



**United Nations**  
Office for Outer Space Affairs



**INTERNATIONAL  
ASTRONAUTICAL  
FEDERATION**

**33RD UN/IAF WORKSHOP**

# **Space Economy Opportunities for Emerging Nations**

Advancing Socio-Economic Resilience through Space Technologies and Applications

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## **SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES**

**ANTALYA, TÜRKIYE | 3-4 OCTOBER 2026**



## DAY 1 – 3 OCTOBER 2026

### OPENING

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#### AARTI HOLLA-MAINI

*Director, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)*

Aarti Holla-Maini is Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). She has more than 25 years of experience in the space and satellite sector, including managerial and advocacy roles with international organizations and regulators. Before joining UNOOSA, she was Executive Vice-President for Sustainability, Policy and Impact at NorthStar Earth & Space. She studied law at King's College London and holds an MBA from HEC Paris.

#### GABRIELLA ARRIGO

*President, International Astronautical Federation (IAF)*

Gabriella Arrigo is President of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and Director of International Affairs at the Italian Space Agency (ASI). She has more than 30 years of experience in international space relations and policy, including bilateral and multilateral negotiations and cooperation agreements. She has served on Italian delegations to the European Space Agency and the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and received an IAF Distinguished Award in 2024.

### SETTING THE SCENE

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#### CHRISTIAN FEICHTINGER

*Executive Director, IAF*

Dr. Christian Feichtinger has served as Executive Director of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) since 2012. Previously, he was a senior adviser on exploration at the European Space Agency (ESA), headed ESA's permanent mission in the Russian Federation and represented the agency on human spaceflight and exploration in Moscow. He holds a PhD in space experimentation from Graz University of Technology.

#### FATIH DULKAN

*Vice President, Turkish Space Agency (TUA)*

Fatih Dulkan serves as the Vice President of the Turkish Space Agency (TUA) and previously headed its Launch Systems and Technologies Department, driving national space policies, rocket development, and domestic aerospace capabilities.

#### DRISS EL HADANI

*Deputy Director, UNOOSA*

Dr. Driss El Hadani is Deputy Director and Senior Adviser at the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). He has more than 30 years of experience in remote sensing and space technologies. He previously directed Morocco's Royal Centre for Remote Sensing and served as First Vice-President of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

### SESSION 1 · IMPACT ON ECONOMIC SECTORS

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#### Session chair: MATIAS CAMPOS

*Founder and CEO, Astralintu Space Technologies, Ecuador*

Matías Campos is an Ecuadorian engineer and space entrepreneur, and the founder and CEO of Astralintu Space Technologies, a Grupo Futuro company. Astralintu provides Ground Stations as a Service (GSaaS), expanding space access for emerging actors in Latin America and beyond. He is Vice-Chair of the IAF Committee on Connecting Emerging Space ecoSystems (IAF ACCESS). His leadership has earned an IAF Young Space Leader award and recognition in Forbes Ecuador's 30 Under 30.



## MUSTAPHA IDERAWUMI

*Senior Analyst, Space in Africa, Nigeria*

Mustapha Iderawumi is a Senior Analyst at Space in Africa, where he researches and values Africa's space economy. He has led major industry valuation studies, contributed to African Union research on the socio-economic benefits of Earth observation and satellite communications, and advised clients across several regions. His work also includes industry convening, market intelligence and mentoring young African space professionals.

## IOANA-MARIA PETRESCU

*Global Fellow, European Space Policy Institute, Romania*

Ioana-Maria Petrescu is a Global Fellow at the European Space Policy Institute and a former Minister of Finance of Romania. She holds a PhD in economics from Harvard University and has served as a Senior Research Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School and as a World Bank consultant. Her work connects space economics, public finance, sustainable development and the use of space-based data for public policy.

## NANDI MTETHWA

*Engagement Manager, RIIS, South Africa*

Nandi Mtethwa is an Engagement Manager at RIIS, working on Earth observation, geospatial innovation and space ecosystem development across Africa. She leads the Africa Earth Observation Challenge and has managed projects on disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and infrastructure planning. Her work includes developing flood-risk intelligence and the RIIS PIE model, which assesses impacts on people, infrastructure and the environment using satellite data.

