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# IAF SYMPOSIUM 2025 REPORT

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*“Space - Indispensable on the Agenda of  
Policymakers, Public, and Nations”*

On the Occasion of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Scientific and Technical  
Subcommittee (STSC) of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of  
Outer Space (COPUOS)

11 February 2025  
Vienna, Austria

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## 1. INTRODUCTION TO THE IAF SYMPOSIUM 2025



The **IAF Symposium** is a biennial event organized by the **International Astronautical Federation (IAF)** in conjunction with the **Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC)** of the **United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)**. Held every two years during the STSC session in Vienna, the symposium serves as a dedicated platform for international dialogue.

The IAF Symposium brings together experts, policymakers, and representatives from space agencies, industry, and academia to foster knowledge exchange, strengthen global cooperation, and explore innovative solutions to current and emerging challenges in space sector. Through high-level discussions and expert presentations, the IAF Symposium reinforces the Federation’s commitment to promoting international partnerships and advancing the peaceful uses of outer space.

Under the theme **“Space – Indispensable on the Agenda of Policymakers, Public, and Nations”**, the 2025 edition of the IAF Symposium explored ways to bridge gaps and engage diverse stakeholders in shaping the future of space in three insightful panels.

- Panel A:** “How to Engage Political Decision-Makers in the Space Debate?”
- Panel B:** “How to Secure General Public Support for Space?”
- Panel C:** “How to Embrace Emerging Countries in the Global Space Endeavor?”

## 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), we extend our deepest gratitude and respect to the **United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs**, and in particular to its Director, **Dr. Aarti Holla-Maini**, for her leadership and outstanding cooperation with the IAF.

We sincerely appreciate the invaluable contribution from all our esteemed speakers to the IAF Symposium, whose insights and expertise enriched our joint discussions.



A heartfelt thank you to the engaged audience - both those present at the symposium and those who joined us virtually.

## 3. MODERATORS & PANEL SPEAKERS

### Panel A – How to Engage Political Decision-Makers in the Space Debate?

#### Moderator and Master of Ceremony:



**CHRISTIAN FEICHTINGER**  
Executive Director  
International Astronautical Federation (IAF)

Dr Feichtinger took up the post of IAF Executive Director on 1 January 2012. Before moving to the IAF, Feichtinger, who comes from Austria, spent three years as senior advisor on exploration at the European Space Agency (ESA). Prior to that, he was head of ESA's permanent mission in the Russian Federation, after having worked as the Agency's representative for human space flight and exploration in Moscow during 10 years.

Previous positions Feichtinger held include: flight operations support manager for the Euro-Russian EUROMIR-94 and 95 missions at the Russian mission control centre near Moscow; liaison officer to Russian organisations within the EUROMIR-94 and 95 mission management teams at the ESTEC technical centre in the Netherlands; and technical lead of the Soviet-Austrian AUSTROMIR project and follow-on missions.

Feichtinger holds a PhD in space experimentation from Graz University of Technology, Austria.

#### Panel Speakers:



**ANGELINA BEKASOVA**  
Senior Expert and Head of Space Policy  
Entrepreneurship Competitiveness Department  
Ministry of Economics, Latvia

Angelina Bekasova is a Senior Expert in Space and Innovation Policy at the Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia and Director of International Relations and Industry Development at the Latvian Space Industry Association. Her mission is to inspire and help Latvia's deep-tech industries develop, transfer and internationalize their space capabilities. Angelina first entered the space sector in 2017, joining the European Commission's Earth Observation Unit, and later worked as a Science Communication and Management Consultant at SpaceTec Partners, an international space sector consultancy based in Brussels and Munich. Since 2020, Angelina has dedicated her work to the growth of Latvia's economy.



## **ORSOLYA FERENCZ**

**Ministerial Commissioner**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary**

Dr. Orsolya Ferencz is an electrical engineer, space researcher, politician, and diplomat with a distinguished career in space policy and research. Since 2023, she has been a Member of the National Assembly of Hungary and, since 2020, has served as an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

From 2018 to 2024, she led the Hungarian Delegation to the European Space Agency (ESA) while serving as Ministerial Commissioner for Space Research at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary.

Dr. Ferencz holds a Ph.D. from the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME) and has conducted research at the Institut für Hochfrequenztechnik und Elektronik (IHE) in Karlsruhe. In addition to her scientific work, she was an elected member of the Local Government of Józsefváros, Budapest, actively contributing to smart city initiatives.



