

WORLD SPACE WEEK ASSOCIATION

Agenda Item No. 4

Presented by: Nikol Koleva, External Relations Manager



Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

I would like to join the other delegations in thanking acting director, Mr Nicholas Hedman and the secretariat for the preparation of this session. It is my honor to address you on behalf of the World Space Week Association and report on our past activities. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, as well as all Member States, who made it possible for World Space Week to grow in prominence and significance every year since it was declared by the General Assembly in 1999.

Our 2022 Activities

It gives me great pleasure to report that WSW 2022, themed Space and Sustainability, was a record-breaking year, with over 11,200 events held in almost 90 countries. On behalf of the Association, we invite you to visit our website, where you can access the WSWA Annual Report and learn more about our outreach and activities in 2022. To access the annual report, you can also scan the QR code, which we have distributed among all Member States and is already available in the pigeon holes. The Annual Report will give those who are interested a more comprehensive understanding of our social media campaign, webinars, projects, and collaboration in the lead-up to World Space Week 2022 and, hopefully, will inspire all Member States to work more closely with us in the future.

It is my pleasure to report that we observed a number of incredible events organized by Member States. Prestwick Spaceport in the United Kingdom released a short film to encourage young people to consider careers in Scotland's end-to-end space sector. To celebrate World Space Week, Chris Boshuizen, WSW spokesperson, One Giant Leap Australia Foundation, Moonshot and RMIT Space Industry Hub announced 'Mission: Sustainability', a challenge for Australian students to design a sustainable space station of the future. In addition, NASA, the Office of Vice President Harris and government entities around the US funded "Learning Lunchboxes" in support of World Space Week. Amongst many more incredible events the The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs also hosted a webinar series on last year's theme 'Space and Sustainability'.

What is to come in 2023

This year, World Space Week will address another relevant topic within the space sector, namely space and entrepreneurship. By selecting the theme of space and entrepreneurship, our Board of Directors and leadership hope to inspire WSW participants worldwide to consider space careers from a variety of perspectives, not just the traditional ones, and promote innovation and creativity amongst the next generation of space entrepreneurs. It gives me great pleasure to report that Ms. Eren Ozmen, chairwoman and owner of Sierra Nevada Corporation, has been named Honorary Chair of World Space Week for 2023. We are honored to have her work with us on achieving our goals and are tremendously grateful for the support we continue to receive from Ms. Ozmen and Sierra Nevada Corporation.

I'd like to use this forum to invite all UN member states to participate in and host World Space Week events in 2023. We are aware that many Member States already celebrate WSW, but I'd like to use this opportunity to invite all of you to get in touch with us to discuss how we can work together to make the biggest celebration of space in the world, even bigger.

I thank you, Mr. Chair, and distinguished delegates, for your attention. I am looking forward to another fantastic year, and I am hoping that you will all celebrate World Space Week 2023 with us between the 4th to 10th of October.