## HAMDI DEMIR

*Satellite Communication Engineer, Türksat, Türkiye*

Hamdi Demir is a satellite communications engineer at Türksat, Türkiye's national satellite operator. He specializes in satellite system engineering, link-budget analysis and satellite communications project management. His work includes the design and technical evaluation of very-small-aperture-terminal, hub and gateway solutions, supporting government and commercial projects with a focus on resilient, reliable and efficient satellite networks.

## [Not present] AHMAD SOLEYMANI

*Head of Space Services Development, Iranian Space Research Center, Iran*

Ahmad Soleymani is Head of Space Services Development and Senior Specialist in Space Technology Commercialization at the Iranian Space Research Center. He manages the National Iranian Space Economy Platform and works on space industry development, policy and economics. He holds a PhD in space sciences and technology and advises organizations on technology commercialization, innovation and the development of space-based services.

## PITCH · SPACE APPLICATIONS

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## LA-QUITA GEORGE

*Founder, Mission 8, Trinidad and Tobago*

La-Quita George is the Founder of Mission 8 and researches the use of space-based technologies to address terrestrial challenges. She contributes to an IEEE working group on Earth observation for multi-hazard disaster management and has conducted research on coastal resilience. In 2024, she co-led a Space Generation Advisory Council study on the use of Earth observation during humanitarian crises, using the Beirut explosion as a case study.

## NEBILE PELIN MANTI

*Faculty Member, Department of Public International Law, Istanbul University Faculty of Law, Türkiye*

Dr. Nebile Pelin Manti is a faculty member in the Department of Public International Law at Istanbul University Faculty of Law and Chief Legal Officer of the AstroAid Foundation. Her expertise covers international humanitarian law, air and space law, space cybersecurity and the law of the sea. She completed doctoral research at Galatasaray University, was a visiting scholar at Leiden University and Harvard Law School, and undertook specialist training with UNOOSA, NATO, the ICRC and McGill University.



## PANEL 1 · SPACE APPLICATIONS

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### Panel moderator: DRISS EL HADANI

*[Please see details above]*

### HAWA UYO ABDULAI

*Assistant Chief Scientist, National Space Research and Development Agency, Nigeria*

Hawa Uyo Abdulai is a geospatial scientist in the Strategic Space Applications Department of Nigeria's space agency. With more than 10 years of experience, she applies space technology to water quality, water availability and resource-related conflict challenges. Her work has covered several transboundary basins in Africa and has contributed to peer-reviewed research on the use of geospatial tools for socio-economic development.

### FAMA JALLOW

*Head Aerospace Engineer, Hisia Space, Gambia*

Fama Jallow is Head of Aerospace and Data at Hisia Space, where she develops environmental data solutions combining Earth observation, climate and ground-based datasets. She holds a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering and a master's degree in mechanical engineering. She also serves as the Space Generation Advisory Council National Point of Contact for The Gambia and Africa Space Education Coordinator.

### SARDORJON SODIKJONOV

*International Relations Specialist, Center for Space Monitoring and Geoinformation Technologies, Uzcocosmos, Uzbekistan*

Sardorjon Sodikjonov is an International Relations Specialist at the Center for Space Monitoring and Geoinformation Technologies under Uzbekistan's Uzcocosmos Space Agency. He coordinates international cooperation initiatives and strategic partnerships in the space sector. His work promotes the use of satellite Earth observation and geospatial technologies to support sustainable development, public administration and collaboration between national and international institutions.

### BARBARA KWIATKOWSKA-MOTT

*Senior Expert, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Poland*

Barbara Urszula Kwiatkowska-Mott is a Senior Expert at Poland's Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, working on space programmes, innovation and the competitiveness of the national space sector. Her work supports the development of Poland's defence and space industries and focuses on practical applications of space technologies for resilience, including crisis management, environmental monitoring, infrastructure surveillance, agriculture and border security.

### ELEONORA LOMBARDI

*Head of Department, Fondazione E. Amaldi, Italy*

Eleonora Lombardi is Head of Department at Fondazione E. Amaldi, where she leads initiatives in international cooperation, technology transfer, space applications, entrepreneurship and capacity-building. Her previous experience includes roles at the European Space Agency, Eurisy and Consorzio Hypatia. She coordinates the Space Data Drive Initiative for Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and North Africa, promoting the use of space-derived data for sustainable development and evidence-based policymaking.

