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INTERNATIONAL
ASTRONAUTICAL
CONGRESS
ANTALYA, TÜRKİYE
5 - 9 OCTOBER



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OTHER
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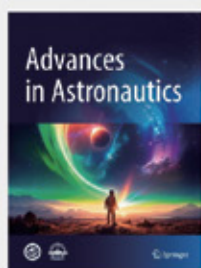
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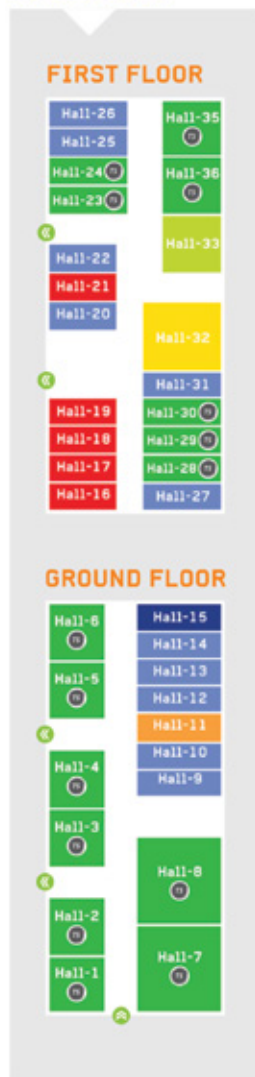
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Floor plans



IAC 2026 FLOOR PLANS

NEST PLUS BUILDING



NEST CONVENTION CENTER



- NEST Football Pitch
- Exhibition Area
- Plenary Programme
- Gloria Sports Hall
- Technical Sessions
- Special Sessions
- IP Sessions
- B2B Area
- Bilateral Rooms
- Meeting Rooms

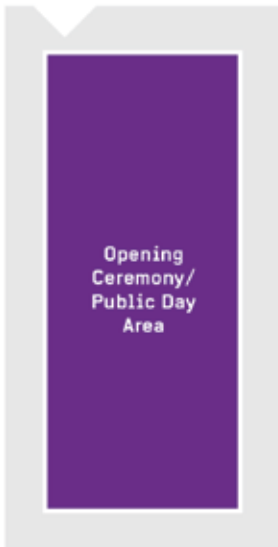
- Offices
- Speaker Prep. Room
- Committee Meeting
- VIP Luncheon Area
- Members Lounge
- Press Center
- Press Conf. Room
- Service Area / Offices
- Future Space Area
- Prayer Room

IAC 2026 FLOOR PLANS

FUTURE SPACE AREA

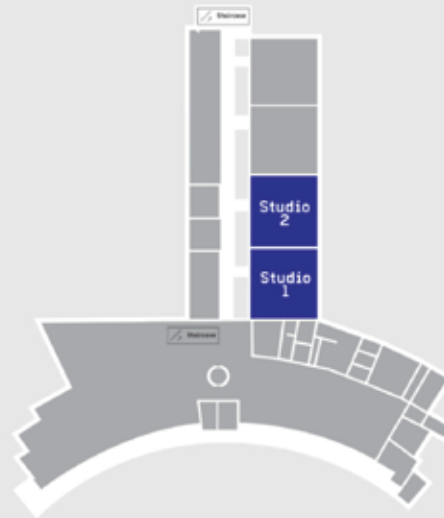


NEST FOOTBALL PITCH



GLORIA SPORTS ARENA

FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR



- NEST Football Pitch
- Exhibition Area
- Plenary Programme
- Gloria Sports Hall
- Technical Sessions
- Special Sessions
- IP Sessions
- B2B Area
- Bilateral Rooms
- Meeting Rooms

- Offices
- Speaker Prep. Room
- Committee Meeting
- VIP Luncheon Area
- Members Lounge
- Press Center

- Press Conf. Room
- Service Area / Offices
- Future Space Area
- Prayer Room

1 Students and Young Professionals Events

1.1 IAF International Project / Programme Management Committee (IPMC) Young Professionals Leadership Development Programme - Final Event

Date: Sunday 4 October 2026
Time: 09:00 – 18:00
Venue: Hall 2, Ground Floor, NEST Plus Building



What role will Young Professionals play in shaping the future of the space sector? Join the 2026 IAF IPMC Young Professionals Leadership Development Programme's Final Event: Open Door Session, where Subject Experts and Young Professionals will share fresh insights and innovative solutions on project and programme management, change management, sustainability, supply chain resilience, and more.

This is your chance to:

- Engage with today's and tomorrow's leaders of the space industry
- Exchange ideas across generations
- Hear real-world examples and lessons from successful projects
- Explore Young Professionals' recommendations on how the space industry can respond to emerging challenges and opportunities.

This year's agenda will focus on:

- Project lifecycle and schedule management
- Change management and communication for impact
- Sustainability and Lifecycle Thinking in Project Management
- Programme Governance across Multi-Nation Collaborations
- The Role of Supply Chain Resilience in Project Success

Programme

Time	Morning Session, closed doors (registered attendees only)
08:00 – 08:45	IAC registration (badges are MANDATORY to enter the venue)
09:00 – 09:15	Workshop welcome address
09:15 – 10:00	Keynote speaker
10:00 – 11:45	YP Team work
11:45 – 12:15	Rules and guidelines for the presentations
12:15 – 13:30	Lunch & Group Photo (registered attendees only)
Afternoon Session, Plenary (general audience allowed)	
13:30 – 14:15	Team 1 presentation & debate
14:15 – 15:00	Team 2 presentation & debate
15:00 – 15:45	Team 3 presentation & debate
15:45 – 16:00	Break
16:00 – 16:45	Team 4 presentation & debate
16:45 – 17:30	Team 5 presentation & debate
17:30 – 18:00	Wrap-up & closure

1.2 Young Professionals Networking Event

Location: Studio 1 and 2, Level T, Gloria Sports Arena

Sunday 4 October 2026

19:00 – 21:00 Come mix and mingle with the IAC 2026 Young Professionals as the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) welcomes you to the IAC 2026 with a cocktail-style networking event!



WELCOME REMARKS

Amal Albinali

VP: Next Generation Activities, IAF Bureau
Chief, Strategic Planning & Projects Management Department,
Bahrain Space Agency ,
Bahrain

Tuesday 6 October 2026

19:00 – 21:00 The IAF Workforce Development/Young Professionals Programme Committee (WD/YPP) presents speed mentoring for our IAC young professionals and students! This is your opportunity to meet leaders in the industry and have focused conversations around career development by rotating through tables with mentors. After speed mentoring there will be an open cocktail style reception to continue your conversations. Speed mentoring will take place 19:00–20:00 local time and the reception will take place 20:00–21:00 local time.

Wednesday 7 October 2026

19:00 – 21:00 **Next Generation Panel: "Emerging Space Nations"**

Space is no longer the exclusive domain of a few superpowers. The democratization of technology and the lowering of barriers to entry have ushered in a new global paradigm where "Emerging Space Nations" are becoming critical drivers of innovation, policy, and cooperation. These nations are not just following the footsteps of established players; they are forging new paths, creating unique regional ecosystems, and redefining what a successful space program looks like in the 21st century. This session aims to showcase young professionals and emerging leaders who are actively driving the growth of space sectors in emerging regions, or who are building bridges between established and emerging space economies.

The event will be followed by a cocktail-style networking event.

Speakers:



John Leur LABRADOR
Director for Space
Technology Missions and
Systems,
Philippine Space Agency
(PhilSA),
Philippines



Jagriti LUITEL
Citizen Scientist-
Astronaut Trainee,
International Institute for
Astronautical Sciences
(IIAS),
Canada



Jakub MAŠEK
Junior Researcher and
PhD Student,
Brno University of
Technology,
Czech Republic



Linda NGOZWANA
Intermediate Systems
Engineer; Co-Founder,
MDA Space, Moonshot
Africa,
South Africa



Alex SHI
Senior Programme
Analyst,
Secure World Foundation
(SWF),
United States



MODERATOR
**Charles-Aimé NZEUSSI-
MBOUENDEU**
SES, Specialist, Product &
Space Sustainability,
Space Generation
Advisory Council
(SGAC),
Cameroon

1.3 IAF Grant and Recognition Programmes for Students and YPs

1.3.1 IAF Young Space Leaders (YSL) Recognition Programme

The IAF Young Space Leaders (YSL) Recognition Programme is awarded to exceptional students and young professionals, who contribute to astronautics in their academic or early careers, reach out to other young people and their communities to share knowledge and experiences, have been engaged with the international space community and contribute to IAF activities.

The five IAF Young Space Leaders will be presented with their award during the Closing Ceremony of the 77th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026) in Antalya, Türkiye, which will take place from 5 to 9 October 2026.



Federica ANGELETTI

Assistant Professor
Sapienza University of Rome
Italy

Federica Angeletti is a Tenure Track Assistant Professor at the School of Aerospace Engineering of Sapienza University of Rome, where her work focuses on the dynamics, control and monitoring of flexible space systems. She earned her Ph.D. in Aeronautics and Space Engineering from the same institution and, during her doctoral studies, was a visiting researcher at Thales Alenia Space France. Later, she worked as a Mechanisms and Robotics Engineer at OHB System AG in Germany. She is currently Principal Investigator of research projects dedicated to safe machine learning-based techniques for in-orbit docking of flexible spacecraft and advanced structural health monitoring solutions for aerospace platforms. During her academic career, she has contributed to studies funded by the European Space Agency, ranging from the design of integrated robust attitude and vibration control architectures to the assessment of dynamic behavior and simulation models for space launchers. She has also taken part in international educational aerospace programs and missions, including a stratospheric balloon flight campaign and CubeSat development projects.

