was submitted this year, taking into account the increasing relevance of our work to the objectives of this Committee. With the combined expertise, dedication, and enthusiasm of our Board, Global Advisory Council, and Alliance Partners, we aim to contribute to the Committee's research and policy development and serve as a resource for the Member States. We warmly invite representatives of Member States to share with us how we can best support their efforts, including capacity-building ones.

Thank you for your attention.

By Dr. Upasana Dasgupta, DCL (PhD Equivalent) in Air and Space Law (McGill University, Canada), Board Member, ACES Worldwide and Assistant Professor, O.P. Jindal Global University, India.