## **HERIBERTO SALDIVAR**

**Head of Strategy**  
**European Space Agency (ESA)**

Heriberto Saldivar has been the Head of Strategy at the European Space Agency (ESA) since 2022.

Prior to his tenure at ESA, Heriberto served as the Managing Director and partner at Brinc, a venture capital accelerator. His role involved investing in and providing advisory services to a diverse portfolio of over 130 tech companies representing various nationalities.

Heriberto earned a master's degree in aerospace engineering from the National Cheng Kung University, where he contributed to an international scramjet (supersonic engine) research project in collaboration between Europe and Taiwan. He later received the prestigious Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme, joining the PolyU High-Speed Thermo-fluid and MAV/UAV Laboratory, where he conducted cutting-edge research in high-speed aerodynamics.



## **AGNIESZKA ŁUKASZCZYK**

**Founder and CEO**  
**HiALtitude Consulting**

Dr. Agnieszka Łukaszczyk is the founder and CEO of hiALtitude Consulting. Former Vice President for Government Affairs at Planet, she has held influential roles at the European Commission and the Secure World Foundation. Dr. Łukaszczyk chairs the Sustainability Task Force at the IAF and is an advocate for the next generation of space leaders. She holds a PhD in Space Security and has authored numerous works on space policy and sustainability.



## **JACEK JAŠKOWIAK**

**Mayor of Poznań, IAC 2027 Host City  
Poland**

Jacek Jaškowiak graduated from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań with a degree in law and administration. In 1988, he received a six-month GFPS scholarship at Bielefeld University (Germany). Additionally, he completed a postgraduate course in accounting and taxation at WSB University in Poznań. From 1990 to 1997, he worked for private enterprises established in Poland at that time; among others, he was responsible for setting-up VW and Audi dealership network. From 1997 to 2014, he ran his own company, operating under the name Jaškowiak LLC (accounting office and due diligence of business entities for sale). He was also a member of the International Ski Federation (FIS) Ski Cross World Cup Committee and the organiser of FIS Cross-Country World Cup in Szklarska Poręba in 2012 and 2014.



## **ZEYNEP YILDIZ**

**Member of Parliament  
Spokesperson for the Committee of Digital Platforms  
Grand National Assembly of Türkiye**

Born in Ankara, attended TED Ankara College and graduated from Bilkent University Faculty of Law. She specialized in energy, informatization, and space law. She held various positions in the AK Party and was elected as an MP in the 2018 and 2023 elections. Her work focuses on digitalization, personal data protection, education, youth employment, rural development, and space-related policies. She is also active in international parliamentary organizations alongside her duties in the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye.

## **Panel B – How to Secure General Public Support for Space?**

### **Moderator:**



## **NIKOL KOLEVA**

**Executive Director  
Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC)**

Nikol Koleva is a seasoned young professional currently serving as the Executive Director of the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC). She leads efforts to expand outreach and engagement with space agencies, industry, academia, and UNOOSA, creating global opportunities for young professionals. Her background blends psychology and space, including research on the Overview Effect with NASA astronauts, zero-gravity studies on grounding techniques for microgravity, and VR research to replicate the Overview Effect. Previously, she was External Relations Manager at WSWA.

## Panel Speakers:



### **PASCALE EHRENFREUND**

**IAF Past President 2019-2022**

**President, Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)**

Prof. Pascale Ehrenfreund obtained degrees in Astronomy and Biology at the University of Vienna. Between 2001 and 2005, Pascale Ehrenfreund held a professorship in Astrobiology at the University of Amsterdam and the University of Leiden. Between 2005 and 2008 she was a Distinguished Visiting Scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, USA. She was the President of the Austrian Science Fund (2013-2015) and the Chair of the Executive Board of the German Aerospace Center (DLR) between 2015-2020. The asteroid “9826 Ehrenfreund 2114 T-3” bears her name.

Pascale Ehrenfreund, took up duty as IAF President at the IAC 2019 and announced her IAF Global Advocacy Agenda 2019 – 2022, focusing on supporting and facilitating global space governance, stimulating and propelling global space economy and influencing and fostering global space advocacy.