Federica is actively involved in the international aerospace community through her roles in several professional organizations, among them the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), Women in Aerospace-Europe (WIA-Europe), Associazione Italiana di Aeronautica e Astronautica (AIDAA), and Zonta International. She is currently part of the IAF Materials and Structures Committee and also an elected corresponding member of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA). Through these activities, she promotes inclusion, education, international cooperation, and professional development within the aerospace sector. Her research and international engagement have been recognized through awards and fellowships, such as the 2018 Amelia Earhart Fellowship and the 2021 IAF Luigi G. Napolitano Award.



Isi CASAS DEL VALLE PACHECO

Business Development Officer
Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC)
Chile

Isi Casas Del Valle is a Chilean Aerospace Lawyer with an MSc in Business Management and currently serves as Business Development Officer at the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), the world's largest network of students and young professionals in the space sector. She has worked with international organizations including the European Southern Observatory and has consulted for multiple space startups and international initiatives. Within SGAC, Isi previously served as National Point of Contact for Chile and later as Regional Coordinator for South America, supporting the growth of the regional space community and international partnerships.

Passionate about education and capacity building, Isi was a professor of Space Law and Public International Law at Universidad de los Andes and has been invited as a guest lecturer at several Space Studies Programs of the International Space University, as well as other universities worldwide. She is the first Chilean to receive the Emerging Space Leader recognition from the International Astronautical Federation and has also been awarded scholarships and recognitions from organizations including the Secure World Foundation and Universidad de los Andes for her contributions to the space sector and academic excellence.



Dmitriy GRISHKO

Associate Professor
Bauman Moscow State Technical University
Russia

Dmitriy A. Grishko, born 1991, PhD (Phys-Math), is the associate professor of Bauman Moscow State Technical University, Department of Theoretical Mechanics, where he coordinates academic programs in celestial mechanics. He is the expert in astrodynamics, specializing in orbital dynamics for active debris removal. He developed optimized multi-target transfer schemes leveraging orbital perturbations, contributing to mission planning in low and geostationary orbits. Since 2021, Dmitriy is the member of IAA Permanent Committee on Space Debris and session co-chair for Space Debris Symposium at IAC. He also participates in the activities of IAF Space Traffic Management Committee since 2020, where he was among coordinators of the working groups.



Charles-Aimé NZEUSSI-MBOUENDEU

SES, Specialist, Product & Space Sustainability
Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC)
Cameroon

Charles-Aimé Nzeussi Mbouendeu is an author & visionary leader, passionate advocate for emerging space nations, and a recognized voice in the global movement to democratize access to space. His work sits at the intersection of space sustainability, entrepreneurship, strategic partnerships, and environmental stewardship, positioning him as a strong advocate for a more inclusive, responsible, and sustainable space ecosystem. As a Product & Space Sustainability Specialist at SES, Charles-Aimé contributes to the integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance principles into space operations. He is actively involved in major initiatives such as the IRIS² program sustainability. His multidisciplinary background in physics, industrial and environmental risk management engineering, combined with a Master's in Space Studies from International Space University, enables him to bridge science, industry, and policy to address complex global challenges with practical and forward-looking solutions.

Beyond his professional responsibilities, Charles-Aimé is a dedicated mentor, international speaker, and advocate for global capacity-building within the space sector. He currently serves as Chair of the IAF ACCESS Africa Subcommittee, where he promotes access to space and strengthens collaboration across the African continent, and as SGAC Regional Partnership Manager for Africa, supporting youth engagement and empowering the next generation of space professionals. He also contributes as an expert to the IAF GLOC and the IAC 2026 IPC Committee. In addition, he serves as a Visiting Lecturer at ISU and Head of Partnerships for the Summer Space Festival. His contributions and leadership have been recognized through several prestigious distinctions, including the Africa Leadership Award and Global Grants Award from Space Generation Advisory Council, and selection as a winner of the IAF Launchpad Mentorship Programme.



Matej POLIAČEK

ISS / Columbus Flight Director
Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. (DLR)
Germany

Matej Políacek is a Flight Director at the German Aerospace Centre (DLR), responsible for real-time operations of ESA's Columbus laboratory module on board the ISS. His role involves coordinating the work of the astronauts aboard the station and the European flight control teams on the ground, as well as interfacing with the NASA flight control team in Houston and the JAXA flight control team in Tsukuba. Beyond console shifts he is involved in a number of projects, the most recent being RESPIRE, a microgravity aerosol experiment selected by Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) and flown by Matej in the Aurelia Horizons parabolic campaign, aiming to advance human physiology research in space. His interest in human spaceflight research has also brought him inside an isolated habitat and into the field as a participant in several analogue research missions simulating missions to both Mars and the Moon, and to contributing to the organisation of the V4 Analogue Challenge, a 24-hour isolation mission that gave four analogue astronauts from Czechia, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary their first taste of analogue research. He is active in SGAC, where he started the "Postcards to Space" project, allowing the general public to fly their postcards to space and back with Blue Origin's foundation Club for the Future, and helped deliver events from regional workshops to Space Generation Congress 2023 and 2024, in Baku and Milan, respectively. Matej also serves on the Human Spaceflight, ACCESS, and WD-YPP committees of IAF, and has been recognised by Forbes Slovakia's 30 Under 30, IAF Emerging Space Leader and Space and Satellite Professionals International's 20 Under 35 awards. He holds an MSc in Software Development and a BSc in Statistics from the University of Glasgow.

1.3.2 IAF Emerging Space Leaders (ESL) Grant Programme

These students and young professionals were chosen by the IAF Emerging Space Leaders Sub-Committee composed of highly experienced space stakeholders. They will travel to Antalya, Türkiye to participate in the 77th International Astronautical Congress and have the opportunity to extend their network, gain knowledge and meet space experts!



Muhammad AFAQ

Inspired by the way wasps and other insects create their habitats layer by layer using natural materials like mud and clay, Muhammad Afaq developed an early fascination with additive manufacturing and nature-inspired engineering. This curiosity led him to pursue research in advanced manufacturing technologies and their application to aerospace systems.

Afaq is a Mechanical Design Engineer and Engineering Systems graduate from the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology (Skoltech), Russia, where he graduated with Honors as a fully funded scholar. He also holds a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore. His interests include additive manufacturing, spacecraft structures, composite materials, and systems engineering.

His master's research, Evaluation of the Suitability of Additive Manufacturing for CubeSat Structures, explored the use of additive manufacturing for lightweight satellite components through experimental testing and numerical simulations. Professionally, he has worked in both Russia and Pakistan on multidisciplinary engineering projects involving structural analysis, composite structures, and high-reliability engineering systems.

Afaq believes that the future of space exploration depends on international cooperation, knowledge sharing, and technological innovation. Having studied and worked in diverse international environments, he values collaboration as a key driver of scientific progress and sustainable growth in the global space sector.

Being selected for the IAF Emerging Space Leaders Grant Program would be a significant opportunity for Afaq. Coming from Pakistan, where opportunities to engage directly with the international space community remain limited, participation in the International Astronautical Congress would enable him to share his work, learn from global experts, and build meaningful connections with fellow space professionals from around the world.



Shrutika AGARWAL

Shrutika Agarwal is a Systems Engineer at Airbus Defence and Space, where she contributes to the development of next-generation communication satellites that support sovereign capabilities and global connectivity.

She holds a Master's degree in Space Systems Engineering from TU Delft in the Netherlands and a Bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering from SRM University in India. Throughout her academic and professional journey, she has contributed to satellite, lunar rover, and rocket projects, building expertise in systems engineering and multidisciplinary collaboration.

Within Airbus, she serves on the leadership team of a space-focused community network, working with management to support professional development, outreach initiatives, and employee engagement.

Shrutika is an active volunteer and leader within the Space Generation Advisory Council, serving in roles including Finance Manager, Scholarships Team, PADAWANS, and delegate at international events. She actively fosters connections between industry and young professionals, creating opportunities for emerging talent to engage with the global space community. She actively supports outreach and mentorship initiatives, encouraging greater participation from underrepresented communities in the space sector.

Shrutika is dedicated to advancing space technologies, fostering international collaboration and creating opportunities for others to contribute to and benefit from the global space ecosystem.



Mustapha AGBADI

Mustapha Agbadi is a space lawyer, governance strategist, and advocate for the Democratisation of Outer Space, with a career spanning international commercial law, space policy, and emerging space economies.

Currently serving as Space Governance and Strategic Relations Manager at Beta Space Ltd, Mustapha leads the development of strategic partnerships with space agencies, universities, and legal institutions across Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America. He spearheads the Beta Space Annual Space Governance Report and hosts the company's flagship podcast on space governance challenges in emerging space economies.

Mustapha holds a Master of Laws in Space Law from Northumbria University, where his thesis examined Emerging Space States' Perspectives on the Democratisation of Low Earth Orbit, a question that continues to shape his professional work. His legal career includes senior roles in international commercial law, where he advised on high-value cross-border transactions and supported bid processes for a UK Space Startup.

Beyond his professional roles, Mustapha actively contributes to the global space community. He is a member of the International Institute of Space Law (IISL), including its Working Group on the International Law Aspects of Interplanetary Internet, and the Space Generation Advisory Council's Remote Sensing for Environmental Protection Research Group. He was a delegate in the Open Lunar Foundation's DOOR Project on lunar resources governance, and a recipient of awards from the Secure World Foundation, American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics, and the Association of Commercial Space Professionals.

Mustapha believes that inclusive and equitable space governance is not merely a legal imperative. It is the foundation upon which a sustainable and shared space future must be built.



