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## **United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

**65<sup>th</sup> COPUOS Session**

**1 – 10 June 2022**

### **Statement of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF)**

Honorable Chair,  
Distinguished Delegates,

It is a great honor for me to address the sixty-fifth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in my capacity as Executive Director of the International Astronautical Federation. I would like to first and foremost, acknowledge and congratulate Niklas Hedman for his appointment as Acting Director of UNOOSA.

Distinguished delegates,

The International Astronautical Federation attaches great importance to supporting and promoting 3G Diversity, where 3G stands for Diversity, Geography and Gender. In this regard, the Federation has been putting special emphasis in these past years in encouraging the involvement of emerging countries in the IAF activities and in connecting them with space faring nations. Following its mission to promote international development and share knowledge, the IAF is committed to fostering and supporting the international relations that allow space faring nations and space developing nations to share practices and data about space activities and their concrete social benefits.

In this optic, the IAF, together with its member organization, the Sideralis Foundation, decided to organize the second Global Conference on Space for Emerging Countries (GLEC) - GLEC 2022 that took place in Quito, Ecuador, from 16 to 20 May 2022.

For the first time in its long history, the IAF brought one of its conferences to Ecuador, a country that just recently started to make its first steps into space and that showed its commitment in recent years, in becoming an active space country. As declared by IAF President Pascale Ehrenfreund, “the inclusion of emerging nations in the global space arena deserves, today more than ever, all our efforts and attention”.

Over 4 days, GLEC 2022 brought together space developing nations and space faring nations alike to discuss and closely examine the key aspects for resourcing, operationalizing, and establishing successful national space programmes in emerging and developing space countries. The Conference attracted 260 participants, coming from 43 countries all over the world, half of which were young professionals and students below 35 years of age. The Conference’s success was also due to the outstanding support and engagement



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received by agencies, industries, academia's that attended from Europe, from the United States, from Asia and from Latin America.

With a very dense programme, composed of 8 Plenaries, 7 GNF Sessions, a Masterclass, a Workshop, a Ministers & Members of Parliaments Forum, and even a small exhibition, GLEC 2022 allowed discussions to take place on a variety of topics that opened doors for emerging space countries, but also gave a fresh perspective for established space countries on how to build a healthy and sustainable space ecosystem.

Through a dedicated Masterclass on Space Law and Policy and a subsequent dedicated Plenary, GLEC 2022 was able to create awareness on the essential legislative and policy elements that must be considered in establishing a firm foundation for national or regional space programs. The programme also focused its attention on the development of a sustainable space industry in Latin America and via the discussions that took place at the Entrepreneurship and Development Workshop and in the dedicated Plenary sessions, GLEC 2022 promoted the creation and the development of a local space industry that is innovative, responsive, robust, commercially viable and connected to the global space industry. Throughout the Conference, the discussions also focused on addressing the important role of international collaboration for the creation of a sustainable space ecosystem in Emerging Countries, and on the vital role that education plays in training the next generation via the inclusion of STEM activities in their academic programmes.

The IAF was also very pleasure to host a GNF session organized jointly by the IAF Committee for Liaison with International Organizations and Developing Nations (CLIODN) and UNOOSA on the important topic of "Space Technology for Emerging Countries". This session united speakers from emerging and established space countries, and focused on different applications of space technology. The session showcased examples of the use of space technology, data and applications in support of sustainable economic, social and environmental development and how countries have worked together to enable international cooperation. Participants shared lessons-learned and explored future space-related opportunities for emerging space countries.

GLEC 2022 was also the right platform for the newly established Latin American and Caribbean Space Agency (ALCE) to participate and present its future plans. The ALCE, as a regional cooperation initiative, will coordinate exploration, research, space technology and applications that contribute to and strengthen the comprehensive and sustainable development of a space program in the region that benefits the Latin American and Caribbean peoples, with special emphasis on their protection and security.

GLEC 2022 certainly left a lasting legacy in Ecuador and in Latin America. In fact, with GLEC 2022, Ecuador sent a message to the entire world, that Latin America is ready to join the global space industry. Through the support of its government, of its academia, and of its newly developing space industry, Ecuador demonstrated its interest and support in the development of space economy in Ecuador and in the region and the IAF is extremely proud to have been a part of this journey, and to have brought the international space community to Ecuador.

Distinguished delegates,



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Looking ahead now, the IAF invites you to Save the Date for the upcoming 73<sup>rd</sup> International Astronautical Congress, that will take place in Paris, France, from 18 to 22 September 2022 under the theme “Space for @ll”. Organized by the IAF and hosted by the Centre National d’Études Spatiales (CNES), this IAC will set the record for the beautiful city of Paris being the city with the highest number of IACs hosted: the first ever Congress in 1950, then in 1963 in 1982, and now, in 2022.

With the theme “Space for @ll” we would like to make this IAC an outstanding occasion to bring together all space communities, alongside the rapidly increasing global ecosystem and start-ups, entrepreneurs, laboratories, research scientists and manufacturers that could get involved in space activities or benefit from them. Special attention will be paid to students and young professionals, who will be closely associated through dedicated events. Finally, the public will not be forgotten, as space-themed conferences and exhibitions will accompany the entire IAC week.

As per tradition, the IAF, together with UNOOSA and CNES are co-organizing the 29<sup>th</sup> edition of the Workshop on Space Technology for Socio-Economic Benefits that will be held in conjunction with, and as an associated event of the 73<sup>rd</sup> IAC from 15 to 17 September 2022. This year’s theme is “*Access to Space for All: Bridging the Space Divide*” to bring together policy- and decision-makers, and the research and academic communities to discuss on how space science, technologies and applications can support of sustainable economic, social and environmental development and the development of science, technology and innovation (STI) policies related to space. The call for abstracts applications is currently open until the deadline of 30 June 2022. For more information on how to apply, please visit the IAF website.

Honorable Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the International Astronautical Federation, let me thank you for your attention. We hope to welcome you to the IAC 2022 in Paris, and to our future events.