### **ALPER GEZERAVCI**

**First Turkish Astronaut**

**Turkish Space Agency Board Member**

**Turkish Space Command Coordination & Execution Director**

**F-16 & KC-135R Pilot**

**Türkiye**

Alper Gezeravcı graduated from the Electronics Engineering Department of the Air Force Academy in Istanbul and completed his master's degree at the US Air Force Institute of Technology.

Gezeravcı, who served as a fighter pilot in the Turkish Air Force, has more than 17 years of flight experience in many aircraft including the T-41, SF-260, T-37, T-38, F-5, KC-135 and F-16 fighter jets. Alper served as a captain pilot in Turkish Airlines for 7 years.

Gezeravcı became the first Turkish astronaut to go to space, the 275th astronaut to go to the International Space Station, and the 610th astronaut to reach space in human history. After successfully completing the space mission, he was assigned to the Turkish Space Command.

Interested in different sports, experienced in diving, sailing, rafting, and horseback riding.



### **ANIL KUMAR**

**IAF VP for Relations with International Organizations**

**Director, ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC)**

**Chief General Manager, Safe & Sustainable Space Operations Management India**

In 2022, he played a key role in establishing ISRO's System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operations Management (IS4OM). He has served as the ISRO team leader for the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC). He has also held leadership positions within IADC, including a two-year



tenure as Chair of the Working Group on Mitigation and his current role as Chair of IADC for the 2023–2024 term.

Dr. Kumar is a Member of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) and a Fellow of the Aeronautical Society of India. Additionally, he is affiliated with the Astronomical Society of India (ASI), the Society of Satellite Professionals International (SSPI), and the Indian Society of Systems for Science and Engineering (ISSE).

He earned a Master of Science and a Master of Philosophy, both in Mathematics. He also completed a Master of Science and a Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India. Additionally, he is a graduate of the Space Studies Program (2007) at the International Space University.



## **EYTAN STIBBE**

**AX-1 Astronaut, Rakia Mission  
Israel**

In April 2022, Eytan Stibbe was a crew member of the Ax-1 first commercial astronaut crew to the International Space Station together with former NASA astronaut Michael Lopez-Alegria, Larry Connor and Mark Pathy. Eytan created the Rakia Mission in space, which was assembled in collaboration between the Israeli private and public sectors.

As the founding partner of Vital Capital, he has been involved with investing in developing countries for over 30 years and is considered a driving force behind the Impact model for investment in infrastructure development. He has professional experience working across a variety of sectors, including rural and urban communities, education, air traffic control, healthcare and utilities.

Eytan Stibbe lives in Israel, is a member of the World Economic Forum, a governor and board member at several universities and NGOs and is dedicated to supporting the mission of the Israel Space Forum.

## **Panel C – How to Embrace Emerging Countries in the Global Space Endeavor?**

**Moderator:**



## **AARTI HOLLA-MAINI**

**Director  
UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)**

Dr. Holla-Maini brings over 25 years of experience in the space and satellite sector, working predominantly with international organizations and regulators. Prior to the United Nations, she held the post of Secretary-General of the Global Satellite Operators Association.

Dr. Holla-Maini is a recognized leader with a strong track record in forging public-private and cross-sector partnerships; high-level advocacy at the international level; strategic communication and managing diverse stakeholders. Under her leadership, Dr. Holla-Maini expanded the association

from being a regional organization to a global one representing commercial satellite operators around the world.

## Panel Speakers:



### **MICHAL BRICHTA**

**IAF VP for Global Membership Development and Financial Matters**  
**Director, Slovak Space Office, Industry Branch**  
**Slovak Republic**

Michal Brichta works as the Director of the Slovak Space Office - Industry Branch operating within the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency. He is also the Slovak Delegate to the Council of the European Space Agency and a Vice President of the International Astronautical Federation. He is an active supporter of the democratisation of space and the involvement of new players in the sector both on global and European levels.



### **LISA VITARIS**

**Interim CEO | Director, IAC 2025 Sydney**  
**Space Industry Association of Australia (SIAA)**  
**Australia**

Lisa is Interim CEO and Director, IAC 2025 Sydney at Space Industry Association of Australia.

Lisa was previously part of the Executive Leadership team and Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) and at two high growth companies. Her experience spans technology, telecommunications, financial services, automotive, and travel including brands such as amaysim (Optus), Tyro, CMC Markets, Hyundai, Tourism Tasmania, Volvo, and LG.

Lisa serves on the Board of Engineers Australia, Australia's national engineering body with 120,000+ members.