Diana ALJBOOR

Diana Al-Jbour is Jordanian - Ukrainian aerospace engineer with focus on systems engineering and Thermal Control systems. She is currently completing her Bachelor's degree in Aeronautical Engineering at Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). Diana is the founder and coordinator of the student CubeSat project "AIRhim Sat," which received a free launch opportunity through the UNOOSA/EXOPOD 2024 round. The satellite is under development and has passed main critical design stages and is scheduled to launch mid 2027.

Diana gained valuable experience by completing an internship with Astrostructures Ltd., where she contributed to thermal engineering and space systems engineering activities on live projects. Her technical interests include spacecraft thermal control, CubeSat systems, lunar exploration technologies, and multidisciplinary systems engineering and MBSE.

In addition to her technical work, Diana has actively contributed to the international space community where she actively participated in project like space station design project held at TUM, Germany, small satellite group SGAC , ASTRAEUS e.v where she contributed to thermal control system for lunar projects including Small satellite, lunar settlement and ECLSS. Diana actively supports engaging the community with the space industry she mentored and invited as guest speaker to many events locally for university and school students and internationally like AACII held , Nuremberg 2025, Goethe institution girls day. in addition to her research presentations and leadership activities. She has presented her research at the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) for three consecutive years: Paris 2022, Baku 2023, and Milan 2024. She has also received several international grants and recognitions representing Jordan, including support from AIDAA, the UN/IAF programme, and the SGAC Middle East Space Leader Award. She was part of organizing team of Middle east space generation workshop held at Ankara, where she moderated a working group and a panel in CubeSat topic

Diana believes that space technology and international collaboration can play a key role in empowering emerging space nations and inspiring future generations in the developing region.



Omar ARISTIZABAL

I am Omar David Aristizabal Sanmartin, a recent graduate Aerospace Engineer from Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia. Throughout my academic journey, I have actively participated in research, educational, and outreach initiatives. Among the most significant was co-founding and leading Volta Experimental Rocketry Team, the first formal rocketry team in my University, and a pioneer group of these initiatives within the country. Through this team, we became the first Colombian university group to represent the nation at the International Rocket Engineering Competition (IREC), competing in both the 2025 and 2026 editions. In addition, I contribute as an instructor in aerospace bootcamps and as a volunteer in STEM events that promote aerospace related fields in Colombia.

As I begin my professional career, I remain committed to creating opportunities that inspire others to pursue ambitious goals. I strongly believe that aerospace is not a distant field reserved for a few countries or organizations; it is a discipline with real world applications and a growing community of talented professionals capable of making meaningful contributions from anywhere in the world.

The aerospace industry is fundamentally global, making internationalization an essential part of professional growth. Access to diverse perspectives, industry practices, and collaborative networks is critical for understanding the sector's dynamics and staying relevant throughout one's career. Programs such as this create valuable opportunities to build those connections while bringing together people who share a passion for advancing aerospace. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity, not only because of what I can learn, but also because it aligns with my long-term goal of inspiring others and helping create environments where more people can grow, collaborate, and contribute to the future of aerospace.



Adriana Ariza PARDO

I grew up fascinated by the Moon and by the natural world, asking how the landscapes around us came to be. That curiosity led me to study Geosciences in Colombia, and over the past years I have focused on volcanology and planetary sciences. I am currently a Visiting Researcher at the Institut für Planetologie, University of Münster (Germany), as part of my PhD in Geosciences at the Università di Chieti-Pescara (Italy), where my research centres on lunar geological mapping and In-Situ Resource Utilisation (ISRU).

I hold an MSc in Geosciences from the University of Texas at San Antonio. There, with NASA Ames Research Center, I measured the rheological and thermal properties of Martian analog lavas using compositional data from Gusev Crater collected by the Spirit rover. My fieldwork has taken me to the active Deception Island volcano in Antarctica, to the Bolívar Cays in the Caribbean for sedimentological work, and to the Canary Islands for submarine volcanology. I have presented my research at the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference, on lunar regolith analogs and the thermodynamic behaviour of Martian lavas.

Science should know no borders. Talent exists everywhere, and planetary exploration advances most rapidly when researchers from different countries contribute their expertise and perspectives. As an Emerging Space Leader, I want to strengthen planetary geology across Latin America and encourage young people who dream of working in space to follow that path.



Alberto BÁEZ JIMÉNEZ

Alberto Báez Jiménez is a consultant, economist and entrepreneur from Mexico City, holding dual degrees in Economics and Business Administration from ITAM, where he studied as a Baillères scholar. He is co-founder of Dataztlán, an AI and data tech firm whose mission is to democratize knowledge and make complex technologies accessible beyond technical elites.

His work bridges the social and technical dimensions of complex coordination problems. In his career, he has trained over 100 public officials and designed dialogue processes that have reduced staff turnover across organizations. At GLEX 2025 in New Delhi, he presented research applying restorative justice to peaceful coordination in space, a line of work he extends at IAC 2026 with a paper examining the risks of AI centralization in space programs.

Alberto believes humanity's expansion into space cannot advance in isolation, as the problems humanity carries only grow as our technical capabilities advance, and will follow us unless we confront them first.

Coming from Latin America, a region with emerging space capabilities, he is committed to ensure that the governance, cooperation, and inclusion we struggle to achieve on the ground become foundations of how we coordinate our shared future in space.

As the first in his family to publish research, speak English, and travel beyond the Americas, he sees representation as a catalyst: when people from non-traditional backgrounds enter global conversations, they expand what others believe is possible.

For him, the question was never whether space belongs to us, but when we'd remember it always has.



Darren BERLEIN

Darren Berlein is a South African space architect helping to define the next generation of human spaceflight in the post-ISS era. He is currently working as a Station Layout Mechanical Engineer within a European commercial space station programme, designing how people may live, work and adapt in orbit as space habitation becomes more permanent and more accessible.

His role bridges the gap between hardware engineering and human habitability, translating technical constraints, operational needs and human factors into decisions about how space habitats are conceived, organised and experienced by the astronauts. This means designing environments that function both as technical space systems, while supporting astronaut health, psychological well-being and daily operational performance during long-duration space missions.

Darren holds a Master of Architecture from the University of Cape Town (UCT) and a Master of Space Studies from the International Space University. His nearly ten-year career spans architectural design, habitat layout engineering, interior design and design communication for multidisciplinary teams. He previously taught architectural design at the UCT and serves as an expert lecturer in Human Factors at the annual Space Station Design Workshop, where he trains the next generation of space station designers.

As a South African professional working within the European human spaceflight sector, Darren works to connect established space agencies with developing space programs. He advocates for broader international collaboration, aiming to include experts from non-traditional spacefaring nations in the design and construction of future orbital habitats.



Feven Alemu BEYECHA

Feven is a space engineer and researcher at the Ethiopian Space Science and Geospatial Institute (SSGI), where she serves in the Satellite Operation Lead Executive. She has a background in Electronics and Communication Engineering and Data Science from Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), India. She further expanded her expertise with a certificate in Data Analytics using Python from CDAC, Delhi and completed with distinction a program in Artificial Intelligence Policy at CAIDP (2025), including research, writing, and policy analysis.

At SSGI, Feven is part of the team building Ethiopia's second remote sensing satellite, ETRSS-2, and leads the project that transforms raw satellite data into products for agriculture, urban planning, and environmental monitoring. She also works on a fixed-wing VTOL project, integrating electronics and AI into flight systems.

Feven has trained at the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST) and the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC) in China. She was selected by the AfSA for a training program at the European Space Agency (ESA) in Belgium, gaining hands-on experience in space systems engineering, from mission design to launch. She attended the 9th African Space Generation Workshop in Nairobi (2025) and was recognized as a young leader through the DTA Program by RLC-EA in collaboration with Kenyatta University, Kenya, and inspires Ethiopian kids through the Ethio Space Kids Club (ESKC) program.

She believes African space programs belong at the global table, and that international cooperation is how emerging space nations grow. As an IAF Emerging Space Leader, she wants to learn, share, and build bridges between emerging and established space nations.



Chaima BHIBAH

I am Chaima Bhibah, a Tunisian engineering student specialising in experimental astrochemistry, currently conducting research at the LIRA laboratory (CY Cergy Paris Université / Observatoire de Paris-PSL / CNRS) on H/D isotopic exchanges during the sublimation of interstellar ice analogues under extreme astrophysical conditions.

My journey into space began not in a laboratory, but under the open skies of Tunisia, where I fell in love with the cosmos at the age of twelve. That wonder never left me — it guided me from founding and leading astronomy clubs, to representing Africa at the first Pan-African Astronomy School in Madagascar, to be trained on site to use the telescope of the “Observatoire Astronomique Ecole du monde de Besely - Madagascar”. Beyond the manipulation of the telescope, participants also benefited from astronomy and astrophysics courses, learned image acquisition and processing techniques, carried out concrete measurements, and attended several enriching mini-conferences.

This comprehensive training will now allow them to control the telescope remotely from their respective countries, opening up new opportunities for astronomical research and observation across the continent.

Receiving the IAF Emerging Space Leaders Grant is far more than personal recognition — it is a signal that the global space community believes in voices from regions that are still underrepresented in space science. Africa and the Arab world carry extraordinary scientific potential, and young researchers from these regions deserve a seat at the table where the future of exploration is decided.