## SESSION 2 · COUNTRY PATHWAYS

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### Session chair: IAN GROSNER

*Head of the Legal Department, Brazilian Space Agency (AEB), Brazil*

Federal Attorney and Head of the Legal Department at the Brazilian Space Agency (AEB). Chair the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space within the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). Chair of the IAF Latin America and the Caribbean Subcommittee (IAF LAC-SC). Member of the International Institute of Space Law (IISL), Professor of Space Law, and author of books, chapters, and articles in space law.



## BIBI SARA KARIMULLAH

*Instructor, Department of Computer Science, Asian University for Women, Bangladesh*

Bibi Sara Karimullah is a Bangladeshi space systems engineer and science, technology, engineering and mathematics educator. She holds a bachelor's degree in computer science and engineering and was the first student from Bangladesh to graduate in space systems engineering. Through Space Exploration Olympiad Bangladesh, she has mentored more than 2,000 children. She is also undertaking astronaut training and advocates for accessible pathways into the space sector.

## MARÍA BELÉN BUSTAMANTE SÁENZ

*Executive Director, Sideralis Foundation, Ecuador*

María Belén Bustamante Sáenz is Executive Director of Fundación Sideralis, promoting space education and science, technology, engineering and mathematics among young people. She leads initiatives designed to develop Ecuador's future space talent and supports the foundation's ambition to place the Ecuadorian flag in space within the next decade. Her work emphasizes education and innovation as foundations for a national space economy.

## ANKIT KHANAL

*Student, University of Luxembourg, Nepal*

Ankit Khanal is a member of Nepal's National Space and Aeronautical Advisory Committee, contributing to national policy and multilateral cooperation. Recognized as an International Astronautical Federation Emerging Space Leader, he advocates for capacity-building and equitable governance in emerging space nations. He is pursuing a master's degree at the University of Luxembourg, where his research connects grassroots collaboration, space law and socio-economic resilience across the Global South.

## PANEL 2 · CUBESATS

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### Panel moderator: CRAIG BURKHARD

*Deputy Director, NASA Small Spacecraft Systems Virtual Institute, USA*

Craig D. Burkhard is Deputy Director of NASA's Small Spacecraft Systems Virtual Institute (S3VI), where he supports the institute's technical and programme activities. His NASA experience includes the Asteroid Threat Assessment Project and the development of small satellite and International Space Station payloads. He builds collaborations with international organizations and coordinates tools, reports and databases for the S3VI Web Portal, which shares SmallSat knowledge with NASA and the wider small spacecraft community.

### LEILA NAHIRI

*Research Engineer, University Center for Research in Space Technologies (CURTS), Morocco*

Leila Nahiri is a Moroccan telecommunications engineer and researcher specializing in space communications and reconfigurable nanosatellite systems. She holds a PhD in space telecommunications and has contributed to the development, launch and in-orbit operation of Morocco's university nanosatellites. Her work covers software-defined radio, field-programmable gate array payloads, space-based aircraft and maritime tracking, and satellite-enabled monitoring and communications for Internet of Things and machine-to-machine applications.

### FIRAS JARRAR

*Dean of School of Engineering, Al Hussein Technical University, Jordan*

Firas Jarrar is Dean of the School of Engineering Technology at Al Hussein Technical University and a space technology specialist. He previously managed the Yahsat Space Lab, supervising the DhabiSat and Light-1 CubeSats. He now leads the university's Al-Rhim Sat CubeSat initiative, which received a United Nations launch opportunity, and developed the CubeSat Wizard software. His work was featured at Expo 2020 Dubai.

### JOSE ALBERTO MARTINEZ MUNGUÍA

*Researcher and Mathematics Professor, Key Institute, El Salvador*

Jose Alberto Martinez Munguia is a mathematics professor and researcher at Key Institute in El Salvador. He is a core team member of Misión CAREY, the country's first university CubeSat mission, selected for the ninth round of the United Nations-Japan KiboCUBE programme. His work focuses on space policy, project management and data science. He holds a master's degree in data science from the University of Texas at Austin.



## NDUKAYO ZAMBA LEONEL BAKEAPAI

*Assistant Director for Space Services, National Communication Authority, South Sudan*

Ndukayo Zamba Leonel Bakeapai is Assistant Director for Space Services at South Sudan's National Communication Authority and an adjunct lecturer at the University of Juba. He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a master's degree in space systems engineering. He contributed to several CubeSat missions at Kyushu Institute of Technology and is advancing hands-on CubeSat training toward South Sudan's first satellite.