### **JORGE SKINNER-KLÉE ARENALES**

**Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Guatemala**

Prior to his latest appointment as Guatemala's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in September 2016, Mr. Skinner-Klee was his country's Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg, and Chief of Mission to the European Union from 2012. Between 2008 and 2012, he was the country's Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States.

Mr. Skinner-Klee holds a licentiate degree in juridical and social sciences from Rafael Landivar University in Guatemala, a master's degree in international law from Columbia University in New York, and a diploma in international relations from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C.



## **ASANDA NTISANA**

**Space & Stakeholder Liaison Specialist  
South African National Space Agency (SANSA)  
South Africa**

Asanda Ntisana is the Space & Stakeholder Liaison Specialist at the South African National Space Agency (SANSA) managing SANSA's stakeholders locally and abroad. She has recently been appointed as the Acting Managing Director: Earth Observations at SANSA.

She is South Africa's Assistant National Contact Point for the Space Thematic Areas under the Digital, Industry & Space theme of the European Union Framework Programme for Research Development and Innovation, Horizon Europe (HE). She is a member of the South African National Earth Observations and Space Secretariat (NEOSS) Strategic Advisory Committee that has been established by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI).

She has a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Mathematics; and is an alumna of the Institute of Space and Software Applications (ISSA) also known as Houwteq having majored in Data Networks. She enrolled at the UCT SpaceLab completing courses in Space Policy, Space & Society, Space Applications for Sustainable Development, Space Mission Design and Analysis and Space technology.



## **SERGIO MARCHISIO**

**IAF General Counsel  
Professor, Sapienza University of Rome  
Chairman, European Centre for Space Law (ECSL)  
Italy**

Sergio Marchisio is Professor of International Law and Space Law at Sapienza University of Rome. Chairman of the European Centre for Space Law at the European Space Agency (ECSL/ESA). Member of the Advisory Council of the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI). Member of Board of Directors of the International Institute for Space Law (IISL). In 2018-19, appointed Member of the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Practical Measures for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (GGE on PAROS, UNGA Resolution 72/250).

Since 1997, Italian delegate to the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) where he served as Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee (2004-2006), and Delegate to the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of the Outer Space Activities (LTS 2010-2018) where he acted as Co-chair of Expert Group D (Regulatory Frameworks).



#### 4. SUMMARY OF THE IAF SYMPOSIUM 2025 PANEL A - “HOW TO ENGAGE POLITICAL DECISION-MAKERS IN THE SPACE DEBATE?”

IAF Executive Director **Christian Feichtinger** moderated the panel, guiding discussions on best practices for engaging political leaders in meaningful space dialogue.

**Heriberto Saldívar** (Head of Strategy, ESA) opened the panel by answering the question about the key strategies to ensure political decision-makers remain committed to long-term space investments, even in times of economic and geopolitical challenges. Saldívar emphasized ESA’s long-term investment strategy, highlighting initiatives like Strategy 2040 and Voyage 2050. He underscored ESA’s geographical return model, which ensures that member states’ investments benefit local industries. ESA’s leadership in Earth observation and timing technologies was noted, with a strong focus on public engagement to demonstrate space’s tangible benefits.

**Angelina Bekasova** (Ministry of Economics, Latvia) stressed the need for better communication on space’s relevance to non-experts answering the question on where she, as a political decision-maker, gets up to date information about space-related issues. She added that while institutions like ESA and UNCOPUOS provide formal information, social media plays a significant role. She compared the overwhelming amount of space data to a “tsunami” that deters engagement, calling for a shift toward linking space to everyday issues like digitalization and economic benefits.

**Jacek Jaśkowiak** (Mayor of Poznań) highlighted the economic and educational benefits of hosting the 78<sup>th</sup> International Astronautical Congress in 2027 in Poznań, Poland. He advocated for treating space as a long-term investment rather than a short-term political issue and emphasized mayors’ role in promoting space initiatives at the municipal level.