Space is the most universal endeavour humanity has ever undertaken. No atmosphere, no border, no language contains it. International cooperation is not just a strategy — it is the only way forward. I am proud to contribute to that shared mission, and deeply grateful to the IAF for making it possible



Zelalem B. BOGALE

Zelalem B. Bogale is an Aerospace and Machine Learning Engineer with a BSc in Engineering from École Centrale de Nantes, France, and an MBA with a Gold Medal distinction from American College of Technology. His work sits at the intersection of autonomous flight, space systems, and artificial intelligence, spanning the design, prototyping, and systems integration of specialized UAVs, hybrid rockets, and small satellites, alongside machine learning perception and sensor fusion systems for autonomous remote-sensing platforms. He began his aerospace career at the Space Science and Geospatial Institute before expanding into international remote roles across technology and engineering sectors. Zelalem has published scientific papers in leading journals, including the International Journal of Space Science and Engineering, and leads an international research working group under the International Astronautical Federation Advisory Committee on History Activities documenting the institutional and technical history of Africa's aerospace sector. His expertise is reinforced through advanced professional training, including a NASA-led Systems Engineering Workshop and a full scholarship to the Space Station Design Workshop in Germany as a Systems Engineer. His contributions have earned international recognition, including the African Space Leader Award in Zimbabwe (2023), an Italian Space Agency Fellowship in Italy (2024), selection as the NASA Space Apps Challenge Local Lead for Ethiopia (2022), and an invitation as a guest speaker at GITEX Africa in Morocco (2024).



Melissa Cardona GONZÁLEZ

I am Melissa Cardona González, a recently graduated Aerospace Engineer from Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia. Throughout my academic journey, I actively participated in a variety of research and outreach initiatives. Among the most significant was co-founding and leading Volta Experimental Rocketry Team, the first formal rocketry team at my university and the first Colombian team to represent the country at the International Rocket Engineering Competition (IREC), competing in both the 2025 and 2026 editions. In addition, I contribute as a science communicator at the Medellín Planetarium, where I participate in monthly outreach activities focused on aerospace science and technology. As I begin my professional career, I remain committed to fostering new initiatives within my community and demonstrating that aerospace science is not something distant or inaccessible. On the contrary, it has practical applications that impact our daily lives, and there are talented local professionals actively contributing to this field.

The aerospace industry is inherently international and highly interconnected. This is why initiatives that bring together people from around the world are so valuable: they create opportunities for networking, knowledge exchange, collaboration, and the development of lasting professional relationships. Building bridges between emerging generations of students and young professionals is essential for advancing the aerospace sector, particularly in countries where the field is still developing. At the same time, these connections provide more established aerospace communities with access to talented individuals who can contribute fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and new opportunities for growth within the industry.



Marília DE ALMEIDA CARVALHO MATOS

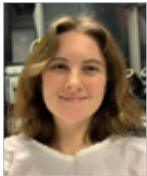
Marília de Almeida C. Matos is currently the Ground Segment Engineer for Space Rider in the Directorate of Space Transportation, at the European Space Agency, responsible for all the activities related to the development, validation and operations of the Space Rider ground segment and landing site.

She was the Ground Segment & Operations co-lead for a voluntary young-led project at ESA called "YPSat – Young Professionals Satellite"; that was launched in 2024 on board Ariane-6 and successfully completed all its mission objectives. Marília was also the Operations Task Manager during the World Biggest Analog – the largest synchronized analog mission ever attempted – sitting at the Mission Control Room in Vienna.

She holds a master's degree in aerospace engineering since 2019 from Instituto Superior Técnico, in Portugal, which includes a study semester at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, in Spain. In 2026 she finishes her Executive MBA in Space Architecture from TU Wien, after receiving a scholarship from Women in Aerospace – Europe, an organization for which she volunteers since 2023.

She believes that Space is a place we are not meant to explore alone. It is a challenging environment that only makes sense through collaboration, being it for science discoveries or technologies advancements, that benefits humanity as a whole. In the current complex geopolitical landscape, it is worth reflecting on the Apollo-Soyuz historic handshake in orbit in 1975 and how Space can bring nations together. Space does not know borders.

Marília loves to read, play futsal, scuba dive and to travel.



Phoebe DUNBABIN

Phoebe Dunbabin is a PhD candidate at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Sydney, Australia. Her research seeks to uncover how gravitational changes are first perceived at the molecular and cellular levels; work she hopes will bring us closer to understanding why human health is so negatively impacted by microgravity in space. Phoebe initially pursued a Bachelor of Medical Science at UNSW, graduating with First Class Honours for her work with the Poole Group characterising the molecular force sensors that regulate cancer cell behaviour. The group subsequently expanded their focus to explore how force sensing molecules influence cellular responses to microgravity, creating an opportunity for Phoebe to finally combine her passions for human health and space. Her work now revolves around developing simple model systems for studying the impact of microgravity on Earth-based biology, information that is vital for extending human survival in the hostile and isolated environment of space. Beyond research, Phoebe is a casual academic working across physiology and neuroscience courses in the UNSW Faculty of Medicine and Health. She also works as a mentor for UNSW Equitable Learning Services, supporting undergraduate students with disabilities to excel in their studies. Phoebe is a strong advocate for the recognition of life science as a critical element of the future space economy. She believes this will be achieved not only through increasing opportunities for life science research, but also through the promotion of cross-discipline collaborations that draw on expertise from multiple sectors to solve long-standing issues.



Leonardo OCIEL ESPINOZA ZEPEDA

Leonardo began his academic path in Physics at the Autonomous University of Baja California (UABC), where he conducted astronomy research and became actively involved in science communication. He later completed a specialization degree in the aerospace industry at the Ensenada Institute of Technology and an M.Sc. at UABC, where he developed simulations for a CubeSat testbed.

Motivated to specialize in astrodynamics, Leonardo sought opportunities abroad and is now a Ph.D. candidate in Aerospace Engineering at the University of California San Diego, working with Prof. Aaron J. Rosengren. His research focuses on spacecraft dynamics around icy moons using nonlinear dynamics and perturbed multi-body models to support mission design and orbital analysis.

His work has been presented at different venues, including meetings of the American Physical Society, the American Astronomical Society, the American Astronautical Society, and the Mexican Society of Astrobiology. His recognitions include the SG-Nebula Award, the Youth Science Award from his hometown of Ensenada, and a state-level youth award from the Government of Baja California.

Beyond research, Leonardo is committed to teaching, mentorship, and outreach. He has organized academic events and workshops through Clubes de Ciencia, the Youth Scientific Society, the International Association of Physics Students, and the Space Generation Advisory Council. He is especially interested in international collaboration and has promoted binational academic connections across the U.S.–Mexico border. His long-term goal is to contribute to future space exploration missions while expanding opportunities for students and young professionals in Latin America and the global space community.



George Steve FAJARDO SORIA

George Fajardo is a Peruvian mechatronics engineer and incoming master's student in the System Design and Management (SDM) program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He currently serves as a Research Assistant at the Directorate of Space Technology of the Peruvian Space Agency (CONIDA), where he contributes to satellite development, systems engineering, and national space capacity-building initiatives.

His journey in the space sector began at the National University of Engineering in Peru and has been shaped by international experiences in Mexico, Russia, USA, China, and other countries. Through academic exchanges, technical training programs, and international conferences, he has collaborated with students, researchers, and professionals from diverse backgrounds, strengthening his commitment to international cooperation in space activities.

George has contributed to projects involving CubeSats, sounding rockets, space weather research, and satellite systems engineering. He has also supported educational and outreach initiatives aimed at expanding access to aerospace opportunities for students and young professionals. His current interests include satellite technology roadmapping, systems engineering, space policy, and the role of space technologies in sustainable development.

He believes that international cooperation is essential for enabling emerging space nations to develop their own capabilities while contributing to the global space community. By sharing knowledge, resources, and opportunities, countries can accelerate innovation and ensure that the benefits of space technology reach a broader segment of humanity.

As a recipient of the 2026 IAF Emerging Space Leaders Grant, George looks forward to exchanging experiences and building collaborations with fellow young space leaders from around the world.



Ezra FIELDING

Ezra Fielding is a doctoral researcher at the French Space Agency (CNES) and the National School of Civil Aviation (ENAC) in Toulouse, where he focuses on distributed computing for satellite swarms. Originally from Cape Town, South Africa, he holds a Bachelor of Science and Honours degree in Computer Science from the University of the Western Cape, and a Master's degree in Electrical and Space Systems Engineering from the Kyushu Institute of Technology, completed through the United Nations/Japan Joint Fellowship on Post-Graduate Study on Nano-Satellite Technologies (PNST). His work spans the intersection of computer science and space systems engineering. At Kyutech, he contributed to the VERTECS 6U nanosatellite mission as payload interface lead, developing the Camera Control Board for the mission's imaging payload. His broader research interests have included the application of artificial intelligence and machine learning to satellite operations, and he currently develops scalable, fault-tolerant distributed architectures for next-generation autonomous space missions. Ezra views international cooperation not as a backdrop to his career, but as its defining thread. Having studied and worked across three continents, from South Africa to Japan to France, he has experienced firsthand how diverse perspectives strengthen both research and the communities built around it. He remains committed to contributing to the growth of the African space ecosystem and to fostering cross-cultural collaboration in the space sector.



Sara AZIZ

I am an Egyptian PhD candidate at Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan, where I conduct research on lunar dust mitigation technologies for future lunar exploration missions. My work focuses on investigating the behavior of lunar dust in plasma and electric field environments and developing hybrid dust mitigation techniques to minimize dust accumulation and its adverse effects on solar panel performance.

Before coming to Japan, I worked as a Research Assistant at the National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences (NARSS) in Egypt. In this role, I contributed to mission analysis activities for EgyptSat-1 and the NARSS CubeSat program, conducted my master's research on the effects of picosecond laser exposure on space-grade solar cells, and collaborated with the Egyptian Space Agency on the development of an educational satellite project for undergraduate students.

