

UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee Sixty-first Session
Vienna, 29 January - 9 February 2024s

Statement of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA)

Agenda item 3: General exchange of views

Presented by Sergey Chernikov, IAA

Madame Chair, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

Madame 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.

Please allow us to express our sadness regarding the passing of Ambassador Andrzej Misztal.

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 102 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. These events provide platforms for discussing key issues in astronautics, sharing research findings, and fostering collaboration among professionals. During 2024 the number of IAA regional meetings and standalone conferences amounted to 23 .

The Academy is publishing the journal “Acta Astronautica” which reached in 2023 an impact factor of 3.52. More than 6,800 pages and more than one million downloads were counted in 2022.

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, preparing a substantial portion of the program through symposia representing a significant portion of the event: more than 67 sessions brought the Academy contribution to 35% of the entire congress.

During 2025, the IAA will organize more than 20 conferences, and we would like to mention some conferences coming this spring, such as the 11th Space Traffic Management in Austin, TX in March, the 9th Planetary Defense Conference in Stellenbosch, South Africa in May, the 15th Symposium on Small Satellites for Earth System Observation in May in Berlin, Germany, the 12th Symposium on the Future of Space Exploration in May in Turin, Italy.

The IAA, through its committees, commissions and study groups in covering all substantive 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 contribution of IAA to the initiatives to the Protection of Dark and Quiet Skies for science and society and to the Need for the Designation and Preservation of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) on the Moon.

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.

Overall, the IAA continues to play a vital role in advancing astronautics, fostering international cooperation, and promoting the peaceful exploration and utilization of space for the benefit of humanity. You can be ensured, Madame 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 body for the benefit of all nations.

I thank you for your attention.