## PITCH · CUBESATS

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### FRANCO MILAN MORALES ALBARRACIN

*Student, Universidad Católica Boliviana San Pablo, Bolivia*

Franco Milan Morales Albarracin is a mechatronics engineering student in Bolivia, President of the IEEE student branch at the Bolivian Catholic University and a Scientific Society Coordinator. He has supported research projects and is an intern at the Bolivian Space Agency. As a member of the electrical power systems team for Wakiri-Sat, he contributes to the development of practical aerospace capabilities and student-led innovation.

### EDEN ABESELOM HABTESLASIE

*Space engineer and researcher, Space Science and Geospatial Institute (SSGI), Ethiopia*

Eden Abeselom Habteslasie is a space engineer and researcher at Ethiopia's Space Science and Geospatial Institute. She has more than five years of experience in aerospace research, including the ETRSS-1 and ETRSS-2 satellite missions and the ShakthiSAT dynamics team. She holds a bachelor's degree in electrical and computer engineering and a master's degree in space engineering, and leads an African working group within the IAF/IAA/IISL ACHA.

### SISTI CARIAH

*Director General, Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology, United Republic of Tanzania*

Dr. Sisti Paul Cariah is Director General of the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology and a Tanzanian aerospace and systems engineer. He has more than 30 years of experience in aerospace engineering, information technology and strategic planning. As Principal Investigator for Tanzania's first satellite mission under the UNOOSA/JAXA KiboCUBE programme, he has helped advance space technology, engineering and institutional capacity development in Africa.

## PANEL 3 · CIVIL SOCIETY AND EDUCATION

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### Panel moderator: ANDREW MARCHETTI

*Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement Officer, UNOOSA*

Andrew Marchetti is the Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement Officer at the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). He manages communications and partnerships with UN Member States and supports diplomatic engagement and donor funding. Before joining the UN in 2022, he worked for the UK Mission to the UN on the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and held roles at the UK Delegation to the OSCE.

### ANA MARÍA SEGURA PAZ

*Executive Director, Paz Space, Colombia*

Ana María Segura Paz is an economist and international negotiator specializing in the space economy, aerospace policy and inclusive innovation. She founded Asociación Paz Space, a Colombian platform connecting vulnerable communities, Indigenous peoples, minorities and persons with disabilities to high-technology value chains. Her research covers space governance, spectrum management and competitiveness in emerging nations. Her contributions include international astronautical publications and a NASA guidebook.



## IRA SHARMA

*Student, Macquarie University, Nepal*

Ira Sharma is a mechanical engineering student at Macquarie University with interests in space technology, engineering design, global science, technology, engineering and mathematics outreach and space diplomacy. As Nepal Country Ambassador for Mission ShaktiSAT, a female-led lunar satellite initiative involving participants from more than 100 countries, she mentors students, leads outreach activities and represents Nepal internationally while advocating for greater inclusion and opportunity in the global space sector.

## MARTINA BELEN ELIA VITOLONI

*Doctoral Candidate and Research Assistant, McGill University Institute of Air and Space Law / ConstelAR, Argentina*

Martina Belen Elia Vitoloni is a doctoral candidate at McGill University's Institute of Air and Space Law and a licensed attorney in Argentina. Her research focuses on space governance, international responsibility and liability for lunar activities. She heads the Legal Department at ConstelAR and serves as Research Chair of the Latin American Air and Space Law Group, supporting legal and policy frameworks for Latin America's space sector.

## FIGORELLA MARÍA ARIAS BONILLA

*Executive Director, Costa Rican Association of Aeronautics, Science, Engineering and Space (ACACIE), Costa Rica*

Fiorella María Arias Bonilla is a biotechnology engineer and Executive Director of the Costa Rican Association of Aeronautics, Science, Engineering and Space. Her work spans space applications, science diplomacy, innovation policy and sustainable development. She has contributed to Costa Rica's bioeconomy policy, represented youth through international initiatives, and led national capacity-building, institutional partnerships and the first Costa Rica Space Day.

## FARHAN ASRAR

*Associate Dean, Faculty Member and Researcher, Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada*

Farhan Asrar is a Canadian physician, educator and researcher working at the intersection of clinical medicine, public health and space medicine. He serves as Associate Dean at Toronto Metropolitan University's School of Medicine and holds faculty appointments at the University of Toronto and the International Space University. His work focuses on space-for-health applications, interdisciplinary education and translating space-related knowledge into health-system and socio-economic benefits.