In Japan, I have been actively involved in satellite development projects, including the BIRDS-X2U CubeSat and the LEOPARD 3U CubeSat, where I contributed to the Electrical Power Subsystem (EPS). I currently support the TURAN 6U CubeSat project as a senior team member. These experiences have provided valuable hands-on expertise in satellite design, integration, testing, and mission operations.

After completing my studies in Japan, I hope to contribute to the growth of Egypt's space sector by sharing my knowledge and experience with young engineers and researchers. I believe that empowering the next generation of space professionals is essential for strengthening Egypt's role in the global space community and advancing future space exploration efforts.



Dave Loui GUMARANG

Dave Loui Gumarang is a final-year Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering student at Iloilo Science and Technology University (ISAT U), Iloilo City, Philippines. As an aspiring aerospace engineer, he holds that the most valuable skills are those equally relevant to daily life and space exploration. This belief is reflected in his undergraduate research on Philippine public utility vehicle brake systems, where the study of vehicle dynamics and safety systems builds transferable expertise he intends to carry into future applications in lunar and extraterrestrial vehicle engineering.

Beyond academics, Dave founded the ISAT U Space Society (ISS), a student-led organization that brings space science and technology applications (SSTA) directly into Filipino communities through malls, parks, coffee shops, and streets. By deliberately stepping outside institutional settings, his outreach has reached diverse demographics across socioeconomic backgrounds, transforming space from a distant concept into a tangible and locally relevant reality. This work was presented at the 31st Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-31), contributing to regional dialogue on inclusive and community-based space education.

As an active volunteer of the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA), Dave champions a philosophy rooted in the practical impact of SSTA, where satellite-driven agricultural monitoring, disaster preparedness, and environmental protection are everyday tools that serve every Filipino.

Coming from an emerging space nation, Dave understands that the greatest barrier to space education is not capability but perception. His work challenges the notion that space belongs exclusively to developed nations, positioning it instead as a shared human endeavor accessible to every community. He believes international cooperation is most meaningful when it amplifies the underrepresented, because the true measure of humanity's progress in space is whether its benefits reach every person on Earth.



Mustapha IDERAWUMI

Mustapha is a Senior Analyst and Media Team Lead at Space in Africa, where he has spent over five years building the definitive intelligence base for the continent's space economy. He has led two valuations of the African space industry, establishing a 2021 baseline of \$19.49B, a 2024 value of \$24.95B, and projecting \$39.52B by 2030, figures that have become the global reference for policymakers, investors, and analysts engaging with Africa's space ecosystem.

As a lead researcher on the African Union Commission's baseline studies, Mustapha produced comprehensive assessments of space technology's socioeconomic impact across the continent, work that continues to shape the Agency's operationalisation. Currently, he leads Space in Africa's research, consulting, and media operations, managing end-to-end engagements for clients across Africa, Europe, the Americas, and Asia. His team maintains Africa's largest database of space activities and produces widely referenced annual reports on industry trends, satellite markets, and space budgets.

Mustapha believes international cooperation is the single most critical mechanism for levelling the global space playing field. For emerging nations with limited resources, joining forces with established global partners allows them to strategically leapfrog decades of trial and error. By leveraging shared knowledge and technology transfer, new entrants can bypass the costly infrastructure mistakes made by pioneering nations, drastically accelerating their development timelines and efficiently and sustainably scaling their domestic space capabilities. For Africa especially, strategic international partnerships are the smartest path to building a sovereign, competitive, and sustainable space future.



David KASIBANTE

David Kasibante is a space law and policy specialist based in Uganda. He researches, advises and writes about the intersection between international space law, diplomacy and policy and third-world perspectives. He has been involved in law and policy drafting of space policies and laws for four states and speaks in international and national fora on this subject. He provides oversight over the African Region under the Space Generation Advisory Council and chairs the space sustainability sub-committee of the East African Law Society, which advises on space-related matters to 8 states in the East African Community. David believes that Africa is not late to space, but rather to space governance and he is an advocate for the amplification of African voices in the rooms where space matters are decided. He also currently advises the government of Uganda as a state attorney in the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. David holds a Masters Degree in law and several certifications in space law, policy, medicine and engineering.



Niraj KOIRALA

I am Niraj Koirala, a space technology professional at the Division of Telecommunications and Space, Government Technology Agency of Bhutan. I hold a Bachelor of Technology in Mechanical Engineering and have over four years of experience spanning satellite operations, national policy, and spacecraft development.

Bhutan's space office is mandated to lead all space, satellite, and telecommunications development nationally, oversee regulatory frameworks, and implement space applications across government agencies. Within this mandate, I have established VHF/UHF/S-band ground stations at colleges across the country and trained students at technical institutions in satellite operations to build capacity among young Bhutanese students in satellite operations.

Currently, I serve as the ADCS and Flight Software Lead for Bhutan's first 6U CubeSat development project, a role that sits at the core of my professional identity. In this capacity, I am responsible for testing and validation of the attitude determination and control system, as well as the onboard flight software architecture. I also contributed as a member of the team that formulated Bhutan's National Space Strategy, which outlines the country's vision for leveraging space science and technology for national development.

Beyond engineering, I am deeply interested in the economics of the space industry. I believe the sector's rapid commercial growth and technological innovation present transformative opportunities for emerging space nations like Bhutan, and I am committed to ensuring my country can meaningfully participate in and benefit from that future.



Youssef MAAOD

There's a line in *Interstellar* that never left me: "We used to look up at the night sky and wonder at our place in the stars. Now we just look down and worry about our place in the dirt." I was a teenager in Suez, Egypt, when I watched that film. I chose to look up.

Growing up, I wanted to add something permanent to human knowledge—the way Einstein reframed gravity, the way Hinton taught machines to see. I didn't know the path. I just knew the direction: outward.

And that direction wasn't easy. I come from a family with no scientific tradition in a city that doesn't appear on any astronomical map. There was no obvious road from Suez to the stars. So I built one out of what I had—code, data, and stubbornness.

That path led me to the Egyptian Space Agency, to 10 publications across IEEE, IAF, and Springer Nature before finishing my undergraduate degree, and to being selected as a 2026 IAF Emerging Space Leaders grantee. IAC 2026 will be my first time leaving Egypt to do science.

I believe space is the only domain where humanity is genuinely forced to cooperate—where no single nation owns the data, the problems, or the answers. The universe doesn't care about borders. Neither should we. What excites me about international cooperation isn't the diplomacy. It's the idea that the next breakthrough might come from Suez.

I intend to be part of that.



Anibal Antonio MENDOZA RUIZ

Anibal Mendoza is a Paraguayan Aeronautical Engineer and MSc in Space Systems Engineering from Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan. He currently serves as Director of Industrial, Commercial and Competitiveness Development in the Aerospace Sector at the Paraguayan Space Agency, where he contributes to the development of Paraguay's national space capabilities, international cooperation initiatives, and small satellite projects.

He has been actively involved in Paraguay's satellite development efforts, including GuaraniSat-1, the country's first satellite, developed within the BIRDS-4 constellation, as well as the KITSUNE 6U CubeSat project. He is currently involved in GuaraniSat-2, where he is responsible for satellite integration, CAD design, structural configuration, and environmental testing activities. His work has included assembly, integration, and environmental test campaigns related to vibration, thermal vacuum, shock, antenna deployment, fit checks, and functional verification.

His professional background combines satellite engineering, aerospace project development, aviation, quality management, and education. He also serves as Quality and SMS Manager at an aircraft maintenance company, leading certification, audit, safety management, and compliance processes with civil aviation authorities and international operators. In academia, he teaches aerospace-related subjects at the Polytechnic Faculty of the National University of Asunción, including Aerodynamics, Computer-Aided Design and Manufacturing, and Aircraft Construction and Mechanics. He is also a licensed aircraft pilot.

Through his work, he aims to contribute to the growth of Paraguay's space sector, strengthen international cooperation, and support the development of new generations of aerospace professionals in emerging space nations.



Marabe Dona BEATRIX

Dona Marabe is a Filipina researcher, aerospace engineer in-the-making, mechanical engineering student, and aspiring astronaut with the goal of securing the Philippines' space in space. She takes pride in forging her own path while clawing her way through male-dominated first-world centered fields lit by other Filipino visionaries that have come before her, armed by grit and passion, and supported by scholarships and hopeful communities. Her personal advocacies are centered in science communication and equality for women in STEM.

Since focusing her personal goals to becoming the first Filipino astronaut, she has served as the Philippine Space Agency's first ever volunteer intern under the Spacecraft Mechanical and Autonomous Systems Development Division, launched her university's first rocket and can satellite, published her university's first solo-authored space-related research paper in the 76th International Astronautical Congress, led the pitch to a team that won a satellite data ideathon hosted by the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) and the European Space Agency (ESA), and started an on-going work on a Masters thesis aligned with biomimicry in aircraft surfaces.

As a dreamer from an emerging space nation in Southeast Asia, more specifically, from the crowded and bustling streets of Metro Manila, she aspires to be the proof of how far curiosity and persistence can take you. Ultimately, her goal is for more Filipinos who grow up curious about the sky to see themselves as part of the space community, and not just observers of it.



Onyinye NWANKWO-OMOLOJA

Dr. Onyinye Nwankwo-Omolaja is a space physicist and postdoctoral research fellow in Climate and Space Sciences and Engineering at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on space weather, ionosphere thermosphere coupling, geomagnetic storm impacts, and the use of physics based models and observations to understand upper atmospheric variability. She previously worked as a Scientific Officer at Nigeria's National Space Research and Development Agency, where she supported upper atmospheric instrumentation and space physics research. Dr. Nwankwo-Omolaja has research experience across Nigeria, Brazil, Japan, and the United States, and is committed to advancing international collaboration, mentoring, and capacity building in space science, especially for emerging space communities.



