International Astronautical Federation, Item 4

United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
61st Session of its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Vienna, Austria – 29 January to 9 February 2024
Statement of the
International Astronautical Federation (IAF)

SLIDE 1

Mr Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the International Astronautical Federation, I would like to extend our sincere greetings to Ms Aarti Holla-Maini and commend her for her new mission as Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs; we wish her success in her endeavors and ensure our Federation’s full support in UNOOSA’s efforts and cooperation towards achieving our common goals. I am also pleased to convey our gratitude to Mr Sherif Mohamed Sedky for chairing the Committee, to all Vice-Chairs and to delegates and observers present at this 61st session of the STSC.

As Vice President of the International Astronautical Federation responsible for International Relations I am pleased to report to you our last year’s achievements and briefly outline the IAF’s upcoming activities for this year and the future.

SLIDE 2

Today, the Federation is the world’s leading and most diverse space advocacy body with 513 corporate members on 5 continents and 77 countries. Following its motto “Connecting all Space People for a Sustainable Future” the Federation advances knowledge about space and fosters the development and application of space assets by advancing global cooperation.

SLIDE 3

The IAF and its Member, the Norwegian Space Agency, held the IAF Global Space Conference on Climate Change (GLOC 2023) in May 2023 in Oslo, Norway. The motto of the conference “Fire and Ice: Space for Climate Action” brought together more than 500 participants. IAF released a high-level summary with key findings for advancing the use of Earth observations and space technologies for climate action and urge all parties to increase their efforts for more effective communication, integration, and greater collaboration globally to tackle climate change.

IAF reported on the main findings and recommendation from GLOC 2023 at the GEO Ministerial Summit in Cape Town, South Africa and at COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

SLIDE 4
The 74th International Astronautical Congress, organized by the IAF and hosted in the vibrant city of Baku by Azercosmos, the Space Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, was a resounding success. After 50 years, the IAC returned to Baku, where it was first hosted in 1973. Under the theme “Global Challenges and Opportunities: Give Space a Chance”, the focus during IAC 2023 has been on sustainability, security, and international collaboration. More than 5500 delegates from a record number of 132 countries gathered in Baku for the world’s premier global space event, making it the most diverse IAC ever held.

SLIDE 5

The 30th UN/IAF Workshop on Space Technology for Socio-Economic Benefits: "Challenges and Capacity-building Opportunities for Emerging Space Nations" took place from 29 September to 1 October 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The workshop brought together 128 participants from 54 countries to accelerate capacity-building in developing nations.

SLIDE 6

It is with great pleasure that the IAF invites you to Save the Date for the 75th International Astronautical Congress. IAC 2024 will be hosted by the Italian Association of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIDAA) in partnership with the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and Leonardo, and will take place in Milan, Italy, from 14 to 18 October 2024. Under the motto “Responsible Space for Sustainability”, the aim of IAC 2024 is to highlight the importance of space as an environment that must be kept secure and open to exploration, peaceful use and international cooperation.

The 31st edition of the UN/IAF Workshop will be held in Milan, Italy in October 2024, in conjunction with, and as an associated event of 75th IAC.

SLIDE 7

The IAF together with its member, the Indian Space Research Organization ISRO, will organize the next edition of the IAF Global Space Exploration Conference GLEX 2025 in New Delhi, India, in May 2025 and we would like to invite you all to join us there.

SLIDE 8

Preparations for the 76th IAC in 2025 in Sydney, Australia, hosted by the Space Industry Association of Australia (SIAA) is already making good progress. For the IAC 2026, Antalya, Türkiye, has been selected as the host city. Preparations are also well under way.

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Mr Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present main activities and plans of the International Astronautical Federation to the Subcommittee.

Thank you all for your attention.

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