

IAF – MoP’s Meeting – Dubai – Sunday 24 October 2021

Dear Space Friends,

I am delighted to be here today with all of you and to have the opportunity to strongly reaffirm that No! No, Science, innovation, technological progress, as well as the research for our origins, the understanding of the universe and eventually the benefits of space exploration for Earth ... are not the exclusive prerogative of scientists, researchers, and engineers.

It is, and it must be, also the prerogative of politics because today, more than ever, our world depends on space assets and data!

I would like to thank IAF for having understood this very early on time. For 10 years now, Christian Feichtinger and his team has been organizing this Members of Parliaments Meeting.

And I must also to thank J Y Legall, former IAF President, for giving me the opportunity to rethink and reshape the MoP Meeting.

Before getting to the content of our day, I would like to join, our President Pascale Ehrenfreund, in thanking and congratulating UAE for welcoming us and I would like to thank:

- Mr. Saqer Ghobash , speaker of the UAE National Council and my co-chair
- H.E Salem AlQubaisi Director General UAE Space Agency
- Yousef Al Shaibani, Director General Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Center
- I would also like to thank Sophie Primas, President of the Economic Affairs Committee of the French Senate and hosted country of IAC 2022
- And of course, I don't forget our high-level space experts for their availability and participation to today's event. I will come back to them later.

Dear colleagues,

It's a chance to be IAF Vice-President, with the portfolio on «Parliamentarians» when you are a former Parliamentarian! It's a wonderful opportunity to initiate a new vision of the MoP Meeting but this time re-build through a parliamentarian eye.

Our ambition is to make this assembly a place that brings us together, a place that resembles us, a place that meets our expectations, our interests and that eventually provides us with actionable information. We wanted to make this place “The place to be”.

“The place to be” but to do what?

We want to give parliamentarians the opportunity to meet, exchange, share experiences, information, good practices on space solutions and seize synergies.

We want to make space more accessible!

Our motto should sound like: What it's possible in your country, should be possible in mine too!

How to make space accessible?

We are going to be the protagonists of our Meeting!

> For the first time in this forum, parliamentarians will be on the driving seat, guiding the Meeting.

> For the first time, parliamentarians will demonstrate the relevance of space solutions in their country for their own specific challenges.

> For the first time, it will be policy-to-policy, peer-to-peer presentations, explained in a concise, understandable, non-technical manner, where the topics covered are in direct relation to our concerns.

Why “Space Solutions for the Benefit of Civil Society” as the theme?

- Because space solutions have never been more present in the lives of all our citizens;
- Because space solutions can be incredible allies in meeting specific national needs,
- Because space solutions create benefits in all aspects of our daily lives

You should know that before coming to Dubai, some of us were not specially motivated by space but still they agreed on the value of the sector, and they agreed to make a presentation today.

Dear colleagues, we are here today to give ourselves the unique opportunity to learn and inspire one another by making this MoP Meeting a one-end shopping of ideas of operational space solutions.

And keep in mind:

What it's possible in your country, should be possible in mine too!