Eunice OLUBAYO

Eunice Olubayo is a Mechanical Engineer, aerospace researcher, and an active leader in international space advocacy. She currently serves as the National Point of Contact for Nigeria at the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), where she leads a network of over 1,200 young Nigerian space professionals. She is also the Event Manager for SG[Nigeria] and Marketing Executive for the Africa Space Economy, Innovation, and Communication Conference with NASRDA, where she coordinates international partnerships that mobilize over 1,500 global delegates. Eunice is currently a Master's student in Space Technologies and Business at the University of Luxembourg. Her technical background is rooted in system architectures for Smart Lunar Habitats and research into alternative non-hydrocarbon fuels for hypersonic vehicles. Beyond her engineering work, Eunice is deeply committed to gender equality and youth development in STEM. She has directly mentored girls and women through initiatives like the Boeing-FAESA Pathways to Space program and DCSI Africa, where she has directed STEM projects that have reached over 10,000 Africans.

Eunice believes that Africa's future in space will be shaped by the brilliance of its youth and the courage of its women. Her vision is to strengthen cross-continental collaboration, build sustainable space systems initiatives, and effectively integrate local African technical talent with the global aerospace market.



Diego PÉREZ REYES

Diego Pérez Reyes is a Mexican mechatronics engineer from ITAM, analog astronaut, and emerging space researcher working across space systems, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, advanced manufacturing, and deep-tech development. He completed a lunar analog mission at the LunAres Research Station in Poland at the minimum eligible age for participation and later trained for spaceflight at the International Institute for Astronautical Sciences through Project PoSSUM's Advanced Space Academy in Florida.

He is the founder of Quantum Lab ITAM, one of the first undergraduate-led quantum technology research groups, where he has promoted research seminars, technical education, and student-led projects in quantum computing and emerging technologies. He currently serves as Director of Engineering, Research & Development at Dataztlán, a Mexican tech-firm developing AI, data, cloud, and software engineering solutions for companies and emerging industries, while advancing initiatives in quantum machine learning, small satellites, AI and computer vision, quantum communications, robotics, and space hardware development.

His international research activity includes IAC 2024, where he presented work on additively manufactured ceramic rocket nozzles for low-cost experimental propulsion. At GLEX 2025, he presented four papers on satellite state estimation using liquid neural networks, wooden CubeSat structures, AI-assisted deep-space crew operations, and peaceful space coordination through restorative justice, receiving a Best Presentation award.

Diego believes emerging space nations must move from consuming space technology to building it. His work seeks to bring deep-tech development to Latin America, expand access to space-enabled tools beyond specialized institutions, and use international cooperation to turn local talent into lasting technological capacity.



Ei PHYU PHYU

Ei Phyu Phyu is currently an intern engineer at King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok (KMUTNB). She was awarded a Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation Scholarship to pursue a Master's degree in Electrical and Electronics Space System Engineering at the Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan. Her research focuses on the optimization of cushioning materials for low-impact shock testing of lean satellites. During her Master's studies, she contributed to the KITSUNE 6U and BIRDS-X 2U satellite projects. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Mechatronics Engineering from Pyay Technological University, Myanmar.

She also participated in the KNACKSAT-2 3U satellite project development from King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok (KMUTNB) Academic Challenge of Knowledge Satellite, where she worked on the design and development of the antenna deployment subsystem. Antenna deployment subsystem plays a critical role in enabling reliable communication and data transmission between the satellite and ground stations.

Currently, she is participating in the development of antenna subsystems and deployable solar panel systems for CubeSats. Beyond her technical work, she serves as the National Point of Contact for Myanmar at the Space Generation Advisory Council. She is passionate about advancing STEM education and fostering greater engagement in space activities among young people in Myanmar.



Karen Nicole PIRAZAN VILLANUEVA

A mix of engineer and space advocate, I'm an aeronautical engineer from Colombia, currently based in Spain. I work as a Systems Engineer consultant at Indra Space (via Ad Maiorem), contributing to VMMO (Volatile and Mineralogy Mapping Orbiter) and SPOCK (Smart Processing Orbital Cloud Konstellation) projects.

I previously worked with the Colombian Aerospace Force, where I supported the development of FACSAT-2 Cubesat and contributed to the FACSAT-3 constellation concept. I was recognized as a Young Researcher by MinCiencias (2022) and as an Outstanding Graduate from my "alma mater" Universidad de San Buenaventura.

Beyond my technical work, I really enjoy being part of the space community. Within SGAC, I was Co-Manager of SG Colombia 2025 and now support SG Spain 2026. In 2023, I took part in the World Space Forum, where I presented ideas on how to increase space awareness among younger generations. In 2025, I was one of the five global winners of the UNOOSA Space4Youth Essay Competition with my work "Educating Educators: A Regional Approach to the Social Appropriation of Space Knowledge."

I've also been part of Fundación Cydonia as an engineer, and I'm currently involved with ACMA and Fundación BeArte, supporting more inclusive access to space education.

For me, space is a place of opportunity; challenging, inspiring, and worth sharing. I'm not trying to go to space, but to build the systems that get there. And outside of all this, I practice boxing; it keeps me grounded, focused, and reminds me that progress comes and one punch at a time.



Zamara RODRIGUEZ

Zamara Rodríguez is a space policy and workforce development professional with a multidisciplinary background in law, international relations and space governance. She holds a Bachelor of Laws from Colombia, a Master of International Law and Diplomacy from the Australian National University, and is currently completing a Bachelor of Laws in Australia.

Zamara works with the Space Industry Association of Australia, where she leads work across policy, workforce development, industry engagement and international partnerships. Her work focuses on strengthening Australia's sovereign space capability, supporting industry growth, and ensuring that workforce development is treated as a national strategic priority.

She has contributed to the development of national space workforce initiatives, including the establishment of Australia's first national space mentoring program, designed to connect emerging professionals with experienced leaders across the sector. She has also led and supported programs focused on student pathways, skills development, industry capability mapping, international engagement and advocacy for a stronger and more inclusive Australian space ecosystem.

Zamara's professional interests sit at the intersection of space law, national security, international cooperation and workforce capability. She is particularly passionate about building practical pathways for young professionals, students and underrepresented groups to participate in the space sector.

Her perspective on space is grounded in cooperation, responsibility and shared opportunity. She believes international collaboration is essential to ensuring that space activities are sustainable, peaceful and beneficial to all. Through her work, Zamara seeks to contribute to a more inclusive and globally connected space sector, where emerging space nations and diverse voices are part of shaping the future of space.



Elizabeth SANCHEZ CHANG

Elizabeth “Liz” Sanchez Chang is a lawyer and founder based in Washington, D.C. Raised across the US, Mexico, and Korea, with a background in law and business from IE University in Madrid and American University Washington College of Law, Elizabeth approaches space law through a global and interdisciplinary lens.

She has held roles at Blue Origin, Vast Space, and Schroeder Law PLLC, with experience spanning commercial space station licensing, satellite regulation, and emerging space policy. As a 2025 Matthew Isakowitz Commercial Space Scholar, she is also among the first selected for the program’s law and policy track.

Liz is the founder of the American Space Law Foundation, whose mission is to pioneer American space law through education, research, and professional development. Its flagship Moot Court Competition, the first of its kind, brings together law students, practitioners, judges, and experts to address the field’s most pressing legal questions. Through her work, she has collaborated with institutions including the Commercial Spaceflight Federation, the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, and AIAA.

Liz’s work is built on the conviction that space law must be accessible, grounded in science, and shaped by the full range of international space stakeholders. She believes no nation, company, or institution can build the next era of space activity alone, and that lasting progress will depend on international cooperation, shared responsibility, and legal frameworks that endure across borders.



Alina Sandra SANTANDER VINOKUROVA

Alina Santander Vinokurova is an aerospace engineer and science communicator from La Paz, Bolivia. Her interest in space started when she was very young. She earned her bachelor’s degree in Mechatronic Engineering from Vaughn College, where she graduated as valedictorian, and also studied physics at Universidad Mayor de San Andrés. Later, she completed a Master’s in Aeronautics and Astronautics at Stanford University as a Knight-Hennessy Scholar.

Alina represented Bolivia in international science olympiads and co-founded the country’s first NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge team, which won the competition twice. She has also been named an Aviation Week 20 Twenties honoree and a Brooke Owens Fellow, both highly respected awards for new talent in aerospace in the United States.

Alina has worked at Zipline International, where she developed sensor and perception systems for autonomous delivery drones, and at Honeywell-Intelligent, where she worked on industrial automation. She has published research with AIAA and LACCEI.

Outside of her technical work, Alina runs a Spanish-language STEM platform that reaches tens of thousands of followers in Latin America, and she mentors young women and future engineers throughout the region. By connecting Latin American talent with the global space community, Alina believes that space exploration grows stronger through international teamwork and inclusive representation. Her goal is to make space more accessible, diverse, and truly reflective of the world.



Ekaterina SELTIKOVA

A scientist by training, Ekaterina began her career in research centres in Russia and France, working as a computational physicist across combustion, cryogenics, and turbulence. She has worked with institutions including INSA Lyon, the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission, and the French National Centre for Scientific Research.

