

WORLD SPACE WEEK ASSOCIATION

Agenda Item No. 3

Presented by: Alma Okpalefe, Executive Director

Thank you, Distinguished Chair.

Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

It is an honor to address this Subcommittee on behalf of the World Space Week Association. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Chair, the Secretariat, and the Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs for their tireless efforts in convening this important session.

World Space Week: A Global Platform
World Space Week, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1999, is celebrated annually from October 4 to 10. As the largest global space-themed event, it provides a unique platform to bridge space activities and societal impact, fostering public engagement with space activities and their benefits for humanity. This initiative invites Member States to showcase achievements, promote awareness, and inspire innovation within their communities through the annual celebration of World Space Week. By participating, countries not only amplify their contributions to the space sector but also strengthen global cooperation and public understanding of the role of space in addressing shared challenges.

Highlights of 2024: Space and Climate Change
In 2024, World Space Week celebrated its 25th anniversary under the theme "**Space and Climate Change.**" This theme underscored the critical role of space technologies in addressing one of humanity's most pressing issues. From satellite monitoring of environmental changes to enabling disaster response and climate resilience, space provides invaluable tools to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

We were honored to have Peter Platzer, Executive Chairman of Spire Global, as our Honorary Chair. Spire Global's work in satellite-powered climate solutions set the tone for a year of impactful activities. Throughout 2024, the Association facilitated global participation through public outreach campaigns, educational initiatives, and resources available at www.worldspaceweek.org.

A significant milestone in 2024 was the launch of the STEM **Educators for Climate Awards**, recognizing teachers globally for their efforts in advancing education on space and climate change. This initiative not only celebrated the contributions of educators but also emphasized the importance of nurturing future leaders equipped to address climate challenges through space innovation.



With over **15,000 events held in 80+ countries**, 2024 saw outstanding engagement. Pakistan recorded the highest number of events, followed closely by Saudi Arabia, Ireland, Croatia, Romania, and Turkey, showcasing the diverse global enthusiasm for World Space Week.

Looking Ahead to 2025: Living in Space

As we turn to the future, the theme for World Space Week 2025, **"Living in Space,"** will highlight the growing reality of sustained human presence beyond Earth. This theme seeks to explore the development of innovative technologies, sustainable solutions, and international collaboration essential for long-term habitation in space.

We are delighted to announce Robert Lightfoot, President of Lockheed Martin Space, as the Honorary Chair for 2025. With his extensive expertise and leadership in space exploration and development, Mr. Lightfoot will guide efforts to inspire and prepare global audiences for the exciting possibilities of living and thriving in space.

A Call for Participation

World Space Week serves as a unifying platform for celebrating achievements, sharing innovations, and fostering dialogue about the future of space exploration. We invite this Subcommittee, its Member States, and permanent observers to embrace World Space Week 2025 as an opportunity to showcase your accomplishments, engage your communities, and contribute to a global narrative of exploration and innovation.

Acknowledgments

We are deeply grateful to our Board, national coordinators, event holders and sponsors, including Spire Global, Lockheed Martin, Airbus, Viasat, Vast, Eutelsat, Kuwait Investment Company, Slooh and many others, whose support has been instrumental in the success of this initiative. Their contributions enable us to sustain and expand the impact of World Space Week year after year.

Thank you, Distinguished Chair and esteemed delegates, for your attention and continued support. Together, we can continue to build bridges between space and society, one celebration at a time.