

UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Sixty-eighth Session

Vienna, 25 June - 2 July 2025

Statement of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA)

Agenda item 4: General exchange of views

Presented by Marius-Ioan Piso, IAA Vice-President

Mister Chair, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

Mister Chair, we look forward to supporting your leadership for a meaningful and productive session. Our appreciation goes also to the director of OOS, Aarti Holla-Maini for her impeccable leadership, as well as to the Secretariat and the entire Office for their excellence performance.

The International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) has played a significant role in promoting international cooperation and advancing the field of astronautics since its establishment by space pioneers in 1960. Recognized by the United Nations in 1996, the IAA operates as an independent non-governmental organization with a mission to bring together eminent experts in astronautics for the betterment of humanity.

With approximately 1100 members and corresponding members from 94 countries, including citizens from 80 of the 105 COPUOS Member States, the IAA boasts a diverse and distinguished membership base. Members are individuals who have made significant contributions to astronautics or related scientific fields, and their election to the Academy is a recognition of their achievements and service.

The IAA engages in various scientific activities aimed at fostering international cooperation and advancing knowledge in astronautics. This includes organizing conferences, symposia, and meetings covering a wide range of topics such as space

sciences, technology development, policy, and societal impacts. During 2024 the number of IAA regional meetings and standalone conferences amounted 23 .

The Academy is publishing the journal “Acta Astronautica” which reached in 2024 an impact factor of 3.54. More than 9,000 pages and more than 1.5 millions downloads were counted in 2024.

The Academy also publishes cosmic studies, journals, dictionaries in multiple languages, and book series on relevant subjects. More than 75 cosmic studies are available on the IAA web site “iaaspace.org”.

In 2024, the IAA contributed significantly to the International Astronautical Congress, more than 67 sessions brought the Academy contribution to 35% of the entire congress.

The IAA, through its committees, commissions and study groups in covering all substance agenda items of the STSC Agenda, contributing to the global extension and continuity of knowledge development in the space and space-related areas.

For this session, I would like to mention the support of IAA in particular:

- by contributing and co-sponsoring of the action of Designation and Preservation of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) on the Moon, reflected in the CRP A/AC.105/2025/CRP.23
- by supporting the initiative of Protection of Dark and Quiet Skies for science and society, and

Importantly, the IAA's membership policy is inclusive, allowing individuals from any country to join regardless of their nation's space-faring status. This approach enables the participation of experts from non-spacefaring countries, offering them opportunities to engage in space activities and potentially initiate space programs in their own regions.

You can be ensured, Chair, that the International Academy of Astronautics will remain proactive in contributing to the goals and programs that make the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space a very unique organization for the benefit of all nations. I thank you for your attention.