

## **2<sup>nd</sup> ICAO/UNOOSA AEROSPACE SYMPOSIUM**

### ***Emerging Space Activities and Civil Aviation – Challenges and Opportunities***

**Rosewood Hotel, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
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**Welcome Address by**

**Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo**

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Your Highnesses,  
Your Excellences,  
Honourable Guests,  
Distinguished Participants,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 2<sup>nd</sup> joint ICAO/UNOOSA Aerospace Symposium, co-organized with the United Arab Emirates General Civil Aviation Authority and Space Agency. This series of Symposia is a completely unique inter-agency cooperation effort between my Office and ICAO on subject matters of outmost relevance to our respective organizations and to the space and aviation communities.

The overarching theme of this Symposium - *emerging space activities and civil aviation - challenges and opportunities* - remains the same as last year at the first Symposium held in Montreal. This theme marks a progressive development and encompasses what represents a pivotal issue as more and more actors enter the space arena and it is becoming increasingly evident that developments in future aerospace activities will impact on the application and implementation of space law and air law instruments. This was a pertinent conclusion of the Montreal Symposium and indeed provides a good starting point for the engaging days we have before us at this present Symposium.

The Montreal Symposium met its objective of bringing together representatives of the aviation community and the space community at governmental and non-governmental level, including the commercial and private space sector, to explore existing regulatory mechanisms and practices in aviation and space transportation. We were able to explore challenges and opportunities

related to emerging space activities, in particular commercial space transportation and suborbital flights. It truly formed an important cross sectorial platform for dialogue. At our present Symposium we have added some critical elements relating to risks posed to aerospace activities, such as space weather and space debris. We have also expanded the notion of aerospace aspirations and innovations, as well as the role of coordination mechanisms and the need for further capacity-building, outreach, training and education activities. In 2017, the Office for Outer Space Affairs will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Symposium in this series in Vienna, Austria.

Distinguished Participants,

The United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), which is the only global intergovernmental platform for international cooperation in space activities, has set in motion a roadmap towards the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first United Nations conference on space exploration and cooperation, which was held in 1968. This effort, branded as UNISPACE+50 to be held in 2018, aims to become a major milestone for charting the future role of the Committee, its subsidiary bodies and the Office for Outer Space Affairs within the United Nations system and the global space community.

UNISPACE+50 represents a crucial opportunity to strengthen unified efforts at all levels and among all relevant stakeholders in shaping the global “Space 2030” agenda. The interrelationship between major space-faring nations and emerging space nations, and the dialogue between them relating to increased international cooperation and capacity-building efforts for the benefit of developing countries, has laid the groundwork for success over the years. The space agenda is evolving and becoming more complex, not least because of the broader concept of space security and the expanding space industry and commercial space sector. The nature of space activities is evolving to meet those realities.

The Committee last year identified the cross-cutting areas of governance, resiliency, interoperability, capacity-building, and space for sustainable development as driving pillars for its considerations underpinning the roadmap towards 2018. These cross-cutting areas are representative of the strategic role of the Committee, its subsidiary bodies and the Office for Outer Space Affairs in global space governance. There is now an on-going process to shape a set of thematic priorities with concrete outputs that will form the basis for decisions-making under UNISPACE+50 and beyond.

One of the main achievements under this overarching endeavour is to enhance dialogue between governmental, non-governmental, private sector and industry stakeholders. I raise this aspect because this is a foundation of the series of ICAO/UNOOSA Aerospace Symposia.

Later this year, and part of the UNISPACE+50 process, UNOOSA will organize together with the United Arab Emirates a High Level Forum in Dubai, entitled “Space as a driver for socio-economic sustainable development”. The Forum, to be hosted by the UAE Space Agency and the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre, will be targeting four main pillars, namely space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy. Clearly the objectives of our joint ICAO/UNOOSA Aerospace Symposium connect well to those main pillars, and I am convinced that what we will discuss over the coming days deserves attention at the High Level Forum. Dear Colleagues, I hereby extend an invitation to you to join me and my UNOOSA Team in Dubai from 20 to 24 November this year.

