Chair,

Excellencies – Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 2023 report on Interconnected Disaster Risks by the United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) names space debris as one of six areas at risk of reaching a tipping point. This means a certain threshold of instability that, when reached, causes a system to collapse or fundamentally change.

Thus, space sustainability is a very serious subject that we need to discuss. We therefore welcome the initiative of Portugal to organize two symposia on technical and policy aspects of Space Debris, Space Traffic Management and Space Resources and a conference on the Management and Sustainability of Space Activities in Lisbon this May. These events are dedicated to prepare another important input for the upcoming Summit of the Future and its output document – the Pact of the Future. We should work together that the results of these symposia reach the Summit of the Future.

What could be the most important elements in a future governance framework on space sustainability?

I would like to mention a few elements that should be discussed further:

- With the constant and increasing traffic, disposal after use is particularly important. We need to ensure sustainability in space. We currently have guidelines for this, but no incentives for compliance.
- We need more effective tracking and cataloguing of space objects.
- We need more investment in science and technologies for moving passive objects.
For all these topics, we need a **harmonized regulatory framework**. Austria supports efforts in this direction.

Finally, we would like to mention cooperation and division of labour between UN-Specialized Agencies and UNOOSA.

We would like to mention existing cooperation between ICAO and UNOOSA as an example of how to move forward concerning specific topics while respecting the existing mandates:

**ICAO** and UNOOSA have established a Space Learning Group (SLG) as a cross-sectoral platform to strengthen the dialogue between aerospace stakeholders. In addition, a series of joint symposia have taken place in Montreal 2015, Abu Dhabi 2016 and Vienna 2017.

Concerning work of the **ITU** on space sustainability, we underline that the respective mandates of the agencies and offices are respected. We cannot afford duplication of work and support more cooperation within **UN-Space**. For Austria UN-Space is the relevant coordination platform and we hope that other Member States share our view.