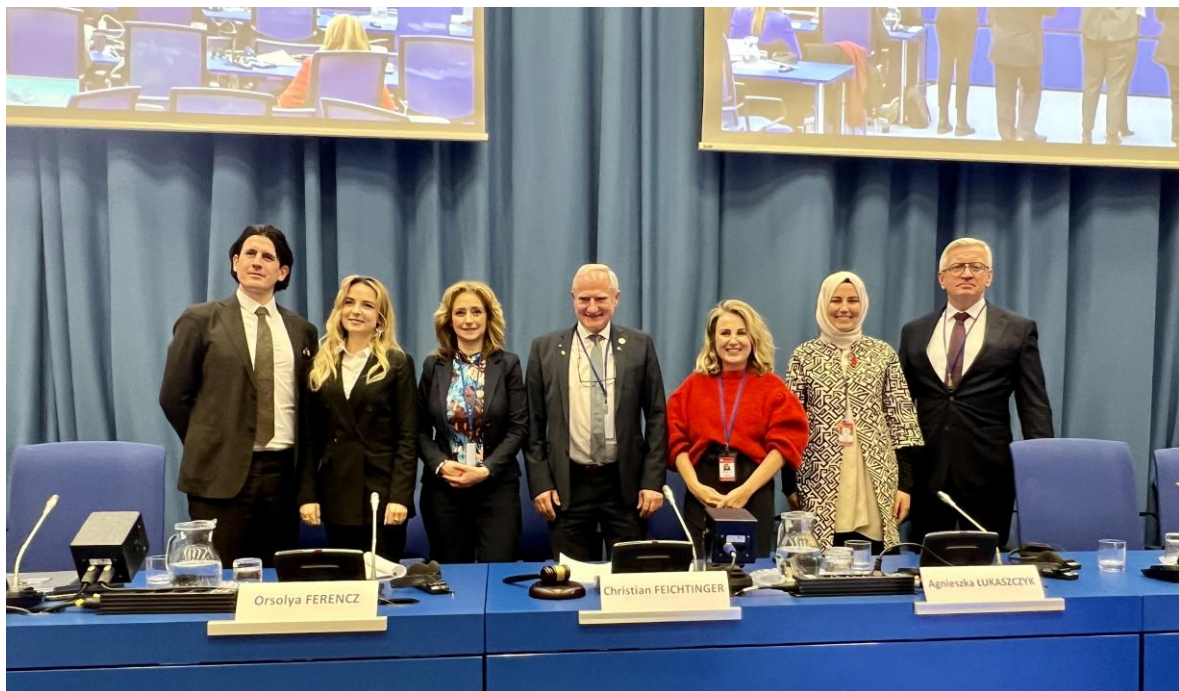
**Zeynep Yildiz** (Member of Parliament, Türkiye) emphasized Türkiye’s increasing ambitions in space activities, particularly ahead of the 77<sup>th</sup> International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026) in Antalya. She highlighted the importance of teamwork among government, industry, and academia in driving sustainable space initiatives. Türkiye has developed its national space programme, which includes two astronauts and advancements like Earth observation satellites and communication systems. Yildiz advocates for enhanced parliamentary diplomacy to address challenges in space law, stressing the need for a common international framework to ensure security and sustainability in space exploration. She noted that the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) offers a valuable platform for fostering such diplomacy.

**Orsolya Ferencz** (Ministerial Commissioner, Hungary) discussed Hungary’s evolving space strategy since joining ESA in 2015. Talking about what platforms or diplomatic approaches have been most successful in engaging with European and global space actors, she highlighted Hungary’s increased investment in ESA programs, its National Space Strategy (2021), and the Hungarian National Astronaut Program (HUNOR), emphasizing space diplomacy and international cooperation.

**Agnieszka Łukaszczyk** (Founder & CEO, HiAlTitude Consulting) addressed the communication gap between the space sector and policymakers. She emphasized the need for clear, relatable

narratives that connect space initiatives to societal benefits like security and infrastructure. She also noted the geopolitical importance of space, especially in regions facing challenges.

**Christian Feichtinger summarized key takeaways: the need for long-term strategies, effective communication with non-experts, stronger ties between space and digitalization, and teamwork in space diplomacy. The discussion reinforced the importance of making space relevant to the public and decision-makers alike.**





### 5. SUMMARY OF THE IAF SYMPOSIUM 2025 PANEL B - “HOW TO SECURE GENERAL PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR SPACE?”

The second panel, moderated by **Nikol Koleva**, Executive Director of the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), explored the critical role of public engagement in supporting space initiatives. Nikol highlighted the ongoing challenge of effectively communicating the value of space applications in order to secure public and private funding.

