



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

The International Astronautical Federation to Launch the First edition of the **IAF Global Space and Oceans Conference (GSOC 2027)** in the Maldives, Uniting World Leaders in Space, Science, and Ocean Sustainability

Vienna, Austria – 12 June 2026 – In a significant milestone for both the global space community and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and the Maldives Space Research Organisation (MSRO) have officially signed the agreement confirming the Maldives as the Host country of the **IAF Global Space and Oceans Conference (GSOC 2027)**, to be held on **3 - 5 May 2027**.

The signing ceremony was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) in Vienna, Austria, on the sidelines of the **69th Session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)** underscoring the international significance of the event.

The agreement was signed by **Gabriella Arrigo, President of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF)**, and **Madin Maseeh, President of the Maldives Space Research Organisation (MSRO)**, formally entrusting the Maldives with hosting one of the world's leading conferences dedicated to the convergence of space and ocean sciences.



Photo 1: Representatives of the Maldives Space Research Organisation (MSRO) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) during the signing ceremony. From MSRO: Raushan Ali Firaq, Director, and Madin Maseeh, President. From IAF: Gabriella Arrigo, President, and Christian Feichtinger, Executive Director.

Photo 2: Madin Maseeh, President, The Maldives Space Research Organisation (MSRO); Gabriella Arrigo, President, The International Astronautical Federation (IAF)



As a catalyst for timely, cross-sector dialogue, the IAF advances cooperation between established space actors and emerging space nations alike. GSOC 2027 marks the inaugural edition of the GSOC in the framework of the IAF Global Conference series, reinforcing a new dedicated platform within the IAF ecosystem focusing on the intersection of space technologies and ocean sustainability, and elevating the role of small island states in shaping global discussions.

This flagship gathering organized by IAF will bring together senior government officials, global space agencies representatives, policymakers, scientists, researchers, industry leaders and sustainability experts from around the world. The conference will serve as a premier platform for advancing international collaboration and exploring how space technologies can support ocean observation, climate resilience, marine conservation, and the sustainable management of ocean resources.

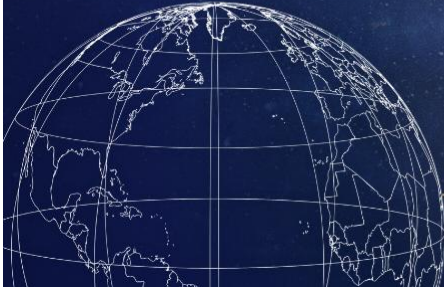
The selection of the Maldives as Host country reflects its unique position as a small island nation at the crossroads of Space and ocean, familiar with climate and ocean-related challenges, making it a highly relevant setting for discussions on the role of space technologies in addressing environmental and sustainability issues.

Hosting the first edition of GSOC further highlights the country's growing international recognition and its strengthened engagement in the global space sector, as well as its commitment to scientific research, environmental stewardship, and international cooperation.

By bringing this distinguished global conference to the Indian Ocean region, GSOC 2027 is expected to strengthen partnerships between the space and maritime communities, foster innovation, and elevate discussions on the critical role of space-based solutions in addressing some of the world's most pressing environmental challenges.

Further details regarding the conference programme, registration, call for abstracts and sponsorship opportunities, and participation will be announced in the coming months.

For media inquiries, contact media@iafastro.org



About the Organizer:



**INTERNATIONAL
ASTRONAUTICAL
FEDERATION**

Founded in 1951, the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) is the world's leading space advocacy body with over 604 Members in 82 countries, including all leading space agencies, industries, research institutions, universities, societies, associations, institutes and museums worldwide. Following its motto "Connecting @ll Space People" and its vision of "A space-faring world cooperating for the benefit of humanity", the Federation advances knowledge about space, supporting the development and application of space assets by promoting global cooperation.

<https://www.iafastro.org/>

About the Host:



The Maldives Space Research Organisation (MSRO) is the official space organisation of the Maldives, founded on the ethos of international collaboration, reshaping its national identity and positioning the Maldives as a leader in the global space community. MSRO is committed to creating a space sector in the Maldives that can help it become more climate resilient, protect its maritime domain, diversify the economy and empower the locals using science and education of space.

<https://msro.mv/>