

WORLD SPACE WEEK ASSOCIATION

Agenda Item no. 5

Presented by: Maruška Strah, Executive Director



Thank you Mr. Chair,

Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

World Space Week Association Board of Directors recognized the importance of Space and Sustainability and declared the theme of World Space Week 2022 to be “Space and Sustainability”. I would like to take the opportunity today to share with you how we celebrate the theme.

World Space Week (WSW) is an international celebration of science and technology, and their contribution to the betterment of the human condition. The United Nations General Assembly declared in 1999 that World Space Week will be held each year from October 4-10. World Space Week Association (WSWA) is a non-governmental organization with the long-term goal to sufficiently institutionalize UN-declared World Space Week such that it continues to grow throughout the world.

Our mission is to strengthen the link between space and society. Our activities are mostly focused on outreach activities, awareness rising and on capacity building. We use WSW as a forum for discussion, and we encourage participation and dialogue on the future of space activities. As a Permanent Observer to UN COPOUS, we are committed to promotion of activities of all stakeholders working on sustainability related topics.

We see raising awareness on the importance of space activities and technologies for the betterment of life on Earth as key. Our year round activities are conducted with the goal of encouraging space and education sectors to hold events during WSW. As a result, we have one of the largest network of space-supporting organizations - WSW is organized by over 4,000

organizations that participate in the annual celebration of World Space Week. What we do is maximizing the visibility of these events during WSW and leverage the impact a focused week dedicated to the celebration of space has globally - when we all speak at the same time, our voices are much louder.

Throughout the year, we have created an infographic series, as well as conducted a communications campaign dedicated to Space and Sustainability. We also continued with the organization of a webinar series - in one of the webinars we spoke about the relationship between space and sustainability, while one was focused on sustainable space economies. Our goal was to introduce the theme to the public and directly raise awareness of this topic. How successful these campaigns were we see in the numbers we recorded - over 10,000 WSW events were organized in over 90 countries. We also recorded over 40 million individual impressions dedicated to WSW on Twitter.

We are committed to promoting and facilitating interdisciplinary and multi stakeholder dialogues. We are eager to collaborate with Member States and Permanent Observers on promoting the need for sustainable use of outer space and in collaborating in capacity building efforts.

Thank you, Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates for your kind attention.