## PITCH · EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

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## TIMOTHY KUDZANAYI KUHAMBA

*Head Space Science Department, Zimbabwe National Geospatial and Space Agency, Zimbabwe*

Timothy Kudzanayi Kuhamba is Head of the Space Science Department at the Zimbabwe National Geospatial and Space Agency. He was one of three space systems engineers who built ZIMSAT-1, Zimbabwe's first satellite. His work covers space science, Earth observation, space weather, geospatial technologies and artificial intelligence in space education. He has promoted space education in Zimbabwe since 2014 and authored Stellar Aspirations: Transforming a Space Dream into Reality.

## CHIDERA ANASTACIA IKEH

*Student Intern, National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA), Nigeria*

Chidera Anastacia Ikeh is an aerospace engineering student at Lagos State University and an intern at Nigeria's National Space Research and Development Agency. Known as Nigeria's Moon Girl, she founded Dera Speaks, a platform that encourages young Africans to pursue opportunities in space and science, technology, engineering and mathematics. She aspires to become Nigeria's first female astronaut and to carry the national flag to the Moon.

## JEANNE HOLM

*Chair, Board of Trustees, Claremont Graduate University, United States of America*

Jeanne Holm chairs the Board of Trustees of Claremont Graduate University and teaches at the University of California, Los Angeles. She previously served as Deputy Mayor for Finance and Innovation of Los Angeles, led open-data initiatives for the United States Government and the World Bank, and was Chief Knowledge Architect at NASA. She also founded Open Data Collaboratives to promote technology, education and social equity.



## DAY 2 – 4 OCTOBER 2026

### PANEL 4 · PATHWAYS TO SCALE UP

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#### **Panel moderator: NATHALIE RICARD**

*Scientific Affairs Officer, UNOOSA*

Nathalie Ricard is a Scientific Affairs Officer at the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), where she manages initiatives on space applications and astronomy. She previously worked on satellite telecommunications and navigation, managing the Iris programme at the European Space Agency and developing EGNOS services at the European GNSS Agency.

#### **ZAHRA IMANOVA**

*Associate, SABAH.HUB, Azerbaijan*

Zahra Imanova is an associate at SABAH.HUB, a leading innovation centre in the Caucasus region, and communicates space technology to wider audiences. Through the online platform zahrakosmosda.com, she supports women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and encourages future innovators to engage with emerging technologies and the space sector.

#### **VICTOR TADEU RIBEIRO BAPTISTA**

*CEO, Ideia Space, Brazil*

Victor Tadeu Ribeiro Baptista is an aerospace engineer, entrepreneur and Chief Executive Officer of Ideia Space. His experience spans satellite development, commercial strategy, institutional governance and regional ecosystem-building. He previously worked at the Brazilian Space Agency on education and innovation initiatives and helped design the strategic plan for the Brasília Space Hub. His technical work has included the Serpens, Gliosat and AlfaCrux satellite projects.

#### **PARAGJYOTI GARG**

*Assistant Director, Safety and Security, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe), India*

Paragjyoti Garg is Assistant Director for Safety and Security at the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre. He conducts technical due diligence for space startups under the Technology Adoption Fund and contributes to regulatory frameworks for India's commercial space sector. He drafted national Safety and Security Guidelines for Space Activities, leads India's delegation to ISO/TC 20/SC 14, and previously worked at ISRO in reliability and risk assessment.

#### **ŽAKLIN BUTINAR**

*Interim Secretary General, Eurisy, Slovenia*

Žaklin Butinar is Interim Secretary General of Eurisy, where she works to connect space services with non-space users, including public authorities, businesses, emergency services and citizens. She leads stakeholder engagement and supports the adoption of Earth observation, satellite navigation and communications in sectors such as agriculture, disaster response and maritime management. Her work also includes documenting user cases and building cross-border partnerships for space-based services.

#### **PHILIP RAJEETH THOMAS**

*Head of ScaleUp Division, European Space Agency*

Philip Rajeeth Thomas is Head of the ScaleUp Division at the European Space Agency. He has led specialist teams developing multidisciplinary approaches to commercially and technically de-risk future space infrastructure and support policy and investment decisions. He previously served as Deputy Director for Space Programmes, Investment and Sector Policy in the United Kingdom Government and as Deputy Director for Investment Finance in the Scottish Government.