Throughout her career, she has led and contributed to multiple space initiatives: led a conceptual lunar rover design team, co-led the LUNEX Prosper team developing a blueprint toward a sustainable human presence on the Moon in collaboration with Luxembourg Space Agency, and conducted microgravity research culminating in a flight campaign with Aurelia Institute (USA). More recently, Ekaterina founded Parsec Scale to support technology-to-market pathways and help translate science into practical impact.

Ekaterina is active in international professional communities, including GEGSLA, where she contributes to technical coordination around standards, information sharing, and infrastructure. She also serves as Program Manager for the IAF IPMC Young Professionals Leadership Development Programme, providing training and leadership opportunities in the field of project / program management for young professionals worldwide. Previously, she contributed to Health & Help as a Development Officer, supporting access to medical aid in remote regions of Guatemala and Nicaragua.

Her work has been recognised through the Foresight Institute's Fellowship (USA) and the SGAC European Space Leader Award. Ekaterina is interested in high-impact initiatives, emerging technologies, and innovation ecosystems. She sees space as a frontier for progress: a place where science, international cooperation, standards, and ecosystems can turn ambitious ideas into shared human benefit



Sibtain ALI THEPDAWALA

Sibtain Ali Thepdawala is an aerospace engineer from Pakistan whose work focuses on Space Situational Awareness and autonomous spacecraft operations. He recently completed his MSc in Aerospace Engineering at the Technical University of Munich, where his research introduced SatAIS, a novel Satellite Automatic Identification System designed to enable direct satellite-to-satellite coordination for federated Space Traffic Management. His work combines systems engineering, onboard autonomy, and communication protocols to address the growing challenges of orbital congestion.

Alongside his research, Sibtain Ali co-founded Datafrost Space, an early-stage startup focused on democratising access to space data for downstream services, which received first prize in the Spaceport_SK Incubation Programme. His broader project experience spans human spaceflight, lunar exploration, and Earth observation. This includes SpiCy-BEXUS, a stratospheric flight experiment supported by ESA and DLR to investigate sustainable oxygen production using cyanobacteria, as well as work with the Slovak Space Office and Neuraspace.

Beyond technical contributions, he has remained actively engaged in international outreach and leadership, serving as National Coordinator for Pakistan at the Moon Village Association while supporting educational initiatives that encourage greater participation from young professionals in emerging space nations.

Sibtain Ali believes that the next era of space exploration will depend not only on technological advancement but also on international cooperation, interoperability, and shared responsibility. He sees sustainable space operations as a global challenge that cannot be solved by individual organisations or nations alone, but through collaboration across academia, industry, agencies, and policymakers. Through his work, he hopes to help build a future where space remains accessible, safe, and beneficial for all.



Franklin JOSUE TICONA COAQUIRA

Franklin Josue Ticona Coaquira is the Project Manager and co-founder of Waskiri-Sat, Bolivia's first national nanosatellite, leading a team of 40+ students and professionals. Selected for the EXOLAUNCH–UNOOSA Exopod free-launch opportunity and scheduled for deployment in 2028, the mission provides early wildfire alerts through onboard AI, powered by a custom-designed ADCS and a novel deep learning-enhanced Optimal Guidance Unit. Through Waskiri-Sat, Franklin is working to establish Bolivia's first Aerospace Laboratory alongside the Bolivian Space Agency and international partners.

As a PhD candidate in Space Systems Engineering at Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech), He is an awardee of the UN/Japan long-term fellowship "Postgraduate Studies on Nano Satellites (PNST)." His research focuses on convex optimization for autonomous attitude and orbit guidance in low-thrust nanosatellites. Part of his work will be validated aboard the 1U CubeSat Waskiri-Sat (Bolivia) and the 3U CubeSat BIRDS-TM (Japan), where he leads the ADCS team, while also contributing to the 6U Mirzo Ulugbek nanosatellite, Uzbekistan's first national satellite.

Previously, during his Master's studies at Beihang University (China), supported by the Chinese Scholarship Council, Franklin developed a novel AOCS architecture for GNSS-R remote sensing using nanosatellite formation flying, leading an international team to second place in the Space University CubeSat Challenge.

Driven by the belief that advanced mathematics can transform emerging space nations, Franklin has trained more than 1,000 Bolivians in control engineering, astrodynamics, and robotics, helping build the talent that will lead Bolivia's future in space.



Nodira TILLAYEVA

Nodira Tillayeva is a graduate researcher from Uzbekistan pursuing a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering at Nagoya University, where she specializes in GeoAI, remote sensing, and location-based big data. Her work sits at the intersection of satellite technology and real-world impact, using space-derived data to address challenges in sustainable urban planning, water resource management, and public health.

Her research has been published in venues including HCII 2025, Infectious Disease Modelling, ACM KDD, and Research in Astronomy and Astrophysics, covering topics such as urban hotspot detection, mobility-aware infectious disease modeling, and urban area embeddings. Before moving to Japan, she developed geospatial and satellite-based systems at the Uzbek Space Agency and conducted climate data research at the Ulugh Beg Astronomical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan.

She has brought this expertise to the global stage, speaking at the 6th UN Conference on Water Management Using Space Technologies and serving as a Call to Action Facilitator at the 11th APFSD Youth Forum, where she moderated the Central Asian youth session on data-driven climate action. She founded the Google Developer Group on Campus at Nagoya University, launched Steply, an AI platform that combines human mobility and climate data, and mentored hundreds of girls in Uzbekistan through the UniSat program, guiding them from satellite assembly to publishing their first research papers.

Nodira is working toward a future where space-derived data is a shared resource, accessible to every nation building its tomorrow.



CRISTOBAL TRONCOSO

Cristóbal Troncoso Barrenechea is a Captain in the Chilean Air Force, serving in Chile's national space program as an Information Technology Leader. Additionally, he is the founder of Trobac IT, an early-stage startup developing operational intelligence solutions using AI, computer vision, and IoT for industrial and logistics environments. He also serves as Chile's National Point of Contact for the Space Generation Advisory Council, where he brings together the innovation and space ecosystems to share opportunities with younger generations.

His background combines a degree in Electronic Engineering with a Master's in Data Science. His work spans three ecosystems that rarely communicate with one another: institutional space, academic research, and entrepreneurship. He believes this intersection is where emerging space nations must operate, and countries like Chile must build space capabilities through public, private, and academic channels. Integration is essential.

This conviction shaped his recent leadership of the 10th South American Space Generation Workshop in Santiago, held in partnership with the International Air and Space Fair (FIDAE), reflecting Chile's maturing space ecosystem.

His IAC 2026 paper examines how decentralized and regional space centers can serve as strategic accelerators for emerging nations, with different focuses depending on each region's requirements. As an ESL grantee, he hopes to learn from peers facing similar challenges globally and bring back concrete approaches that Chile and the region can apply.

International cooperation is not merely a value statement for emerging space nations; it is the essential prerequisite for participating in space at all.



JIXIAN WANG

Jixian Wang is a doctoral researcher in Space Architecture at Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT), China, and a participant in TU Wien's MBA in Space Architecture & Management. Based at HIT's Complex Environments Architecture Research Institute, his research focuses on lunar research station prototypes, integrating mission scenarios, systems engineering, and human-centered design to support sustainable human presence beyond Earth.

Since 2022, he has contributed to China's first Key Program of the National Natural Science Foundation of China dedicated to lunar architecture research. His work spans reconfigurable lunar habitats, lunar lava tube utilization, protective shelter design, and phased habitat development methodologies. He has authored seven academic publications, secured four patents and software copyrights, and received distinctions including First Prize in the MV2050 Lunar Competition (Architecture Track) and the 2025 Heilongjiang Provincial Science and Technology Progress First-Class Award.

Currently conducting research in Vienna through support from the China Scholarship Council (CSC), he actively engages with the international space community through forums on lunar development and space policy, including events organized by the UNOOSA. As a young researcher from one of China's leading aerospace universities, he is committed to serving as a bridge between China's emerging space architecture community and global partners. He has also contributed to establishing the Space Architecture Professional Committee of the Architectural Society of China, helping build an internationally oriented and interdisciplinary platform for collaboration. Guided by the principles of peace, sustainability, and international cooperation, he seeks to advance collaborative solutions for humanity's future beyond Earth.



RACHEAL WANYANA

Wanyana is the Principal Advisor at the Space Law and Security Advisory, an international firm dedicated to providing governments with legal-strategic expertise to build robust and adaptive legal, regulatory, and institutional frameworks that anticipate and mitigate security risks in the space domain. She leads the firm's research and advisory portfolio, and strategic engagements with governments, international institutions, and multilateral bodies. Her research is focused on understanding the applicability of national and international laws to hybrid and greyzone space threats as well as under-explored regions of space.

Previously, Wanyana held advisory and contractual roles at renowned international organisations including Saferworld, Transparency International Secretariat, Transparency International Defence & Security, Forum on the Arms Trade, and Chr. Michelsen Institute, where she provided technical support and accompaniment to governments, intergovernmental agencies and global programmes at the intersection of international law, gender, arms control, security sector reform, peace and security, and anti-corruption. She is a Doctor of law and Security candidate at NOVA University of Lisbon, and holds a Master of Laws Degree in European and International Law from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Wanyana also hosts the Space Advisory Podcast, which delivers incisive commentary on space law and security.

Wanyana believes international cooperation is essential for maintaining peace and security in space. The Outer Space Treaty, while not perfect, provides a strong guiding framework for meaningful, inclusive and equitable cooperation. However, the continued legitimacy of the treaty depends on our collective commitment to its core principles and multilateral dialogue to build a common understanding of responsible behaviour in outer space.

