



**Permanent Mission of Italy
International Organisations - Vienna**

**62nd SESSION OF THE
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE (STSC)**

**Statement by
Ambassador Debora Lepre**

Item 3: general exchange of views

Vienna, 3 February 2025

Madame Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union but allow me to add few remarks in my national capacity.

First, let me thank you, **Ms. Ulpia Botezatu**, and **Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini**, Director of UNOOSA for your able guidance: you are a bright example of how women in space can lead, inspire and deliver.

Madame Chairperson,

We attach the **utmost importance to the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee** and this session marks an important milestone, as it starts the implementation of the “**Pact for the Future**”. In this regard, we are committed to advance the global governance in the space sector, starting from the organization of the **4th UNISPACE Conference, in 2027**: we joined Morocco in tabling a CRP to engage in dialogue with the membership to identify the agenda, the goals and a vision for UNISPACE IV. We are looking forward to discussing this in the informal sessions, starting from tomorrow.

Madame Chairperson,

Allow me to update the Subcommittee on the most recent developments in the Italian space sector:

- 1) 2024 was characterized by a synergy of **common objectives between the Italian Presidency of the G7 and the Brazilian G20 Presidency**, also in the space domain. Our two countries agreed to boost their efforts in sectors like sustainable development, food security and energy transition, where space technology can be of great support.

2) From October 14 to 18, **Milan hosted the 75th International Astronautical Congress (IAC)**, with a focus on "Responsible Space for Sustainability." It was the largest edition in its history, with over than 11.000 delegates (more than one third under 35 years old), 7.000 scientific abstracts from 120 countries. For the first time during an IAC, a Global Space Leaders Summit took place.

Italy financed also the **participation of young professionals and students**, from 11 African countries, and supported **several African and Latin American SMEs** and startups to participate in this important event.

We extend our thanks to the UNOOSA Secretariat for the impeccable organization of UN/IAF Workshop 2024, which played a crucial role in advancing space dialogue.

3) In January, the **Italian Government published its Guidelines on Space and Aerospace**, outlining Italy's strategic approach to the space sector. The guidelines focus on **four key areas**: expanding scientific knowledge, strengthening the national industrial ecosystem, establishing an effective regulatory framework, and identifying priority areas for international collaboration.

Madame Chairperson,

Italy is focused on **intensifying multilateral cooperation** at bilateral, regional and global level:

1) We actively **support the EU's goal** of achieving space autonomy and technological leadership. With a strong focus on innovation and international collaboration, Italy's contributions to both ESA and EU space programs - like Galileo and Copernicus - underscore its central role in advancing Europe's space capabilities.

2) **The Mattei Plan for Africa**, launched by the Italian government, acknowledges space as a crucial component to support Africa's socio-economic growth. In the framework of an enhanced international cooperation with African nations, we organized the **first meeting of the African Space Leaders**, which brought together 29 delegates from 17 African nations at the ASI headquarters in Rome. As a first result of the discussions, we are now working on the organization of ad hoc education and training courses in the field of Earth observation and related applications.

Madame Chairperson,

Before I conclude, allow me to mention **two important successes for Italy** in the space field, in these first days of 2025:

- on January 14th the **IRIDE Pathfinder Hawk satellite was launched**, highlighting Italy's growing capabilities in space technology, paving the way for future advancements in Earth observation and contributing to global environmental monitoring efforts.
- On January 15th, **the journey of LuGRE** (Lunar GNSS Global Navigation Satellite System Receiver Experiment) **has begun**, marking a significant step forward in Italy's contributions to space and moon exploration. As an entirely Italian-made instrument designed and developed by Italy's company Qascom for the Italian Space Agency - in collaboration with NASA - LuGRE is a cutting-edge satellite navigation receiver. Its primary objective is to receive GPS and Galileo satellite signals between Earth and the Moon.

Madame Chairperson,

Let me finish by mentioning that Italy, together with the European Space Policy Institute, will host a side event tomorrow entitled '**Innovation Beauty Inspiration**'. Join us to discuss and share the strategic role of design for space!

Thank you for your attention.