## PITCH · ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

### YANKHO LIKAKU

*Engagement Manager, RIIS, Malawi*

Yankho Likaku is an Engagement Manager at RIIS, working on space ecosystem development, innovation strategy and the application of space technologies for socio-economic development. He has led pan-African assessments of space innovation ecosystems, including work in Rwanda and Kenya, and has coordinated stakeholder engagement, workshops and strategic analysis. His experience also covers Earth observation, space governance and collaboration with governments, academia, startups and development partners.

### ESTEBAN FRETES RUIZ DIAZ

*Director of Research Projects, Paraguayan Space Agency (AEP), Paraguay*

Esteban Fretes Ruiz Diaz is Director of Research Projects at the Paraguayan Space Agency and Project Manager of GuaraniSat-2, Paraguay's second satellite mission. He holds a master's degree in space systems engineering from the Kyushu Institute of Technology in Japan. His work focuses on CubeSat development, systems engineering and strengthening national space capabilities through international research, collaboration and capacity-building initiatives.

### NAZMELİS ZENGİN

*Corporate Communications Director, Turkish Space Agency, Türkiye*

Nazmelis Zengin is Director of Corporate Communications at the Turkish Space Agency and a political communication specialist. She studied anthropology and journalism at Istanbul University, received specialized training in international relations at Lebanese American University and is pursuing a master's degree in political communication at Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University. She previously worked in technology and economics journalism and writes on space power, defence innovation and Türkiye's geopolitical position.

### RANI MESELE

*General Manager, Africa Aeronautics and Organization (NGO), Ethiopia*

Rani Mesele is General Manager of the Africa Aeronautics and Astronautics Center and has more than eight years of experience in space education, science, technology, engineering and mathematics outreach and capacity-building. She has worked with the Ethiopian Space Science Society on astronomy outreach and citizen science, founded Empower Her to support women and underrepresented groups in STEM, and promotes youth engagement and space technologies for sustainable development.

## SESSION 3 · COOPERATION

### Session chair: AYHAN İNCİRCİ

*Director General of External Relations and Legal Affairs, Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO)*

Dr. Ayhan İncirci is Director General of External Relations and Legal Affairs at the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) in Beijing. He founded and formerly led the International Relations Department at the Turkish Space Agency and lectures at Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University. He also serves as Co-Chair of the IAF Committee for Liaison with International Organisations and Developing Nations (IAF CLIODN), promoting international cooperation and capacity-building for emerging space nations.

### MASANORI MUTO

*Chief Research Manager / Frontier Strategy Group Leader, Mitsubishi Research Institute, Japan*

Masanori Muto is Chief Research Manager and Frontier Strategy Group Leader at Mitsubishi Research Institute. With 19 years of experience, he leads large-scale government programmes and multi-stakeholder initiatives involving satellite data, disaster response, maritime domain awareness, autonomous ships and artificial intelligence governance. He has supported Japan's participation in the International Charter Space and Major Disasters and received the 2023 Japan Open Innovation Prize for work on autonomous ships.



## **RODION IMMEL**

*Regulatory Matters and International Organisations Liaison Manager, International Organization of Space Communications (Intersputnik), Russian Federation*

Rodion Immel is Regulatory Matters and International Organisations Liaison Manager at Intersputnik, specializing in international cooperation, satellite communications regulation and spectrum management. He contributes to International Telecommunication Union activities and handbooks on satellite communications and sustainable frequency and orbit use. He also serves on several International Astronautical Federation committees and coordinates capacity-building initiatives for young professionals from developing countries.

## **ABDELRAHMAN ELSHORBGE**

*Electronic Systems Engineer, Egyptian Space Agency, Egypt*

Abdelrahman Elshorbge is an electronic systems engineer at the Egyptian Space Agency, specializing in satellite electronics, payload development and space-qualified hardware. He has contributed to missions including MisrSat-2, SPNEX, the ClimCam payload and a lunar payload for the Chang'E-7 mission. His work covers hardware design, printed circuit boards, system integration, environmental qualification and technical coordination for multinational Earth observation and scientific missions.