**Anil Kumar** (Director of ISTRAC, IAF VP) emphasized that public awareness of space’s relevance is crucial, as many people fail to recognize how space exploration benefits their daily lives. Engaging the public through relatable missions - such as those featuring well-known astronauts or addressing significant topics like asteroid protection - can spark interest. For instance, India’s Chandrayaan-3 mission captivated millions, demonstrating how public enthusiasm can influence government priorities and space funding. Kumar also highlighted citizen science initiatives as a powerful way to deepen public involvement, suggesting that if people understood that Earth might be humanity’s only home, they would prioritize its preservation.

**Alper Gezeravcı** (First Turkish Astronaut) stressed that public engagement is essential for securing funding, particularly since space programs rely on taxpayer money. Long-term commitment, innovation, talent attraction, and private-sector involvement all hinge on sustained public interest. He pointed to SpaceX as an example, noting how public excitement fuels investment and financial support. Türkiye is prioritizing space exploration as a key component of its national identity and global standing under President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. The country’s achievements in space are closely tied to advancements in science and technology, generating national pride and bolstering public support for future initiatives.

Experts also underscored the importance of inspiring younger generations, particularly in STEM fields, to cultivate a future workforce capable of sustaining the space sector. **Pascale Ehrenfreund** (President of COSPAR, IAF Past President) emphasized that scientists must communicate complex ideas in accessible ways to foster excitement and engagement.

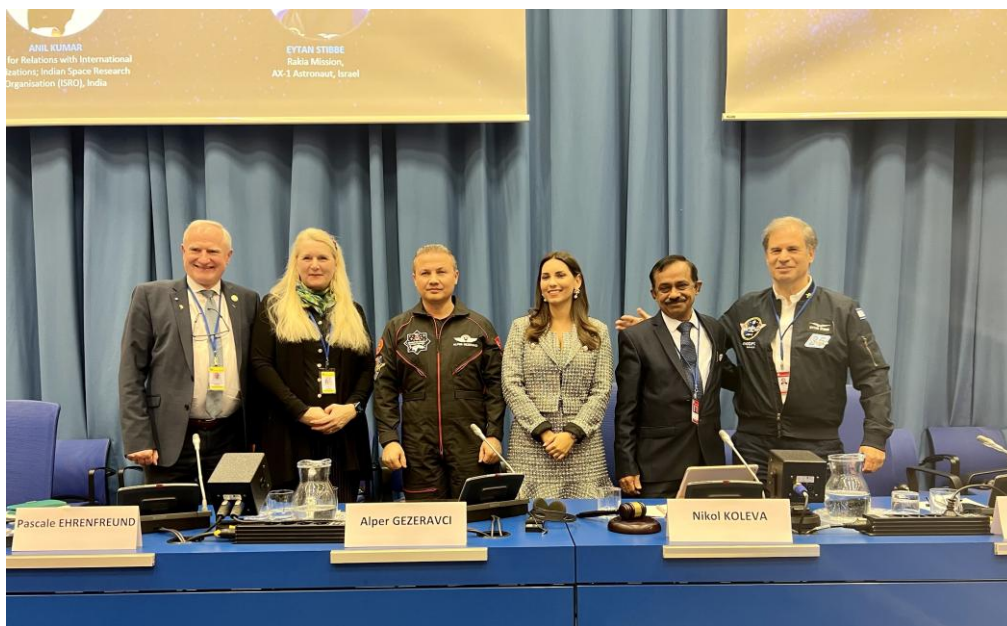
**Eytan Stibbe** (AX-1 Mission Astronaut) added that business leaders increasingly seek purpose beyond profit, citing Israel’s astronaut program, which engaged the public through educational initiatives and competitions. He argued that space exploration should integrate diverse disciplines, including literature and the arts, to maximize its inspirational impact.

The discussion highlighted the growing relevance of space across multiple fields, particularly psychology’s role in managing failure during high-stakes missions. **Anil Kumar** noted the emotional impact of Chandrayaan-3, which united public support and inspired the younger generation, leading to the emergence of over 300 startups in India’s space sector. He also referenced ISRO’s outreach initiatives, which educate diverse communities about space achievements in their local languages.

The panelists reiterated the importance of public engagement and effective communication in fostering support for space programs. **Alper Gezeravcı** shared his experience of reaching over

200,000 children in Türkiye through extensive conferences, illustrating how astronauts serve as symbols of hope and inspiration.

