

ICAO/UNOOSA AEROSPACE SYMPOSIUM

Emerging Space Activities and Civil Aviation - Challenges and Opportunities

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Closing Remarks by

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Distinguished participants,

As I pointed out in my welcome remarks on Wednesday, the topic of this symposium - *emerging space activities and civil aviation - challenges and opportunities* - is encompassing what represents a pivotal issue as more and more actors enter the space arena and it is becoming more and more evident that developments in future aerospace activities will impact on the application and implementation of space law and air law instruments. In my view, after three engaging days of the Symposium, this is also a pertinent conclusion.

We have clearly met the main objective for this Symposium. We brought 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 have been able to explore challenges and opportunities related to emerging space activities, in particular commercial space transportation and suborbital flights.

We have made efforts to facilitate the strengthening of a dialogue between the two communities, and as we have all concluded, this joint ICAO/UNOOSA Aerospace Symposium can only be just the first step in our collaboration. This unique inter-agency coordination effort between ICAO

and UNOOSA should now be brought forward, and it is with great pleasure I note that the United Arab Emirates has offered to host a follow up Symposium next year, 2016.

I have over those days received a number of positive remarks by participants to the effect that we are on the right track in providing the means for this important cross sectorial dialogue.

As UNOOSA is mandated to lead 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, I am pleased to see that this bilateral cooperation and coordination achievement with ICAO on subject matters of utmost relevance to the space and aviation communities is successfully set in motion.

Later this year, on 15-17 November, UNOOSA will organize together with the United Arab Emirates a High Level Forum entitled “Space as a driver for socio-economic sustainable development”. The Forum, to be hosted by the United Arab Emirates Space Agency and the Emirates Institution for Advanced Science and Technology, will target 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 have discussed over those past three days deserves attention at the High Level Forum. I therefore warmly welcome our partners from ICAO to participate in the Forum with the aim of presenting the essence of this Aerospace Symposium. Dear Colleagues, I hereby extend an invitation to join me and my UNOOSA Team in Dubai in November. This invitation is extended to all participants in this Symposium. Information is available on our UNOOSA website.

Distinguished participants,

As a next step I will inform the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS at its 54th session starting on 13 April this year of the successful completion of this first Aerospace Symposium and of the conclusions that we have agreed to earlier today, including on the important role of the Learning Group. A plenary symposium on the opening day of the session on “Space traffic

management” will be organized by the International Institute of Space Law and European Centre for Space Law, and a presentation to that effect will be made by me and my colleague Niklas Hedman, underlining the great achievements of this symposium, the need for further steps and the need to continue the dialogue.

Finally, let me repeat what I said already during my introductory speech on Wednesday. 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. This first ICAO/UNOOSA symposium has fulfilled its objectives, and we have collected a lot of inputs and elements for further reflection. From this extremely positive experience we can take stock in order to build the future of our joint activities.

This remains my firm conviction and I thank you all for your dedicated and inspiring participation in this Symposium.

Thank you!