## **PARIPAT PAIRAT**

*Satellite Engineer, GISTDA, Thailand*

Paripat is an aerospace engineer specialising in satellite Attitude Determination and Control Systems (ADCS). She joined the THEOS-2A satellite development team in 2019 to oversee the ADCS hardware system testing and now serves as ADCS Hardware Lead and Systems Engineer for GISTDA's THEOS-3 satellite, currently being built in Thailand. In addition to her engineering excellence, she is also interested in Thailand's space sector human resources development by researching technical and soft skills requirements for satellite engineers.

## **BEZA TESFAYE ZEWDIE**

*Co-Founder and CEO, Panafric Space Technologies PLC, Ethiopia*

Beza Tesfaye Zewdie is Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Ethiopian Space Science Society and previously served as its Managing Director. She is Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Panafric Space, an Earth observation and geospatial company applying satellite data and artificial intelligence across African markets. Her work connects policy, technology and capacity-building while promoting space sustainability, equitable access and the development of future space leaders.

## **PITCH · COOPERATION**

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## **TEJPAUL BHATIA**

*CEO, Nebex, United States of America*

Tejpaul Bhatia is Founder and CEO of Nebex, a market infrastructure company for the space economy. As CEO of Axiom Space, he led early sovereign government purchases of commercial missions to the International Space Station. A three-time startup founder, he has also held leadership roles at Google, Citi Ventures and ESPN, where he worked on digital and international expansion. He holds a degree in computer science from Columbia University.

## **SYED MUHAMMAD MIQDAD MEHDI**

*Postdoc fellow, South China University of Technology, Pakistan*

Dr. Miqdad Mehdi is a postdoctoral researcher at the South China University of Technology, with a strong academic focus on space policy, space governance, and sustainable development of the space sector. He has published high-quality research in leading journals, contributing to contemporary debates on space regulation, governance frameworks, and policy development. His work reflects a strong commitment to advancing evidence-based and sustainable approaches to the rapidly evolving global space industry.



## KEYNOTE

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### HUADONG GUO

*Director General, International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS), China*

Huadong Guo is Director General of the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals and a professor at the Chinese Academy of Sciences Aerospace Information Research Institute. An Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Fellow of the World Academy of Sciences and International Science Council, he leads international initiatives in digital Earth, big data and space technologies for sustainable development.

## PITCH · REGULATION

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### BENGISU TÜRKMEN

*Law Student, Social Sciences University of Ankara, Türkiye*

Bengisu Türkmen is a fourth-year law student at the Social Sciences University of Ankara with interests in commercial, competition and space law. Her academic work examines the commercialization of outer space, market concentration, competition and orbital sustainability. She serves on the board of a student society focused on competition and regulation and participates in a space law organization, engaging with emerging legal issues in the space sector.

### GAIA BARONI

*Lawyer, PedersoliGattai, Italy*

Gaia Baroni is an international tax lawyer at PedersoliGattai in Milan and a member of the firm's Space Economy department. She specializes in international taxation and researches fiscal frameworks for the space sector. Her work includes publications on space tax policy and comparative analysis of taxation approaches relevant to the development of the space economy.

### FARAH DIYA YASMINE

*Legislative Drafter, Secretariat General of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, Indonesia*

Farah Diya Yasmine is an Indigenous Madurese legislative drafter at the Secretariat General of the House of Representatives of Indonesia. She founded Farah Law School and served as 2025 Co-Chair of the Lunar Environmental Protection Working Group of the Global Expert Group on Sustainable Lunar Activities. Recognized as a 2025 IAF Emerging Space Leader and TEDx speaker, she promotes peaceful and sustainable space governance and Indigenous inclusion in space law.

## SESSION 4 · NATIONAL STRATEGIES

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### Session chair: MARLÈNE MICHÈLE LOSIER

*Principal, Losier & González, PLLC, USA*

Dr. Marlène M. Losier is Principal of Losier & González, PLLC in Washington, D.C., and advises public and private clients on space policy, the United Nations treaty system and domestic legislation. Her legal work also covers sovereign immunity, jurisdiction, international litigation and dispute resolution. She is Vice-Chair of the IAF Committee for Liaison with International Organisations and Developing Nations (IAF CLIODN) and has an academic background in government and social anthropology.

