

WORLD SPACE WEEK ASSOCIATION
Agenda Item no. 4
Presented by: Maruška Strah, Executive Director



Thank you, Madam Chair.

Your Excellences, Distinguished delegates,

It is my great honor to speak to you on behalf of the World Space Week Association. Ever since UN General Assembly declared the launch of an annual celebration of space during UNISPACE III, we are celebrating World Space Week every year from 4th to 10th of October. With the support of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, and Member States, World Space Week is gaining more recognition every year and is steadily growing.

Growing number of countries joining COPUOS is a reflection of our reality – reality where a growing number of countries is creating space policies and space laws on national level, a growing number of countries is establishing space agencies and it is becoming more evident that we need to establish more private-public partnerships. I am proud to say that World Space Week Association strives to continue contributing to bringing space and space related activities and technologies closer to people, regardless of their age, nationality and gender, and provides and open opportunity to participate in the largest celebration of space in the world.

We are committed to contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. We put special focus on SDG 4: Quality education, SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure and SDG 17: Partnership for the goals. To achieve these goals, we are working closely with space agencies and the industry. We are engaging in diverse promotional activities with the education sector within the agencies, to reach as many people in all parts of the world, while at the same time, allow young people become more familiar with the space industry. I wish to thank NASA Office of STEM Engagement and Education and Outreach Coordinator of DLR for their support and collaboration in our outreach activities.

Our 2019 Activities

For 2019, the World Space Week theme was “The Moon: Gateway to the Stars”, inspired by the Apollo 11 and the first human Moon landing. Our excitement for the Lunar theme was strongly inspired by the presence of Apollo 11 crew member Buzz Aldrin on the Board of Directors, as well as by our belief that the Moon plays a vital role in our efforts to discover the rest of our solar system. In this context, we partnered with the Moon Village Association, International Astronomical Union and the International Observe the Moon Night.

2019 was a record year for us. We registered 8,057 space events in 93 countries, organized by thousands of organizers. I note with great pleasure that the annual number of events during

World Space Week has risen from under 1000 in 2012 to over 5,200 in 2018 and 8,057 in 2019. What is more, we see a notable increase of countries participating in World Space Week, as well as increase in the number of participants.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the countries with the highest number of events in 2019. Ministry of Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and their high level of support of World Space Week is an example and crucial for the accomplishment of the grand total of 4,044 events held in 2019. I would like to thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their great and invaluable support of World Space Week.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the other countries with the highest-ranking numbers of events – Pakistan, Ireland, Iran, India and Mexico. I wish to express gratitude for the national support you are dedicating to World Space Week and for the support you are showing participants of this celebration of space.

In the name of World Space Week Association, I would like to encourage all delegations and representative, to follow the example of these great organizers of World Space Week events. We are convinced that governments, as well as educational institutions can efficiently use World Space Week to inspire youth in STEM and build their workforce of tomorrow. We look forward to entering dialogues with you individually and find ways on how to collaborate closely. We are

interested in ways we can help you in your capacity building and outreach activities and would like to use this opportunity to engage with you to start this discussion.

Even though we are noting a significant increase in the number of events, we believe that there are many more events taking place, than we are not able to report. We encourage all WSW National Coordinators to be actively involved in registering. We also encourage Member State institutions to take an active role in support and organization of World Space Week – we are supporting the youths involved in STEM, as well as building the workforce of tomorrow. We do hope that Member States will continue their support of WSW and encourage participation in their respective countries during the week of 4 to 10 of October. It is our hope that we can continue to showcase the incredible national, as well as international, space activities.

The 2020 World Space Week Theme: “Satellites Improve Life”

2019 was an exceptional year for us and for the broad space community and we are confident that 2020 is bringing a similar promise.

Our 2020 World Space Week theme will be **“Satellites Improve Life”**.

With our 2020 theme, we do not only want to bring closer attention to satellites, but truly discuss their broad benefits for all humankind. Ever since the launch of Sputnik on October 4th, 1957 –

and here I would like to bring your attention to this very special day, October 4th also marks the beginning of World Space Week, to commemorate this incredible achievement – we are becoming more dependent on the use of satellites. It is safe to say that we owe a lot of our progress to the advancement of satellites and their applications.

I am beyond excited to report that our Honorary Chair for 2020 is Mr. Steve Collar, CEO of SES, whose support is invaluable to our cause.

The World Space Week Association Annual Report 2019 & Board of Directors Meeting

We look forward to working with all of you not only during World Space Week 2020, but on an ongoing basis. There is no doubt that we can help each other grow. On this note, I would like to thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their continued support of World Space Week. Without OOSA, and without Member States supporting us, we would not be able to grow. It is because of your support that we are able to reach and support so many communities all around the world.

I would like to invite you to take a closer look at our newly published Annual Report that will be distributed in your pigeon-holes. All those interested in understanding more about our work, and discuss the possibility to collaborate with each other closer, I would like to invite you to our Board of Directors meeting that will be held tomorrow, on February 6th at 1 o'clock in room

C0435. We would like all of you more involved, as we start our discussion on the theme for 2021, which will be dedicated to women in space. I am looking forward to hopefully seeing you there.

I thank you, Madame Chair, and distinguished delegates, for your attention. I am looking forward to a great year, and I am hoping that you will celebrate World Space Week 2020 with us under the theme "Satellites Improve Life".