Distinguished Participants,

As the Secretariat of COPUOS, the Office for Outer Space Affairs is concerned with space law making and international cooperation in outer space activities. COPUOS, together with its subsidiary bodies, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee, provides a unique platform at the global level for comprehensive deliberations on all aspects of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. The five UN treaties on outer space, the five sets of principles and declarations on space activities, the space debris mitigation guidelines of the Committee and the safety framework for the use of Nuclear Power Sources in outer space activities, have been negotiated and adopted by this Committee.

Among the areas covered by COPUOS which have direct relevance to the theme of this particular Aerospace Symposium, are, for example, the considerations of COPUOS on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, which will lead to a set of guidelines for enhancing the safety of space operations; consideration on definition of and legal issues related to aerospace objects and suborbital flights; the establishment of coordination mechanisms on handling of near-Earth object (asteroids) impact threats; and the consideration of space weather prediction, forecasting and monitoring mechanisms.

The Committee is increasingly considering the broader perspective of space security and transparency and confidence-building measures to enhance the safety,

security and sustainability of space activities. New items on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee include legal perspectives of small and very small satellite activities and space traffic management.

The present Aerospace Symposium addresses some of these topics, sometimes from a different angle. This is one of the fundamental strengths of this Symposium, namely to provide a cross-sectorial platform for innovative approaches and dialogue among the broader aerospace community, including aviation, space activities, and suborbital flights, giving impetus to an enhanced dialogue among all involved stakeholders.

In coming back to the UNISPACE+50 endeavour, there are several elements of this nature included in the process towards defining concrete thematic priorities and outputs, such as for enhanced information exchange and notification procedures on space objects and events; future space traffic management, including perspectives of small and very small satellite operations and suborbital flights; interoperability and resiliency of space systems; and as a founding pillar – space exploration and innovation – with emphasis on enhanced cooperation with private sector and industry. The backbone of all those efforts is the forming of a more strategic and robust infrastructure for capacity-building and outreach activities for the benefit of developing countries. UNISPACE+50 marks a milestone opportunity to further strengthen global space governance in the twenty-first century.

Distinguished Participants,

All of the above factors are also of fundamental importance to the overall work of the Office. Let me therefore take a few minutes to come back to UNOOSA activities and perspectives. The Office has a strategic and, in the UN system, unique role with its broad mandate and competence to deal with the full spectrum of space activities from science and technology to law and policy, and where space scientific research and technology are being integrated in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With regard to the present Aerospace Symposium, I would mark the following activities of the Office as directly relevant to the Symposium objectives.

As Executive Secretariat to the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG), UNOOSA promotes tangible international cooperation in coordinating national satellites to ensure that global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) services provide global coverage in satellite-based positioning, navigation, and timing for the benefit of all. ICG represents an

international mechanism for cooperation, coordination and synergy that deserves to be further studied as a potential format for other areas.

As mentioned earlier, the Office for Outer Space Affairs is approaching the global space endeavour encompassing four distinct pillars determining space governance, namely space economy; space society; space accessibility; and space diplomacy. The Office in its programmatic activities works towards addressing those pillars strategically in its core activities. Those four pillars form the central theme of the High-Level Forum to be held in Dubai in November this year, as I mentioned earlier. This is set up to be an international key event.

UNOOSA also leads the Inter Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space), which is the central inter-agency coordination mechanisms in the UN system on overarching space matters, in particular in relation to the global development agenda. Through UN-Space, we are presently working closely with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs on pursuing enhanced cooperation and coordination among relevant United Nations entities on promoting transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities.

As another example of inter-agency coordination, UNOOSA and ITU developed last year an information hand-out on issues related to registration, authorization, debris mitigation and frequency management with respect to small and very small satellites, for the benefit of space actors intending to operate such satellites. This is also an area of relevance to our present Symposium.

Distinguished Participants,

Given the growing number of benefits derived from space science and technology applications, the conduct of space activities by States, intergovernmental and non-governmental entities, as well as the commercial and private sector, continues to expand rapidly. Space tools are fundamental to meeting the challenges to humanity and sustainable development and the overarching space security environment in its broader sense caters for global space governance. It is in this context I see outstanding prospects for strengthened involvement and exchange of experience among all relevant stakeholders in this emerging field of innovative space activities and civil aviation. I therefore look forward to this 2<sup>nd</sup> ICAO/UNOOSA Aerospace Symposium and to our engaging dialogue over the upcoming days and beyond.

Welcome!