**The discussion concluded with a call to action to make space exploration more accessible and relatable, especially for younger generations. Panelists urged the public to recognize how space impacts daily life and the future of humanity, emphasizing the need to strengthen communication and engagement across all sectors of society.**





### 6. SUMMARY OF THE IAF SYMPOSIUM 2025 PANEL C: “HOW TO EMBRACE EMERGING COUNTRIES IN THE GLOBAL SPACE ENDEAVOUR?”

The third panel of the IAF Symposium, moderated by **Aarti Holla-Maini**, Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), focused on integrating developing and emerging countries into global space efforts. The discussion showcased inclusive strategies that empower all nations to participate in the space sector, particularly those with limited resources.

**Michal Brichta** (Director of the Slovak Space Office, IAF VP) emphasized that rather than simply encouraging countries to join organizations like IAF or COPUOS, the focus should be on understanding their unique needs and demonstrating how engagement can align with their national goals. He highlighted initiatives such as the IAF Envoy Programme, which helps underrepresented nations connect with the global space community, facilitating their participation and development.

A compelling example came from **Jorge Skinner-Klée Arenales** (Ambassador of Guatemala) about Guatemala’s launch of Quetzal 1, its first satellite, through international collaboration – despite the country not being a COPUOS member at the time of the launch. This success story illustrates how academic and global cooperation can drive space initiatives in emerging nations.

**Asanda Ntisana** (Space & Stakeholder Liaison Specialist at SANSa, IAF VP) shared insights on Africa’s aspirations for self-reliance in space. She highlighted the establishment of the African Space Agency and the African Space Council, though these institutions have yet to convene. Affordable data access, which she described as a critical barrier to Africa’s development, remains a major challenge. She called on the global community to address “data hoarding,” where high costs limit developing nations’ ability to access and utilize satellite data for essential services like agriculture, disaster management, and infrastructure planning.

**Lisa Vitaris** (Interim CEO of SIAA & Director of IAC 2025) provided an example of how international collaboration can benefit national space ecosystems. She noted that hosting IAC 2025 in Sydney builds on the legacy of past events, contributing to the creation of the Australian Space Agency, increased industry visibility, and greater public engagement. She underscored that developing countries attending IAC 2025 would have access to world-class research, high-tech industry networking, and discussions on critical topics such as disaster management and smart cities, fostering collaboration on shared challenges.

**Sergio Marchisio** (Chairman of ECSL, IAF General Counsel) highlighted three key areas that are essential for integrating emerging countries into the global space sector: benefit, inclusion, and partnership. He emphasized that to engage new countries in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), the focus should be on building their internal capacities rather than simply extending invitations. For emerging nations, adopting a partnership approach to space projects is crucial. Aligning their national priorities with those of developed countries can foster deeper collaboration and maximize mutual benefits. He also pointed out that the Declaration of Principles on International Cooperation in Outer Space needs reevaluation to ensure that it better reflects the



contemporary challenges faced by nations today. In addition, he mentioned that while the Artemis Accords stress the importance of space law, its practical implementation remains a complex challenge that needs to be addressed for more inclusive participation.

The discussion also addressed the challenge of convincing policymakers in emerging nations to prioritize space initiatives. Panelists identified two major obstacles: the perception that space investments offer no immediate benefits, and the misconception that only large, established spacefaring nations can participate.

**To counter these concerns, panelists outlined key motivations for investment in space:**

- ✓ **Industrial Growth:** Space technologies create new markets and enhance existing industries, attracting traditional sectors such as machinery and software development.
- ✓ **Valuable Data:** Space-based resources support logistics, disaster response, and environmental monitoring, delivering concrete benefits to national development.
- ✓ **Talent Attraction:** The space sector serves as a magnet for young talent, fostering skills applicable to various technology-driven fields.

The conversation concluded by highlighting the mutual benefits of industry engagement with emerging space nations. Greater inclusivity in COPUOS membership and IAF initiatives was advocated as a means to enhance global cooperation in space governance.

Finally, panelists encouraged continued networking and dialogue, pointing to upcoming events like the IAF Global Space Exploration Conference (GLEX 2025) in New Delhi, India, the 76<sup>th</sup> International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2025) in Sydney, Australia, which will serve as key platforms for fostering collaboration and ensuring that all nations, regardless of size or resources, can participate in shaping the future of space exploration.



## 7. PHOTO GALLERY









## INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL FEDERATION

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# INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL FEDERATION

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