### MOSEBETSI KHOBOTLO

*Regulatory Market Access and Compliance Intern, Access Partnership, Lesotho*

Mosebetsi Khobotlo specializes in space governance and satellite communications policy. She holds a master's degree in global governance and diplomacy from the University of Oxford and has professional experience in market access, regulatory compliance and technology policy across several jurisdictions. Her interests include digital governance, telecommunications policy and the evolving space economy, particularly the role of regulatory infrastructure in expanding last-mile connectivity and supporting emerging space economies.



## SMITA FRANCIS

*Director, Namibia Institute of Space Technology, Namibia*

Smita Francis leads the Namibia Institute of Space Technology at the Namibia University of Science and Technology. She holds a doctorate in electrical engineering and a master's degree in business administration. Her work focuses on satellite systems, Earth observation, space science education and national capacity-building. She also promotes gender inclusion in engineering as founder of Namibia Women in Engineering and has received several international awards.

## JAMES JASON MURRAY

*Advisor and Executive Manager, Space, University of the Bahamas, Bahamas/Ireland*

James Jason Murray is an aerospace specialist with more than 30 years of experience in aviation, spaceflight and robotics. In the Bahamas, he is advancing national space initiatives and working with the University of The Bahamas to develop a small-satellite remote-sensing programme for climate monitoring. Nominated to lead the country's Commercial Space Office, he supports the development of a regulatory framework and local space industry.

## PANEL 5 · POLICY FRAMEWORKS

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### Panel moderator: DRISS EL HADANI

*[Please see details above]*

## DANIA ABIGAIL GONZÁLEZ RAUDA

*Member of the Legislative Assembly, Legislative Assembly of El Salvador, El Salvador*

Dania Abigail González Rauda is a Member of the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador and President of its Committee on Technology, Tourism and Investment. Her work focuses on digital transformation, emerging technologies, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, investment and regulatory modernization. She holds a degree in international relations, a master's degree in finance and financial markets, and postgraduate studies in national security and development.

## MELAHAT BILGE DEMIRKÖZ

*Director of METU İVMER and Member of the UN AI Panel, Middle East Technical University, Türkiye*

Melahat Bilge Demirköz is a professor of astroparticle physics at Middle East Technical University in Ankara. She studied at MIT and Oxford and worked at Cambridge, Barcelona and CERN. Her research covers particle detectors, radiation testing and analysis for the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer on the International Space Station. She directs the Center for Space and Accelerating Technologies and serves on the United Nations Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence.

## UTE REISINGER

*Senior Environmental and Social Development Specialist, World Bank Group*

Ute Reisinger is a Fulbright Fellow and environmental and social development specialist with more than 15 years of international experience in sustainability, development finance and policy. She has worked at the International Finance Corporation and the Inter-American Development Bank. Her current research explores how development finance institutions can support a safe, sustainable and inclusive space economy through financing, market creation, cooperation and environmental and social governance.

## ANH TUAN PHAM

*Founding Director General, Vietnam National Space Center, Viet Nam*

Anh Tuan Pham chairs the Space Science and Technology Council at the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology and is a Senior Researcher at the Vietnam National Space Center. He served as Director General of the Center from 2011 to March 2026 and led the Vietnam Space Center Project. He has contributed to the PicoDragon, NanoDragon, MicroDragon and LOTUSat Earth observation satellite programmes.



## CLOSING

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### YUSUF KIRAÇ

*IAF Vice President for Relations with International Organizations*

Yusuf Kırac, President and Chairman of the Board of the Turkish Space Agency (TUA), serves as Vice President for Relations with International Organizations on the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) Bureau. After having started his career at Siemens, then moving to Nokia Siemens Networks, he then held several management positions within Türk Telekom. Prior to joining TUA in 2023, he was the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at Türk Telekom, managing activities in the areas of fiber and digital transformation, 5G and Next Generation Networks, Information Technologies, Data Center and Cyber Security.

### PIOTR ZABADAŁA

*Deputy Director, Department of Innovation and Space Policy, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Poland*

Piotr Zabadała is the Deputy Director of the Department of Innovation and Space Policy at Poland's Ministry of Economic Development and Technology and serves since 2020 as the Head of the Polish Delegation to the European Space Agency. His responsibilities include space policy, the development of strategies and programmes for competitiveness and innovation capacity of the Polish economy, as well as industrial property protection. He is also involved in the preparation of legislation, policy analyses, and public support instruments.

### DRISS EL HADANI

*[Please see details above]*