

WORLD SPACE WEEK ASSOCIATION

Agenda Item no. 3

Presented by: Maruška Strah, Executive Director



Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

It is my great honor to speak to you on behalf of the World Space Week Association. World Space Week, declared by the UN General Assembly in 1999 has been a great success year after year, because of the support of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs and because of all Member States that celebrate WSW every year.

I would also like to join Member States in thanking the Secretariat and Mr. Acting Director for the great organization of this session.

It is my great pleasure to report that WSW 2022, dedicated to Space and Sustainability, has been our record year till now and exceeded all expectations. Over 10,000 events were held in over 90 countries - I would like to invite you to visit our website where the WSWA Annual Report will be published and detailed statistics will be provided.

Our 2022 Activities

I am proud to report that the Association organized another successful webinar series and led a social media campaign focused on Sustainable Development Goals and how space applications and technologies contribute to achieving them. Furthermore, we dedicated a part of the campaign to the Long-Term Sustainability Guidelines and their importance. Through this campaign, we aimed to inform and engage especially the next generation to

be mindful of the necessity of the space activities to be conducted in a sustainable way.

Without Member States, space agencies, national organizations and participants, World Space Week could never see the incredible success of over 10,000 events in October 2022. I wish to take this opportunity to recognize some of our supporters, who have been showing continued support not only of the World Space Week, but also of this important theme, Space and Sustainability - NASA, ESA Operations, the Australian Space Agency, UK Space Command, U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Space Command, and the Australian Space Agency. Furthermore, I would like to recognize Lockheed Martin Corporation, Viasat, Astroscale and Airbus for their support of World Space Week Association and for the support of the celebration of "Space and Sustainability".

The 2023 World Space Week Theme: Space And Entrepreneurship

So where to next?

In 2023 we will celebrate WSW under the theme "Space and Entrepreneurship". It is my great honor that I can inform you that our WSW 2023 Honorary Chair is Ms. Eren Ozmen, Founder and Chairwoman of Sierra Nevada Corporation. She is the perfect role model for the next generation and we are excited to see the results of WSW 2023 under her leadership.

We see great potential in this year's WSW theme, as we want to encourage more young people to become a part of the global space industry. We should not underestimate the countless opportunities that the space sector is providing and the need for diversity and different profiles. With this theme we would like to encourage all Member States, but especially Emerging Space Nations to use this year's theme as an opportunity - opportunity to encourage more participation in their space sector and explore and identify the many opportunities that come from space.

Our efforts to bring space closer to people will continue. It is with great pride that I can reaffirm and reassure all delegations gathered here, that World Space Week will remain open for everyone - regardless of their gender, age, nationality or religious beliefs - and that everyone interested in space has the opportunity to participate in the largest celebration of space in the world. We firmly believe that all nations, governments, space agencies and other organizations benefit from engaging and celebrating World Space Week and I would like to take this opportunity to invite all gathered here to take on an active role in celebration of WSW, as well as enter individual dialogues with our Association, so that we can collaborate closer and bring even more attention to your programs.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you all to our evening reception dedicated to the World Space Week 2022 and Space and Sustainability. We will welcome you all at 6:30pm in the Mozart Room.

I thank you, Mr. Chair, and distinguished delegates, for your kind attention. I am looking forward to a great year, and I am hoping that you will join us in celebrating World Space Week 2023 under the theme "Space and Entrepreneurship".