

22 January 2024

Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini
Director
United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
Vienna International Centre
Wagramerstrasse 5 A-1220
Vienna
Austria

Dear Ms Holla-Maini,

As you are aware, the Global Satellite Operators Association (GSOA) recently submitted a formal application for the status of Permanent Observer Organisation of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space (COPUOS).

GSOA is interested in attending the upcoming STSC session on 6th February, as an ad hoc observer, pending the final decision of the Committee on observer status, and if successful, would like to have the opportunity to make a technical presentation related to norms and best practices on space sustainability.

The proposed composition of the GSOA Delegation would be: Isabelle Mauro, Director General, GSOA; Natalia Vicente, Vice-President Public Policy, GSOA.

As per our application, GSOA was founded in 2002 as ESOA (European Satellite Operators Association) to be the voice of the European satellite industry and became the Global Satellite Operators Association in 2022. Today it represents 70 members from the broader satellite industry ecosystem, with local and global GEO, MEO and LEO operators, launchers, manufacturers, ground segment players, ranging from newer entrants to long-time established players. This growth gives our association a full representation of the rich ecosystem in which the satellite industry operates today and truly reflects the incredible phase of growth and innovation the industry is going through.

Our vision is to help policymakers improve the state of the world through the use of satellite technology to continuously bridging digital, education, health, social, gender and economic divides across diverse geographies and across mature and developing economies.

GSOA is the only global non-profit association of the entire satellite ecosystem that brings members together and serves as the premier platform for worldwide collaboration, taking the lead in addressing global challenges and opportunities and providing a unified voice for the satellite industry. The association is recognised as the representative body and subject matter expert by governmental, international and regional organisations, as well as national administrations. It provides a platform for industry collaboration on matters related to spectrum, connectivity, standards, Non-Terrestrial & Terrestrial integration and space sustainability, amongst others.

Through GSOA, the satellite industry contributes to activities and initiatives in all regions of the world, engaging with national regulators and governments and collaborating with international and regional organisations such as the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the World Economic Forum, the European Commission and other regional governmental organisations, as well as standards bodies such as 3GPP and other organisations, as required, in order to achieve the objectives of sustainable and meaningful connectivity.

Our role as an Association is to ensure that we bring our members together to find common grounds and present a united front on critical issues that will help us deliver together on our common goals of meaningful and inclusive connectivity. But also, to ensure that the interests of the satellite industry are safeguarded so that we can continue to innovate and invest, whilst continuing to serve the best interest of users and preserving space sustainability, as we continue to grow, and with the aim to enabling the world to maximise the use of, access to, and benefits from, space resources.

The role of the Office for Outer Space Affairs is key to fostering the innovation of space and the sustainable use of resources for the benefit of all. We look forward to working with COPUOS and having a strong collaboration with the objective of maximizing the benefits of space in earth and ensuring a sustainable growth of the ecosystem.

Please, also note that we have initiated the process to secure consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and aim to accomplish it as soon as possible.

We remain at your disposal to provide any further information you may require.

We hope that our request for ad hoc observer at the upcoming STSC session will be considered favourably and look forward to hearing back at the earliest opportunity.

With best regards,



Isabelle Mauro
Director General, GSOA