1.4 IAF/ISEB Educators Professional Development Workshop

Date: Saturday 3 October 2026

Time: 09:00 – 18:00

Venue: Hall 7, First Floor, NEST Plus Building

INSPIRING EDUCATORS • EMPOWERING MINDS • SHAPING THE FUTURE

The Educators Professional Development Workshop offers to educators the possibility to be introduced to the latest pedagogical research and effective instructional strategies, and to the fundamentals of the space environment through keynotes, panel discussions, curriculum sharing, and hands-on workshops.



Programme Agenda

13:30 – 14:00	REGISTRATION & NETWORKING
14:00 – 14:10	WELCOME SPEECH <i>Imran Mukhtarov, Head of SPACE Academy of Azercosmos</i>
14:10 – 14:20	OPENING SPEECH <i>Dunay Badirkhanov, Chairman of the Board, Azercosmos</i>
14:20 – 14:30	OPENING SPEECH ON BEHALF OF ISEB <i>Christian Lange, Science Advisor & Acting Director General, Space, Science & Technology – Canadian Space Agency</i>
14:30 – 14:40	OPENING SPEECH BY THE IAF <i>Christian Feichtinger, Executive Director, International Astronautical Federation (IAF)</i>
14:40 – 16:00	EXPERT PANEL: BUILDING THE SPACE WORKFORCE OF TOMORROW Moderator: <i>Sabina Adilova-Aliyeva, Manager, Space Science Projects SPACE Academy of Azercosmos</i> Panelists: <i>Experts in space education & workforce development</i>
16:00 – 16:15	COFFEE & TEA BREAK (Kahoot)
16:15 – 16:20	JAXA SPACE EDUCATION PROGRAMS OPEN TO STUDENTS WORLDWIDE <i>Fumiaki Tanigaki, Director, JAXA Space Education Center</i>
16:25 – 16:35	INTRODUCTION OF THE HANDS-ON WORKSHOP <i>Sabina Adilova-Aliyeva, Manager, Space Science Projects SPACE Academy of Azercosmos</i>
16:35 – 17:15	EDUCATORS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP: “SPACE OBSERVATORIES & TELESCOPES CONSTRUCTION” <i>SPACE Academy Team</i>
17:15 – 18:00	CLOSING CEREMONY – Awarding of digital certificates <i>ISEB & SPACE Academy, All Participants</i>

1.5 IAF Cross-Cultural Communications and Presentation Workshop

Date: Sunday 4 October 2026

Time: 09:00 – 13:00

Venue: Hall 34, First Floor, NEST Plus Building

The Cross-Cultural Communications and Presentation Workshop is organized for the IAF Emerging Space Leaders Grant Programme recipients and Next Generation Plenary speakers to provide them with the opportunity to improve their oral skills for their presentations and to sensitize them to the issues of speaking at large multi-cultural events.

Session presenters:



Ozan KARA

Technology Innovation Institute; Lead Engineer, Propulsion and Space, Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), United Arab Emirates



Tatiana KOMORNÁ

Operations Manager, Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), Slovakia



Ioana Roxana PERRIER

Professor Space Science and Physics, Institut Polytechnique des Sciences Avancées (IPSA), France



Sapna RAO

Systems Engineer, Commercial Civil Space, Lockheed Martin Corporation, United States



Alina VIZIREANU

GIS Manager AVINTERRA, Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), United Kingdom

2 Associated Events

2.1 IAF IDEA “3G+” DIVERSITY PROGRAMME



“Brilliant minds don’t have Age, Gender, Nationality or Handicap. Take the best of all and give diversity a chance!” Jean-Yves Le Gall, IAF President

With the aim of promoting and advancing the principles of “3G+” (Geography, Generation, and Gender) Diversity amongst a global space community the IAF has established an International Platform for Diversity and Equality in Astronautics (IDEA).

The IAF welcomes delegates to participate in the IAC Diversity Activities and benefit from an intensive and open exchange on diversity and equality aspects within the IAF, amongst IAF member organizations as well as other organizations promoting diversity.

2.1.1 IAF IDEA “3G+” Diversity Breakfast

Date: Tuesday 6 October 2026

Time: 08:00 – 08:45

Location: NEST Congress and Exhibition Centre, Cafeteria A-B-C Foyer (left-side)

Speakers:



Gabriella ARRIGO

President,
International
Astronautical Federation
(IAF),
France



Nikol KOLEVA

VP: Diversity Initiatives,
International
Astronautical Federation
(IAF),
Executive Director,
Space Generation
Advisory Council (SGAC),
Austria

2.1.2 IAF Excellence in “3G+” Diversity Award Luncheon (Upon invitation only)

Date: Tuesday 6 October 2026

Time: 12:30 – 13:30

Location: NEST Congress and Exhibition Centre, Cafeteria A-B-C Foyer (left-side)

The IAF Excellence in “3G+” Diversity Awards recognize IAF member organizations (industry, government, academia) worldwide for outstanding contributions to the fostering of “3G” (Geography, Generation, Gender) Diversity within the space sector.

This Luncheon is dedicated to the award ceremony for the 2025 IAF Excellence in “3G+” Diversity Awards, bestowed to The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Women in Aerospace Europe.

Master of Ceremony:



Nikol KOLEVA
VP: Diversity Initiatives,
International
Astronautical Federation
(IAF),
Executive Director,
Space Generation
Advisory Council (SGAC),
Austria

AWARDEE

SPACE Academy of Azercosmos



SPACE Academy of Azercosmos is Azerbaijan's national platform for developing the country's future space workforce through education, scientific excellence, engineering and international cooperation. As one of the world's fully institutionalized national space academies and a full member of the International Space Education Board (ISEB), the Academy has established a sustainable national ecosystem that connects education with research, innovation and industry while expanding equitable access to space opportunities across the country.



Imran MUKHTAROV
Head,
Academy of the
Azerbaijan Space
Agency (Azercosmos),
Azerbaijan



2.2 16th IAF International Meeting for Ministers and Members of Parliaments (Closed Meeting)

Date: Sunday 4 October 2026
Time: 09:30 – 19:00
Venue: Sports Hall, Gloria Sports Arena



Space Solutions for Resilient Societies: Security, Sustainability and Prosperity

Sunday 04 October 2026

The MMoP Meeting will take place in the Sports Hall of the Gloria Sports Arena

09:00 Welcome Coffee

09:25 Group Picture

09:30 Welcome, Introduction & Special Address by Host Country

- **HE. Mehmet Fatih Kacir**, Minister of Industry and Technology, Türkiye, IAC 2026 Host Country
- **Gabriella Arrigo**, President, International Astronautical Federation (IAF)
- **Hon. Zeynep Yıldız**, Member of the Grand National Assembly, Türkiye, IAC 2026 Host Country
- **Hon. Fuat Oktay**, Former Vice President of Republic of Türkiye, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, IAC 2026 Host Country (Guest of Honour)
- **Dominique Tilmans**, Honorary Senator, Belgium, Special Advisor to the IAF President on Parliamentary and Ministerial Relations, and MMoP 2026 Co-Chair and Master of Ceremony

10:15 Session 1: **Space for Resilience and Climate Action**

Space solutions offer concrete tools to prevent and manage natural disasters such as floods, droughts, fires, landslides, earthquakes. Satellites enable the mapping of risk areas, the monitoring of events, and the issuance of early warnings. Before, during, and after a disaster, they help rapidly assess damage and guide emergency response efforts. These solutions support territorial planning and help protect populations. For example, in agriculture, satellite imagery helps anticipate droughts and reduce crop losses. In cities, it helps identify flood-prone areas and improve infrastructure planning. In transport, satellites support the management of roads, ports, and other critical infrastructure, facilitating the delivery of emergency aid.

*Keynote Speech and Moderation by **Salem Butti Salem Al Qubaisi**, Director General, UAE Space Agency*
Interventions by Ministers and Members of Parliaments

Roundtable Discussion

11:15

Session 2: Space Governance: Security, Sustainability and Regulation

Space solutions enhance national security and the protection of citizens. They enable border surveillance, the monitoring of large-scale movements, maritime security operations, and the protection of critical infrastructure. They also ensure reliable communications during crises and in remote areas. These technologies help authorities prevent threats and respond effectively to emergency situations. They are a strategic asset for strengthening national security and resilience. For example, in the fisheries sector, they help combat illegal fishing and protect maritime resources. In transport, satellite navigation enhances the safety of air, land, and maritime operations. In urban environments, geospatial data support traffic management and the protection of critical infrastructure

Keynote Speech and Moderation by **Eric Morel de Westgaver**, Director of Strategy, Legal and External Affairs, European Space Agency (ESA)

Interventions by Ministers and Members of Parliaments

Roundtable Discussion

12:15

Session 3: Space Entrepreneurship and Innovation Ecosystems

Space-based solutions are increasingly driving applications in agriculture, energy, mobility, insurance, urban planning, logistics, and environmental monitoring, yet their potential is still too often overlooked. They provide tools that foster entrepreneurship and innovation, strengthen industrial competitiveness, and attract investment. They support sustainable growth, strategic autonomy, and long-term prosperity. Policymakers play a central role in establishing predictable regulatory frameworks that promote scalable business solutions capable of addressing societal challenges.

Keynote Speech and Moderation by **Yusuf Kırac**, President, Turkish Space Agency (TUA)

Interventions by Ministers and Members of Parliaments

Roundtable Discussion

13:15

Closing Remarks

- **Hon. Zeynep Yıldız**, Member of the Grand National Assembly, Türkiye, IAC 2026 Host Country
- **Dominique Tilmans**, Honorary Senator, Belgium, Special Advisor to the IAF President on Parliamentary and Ministerial Relations, and MMoP 2026 Co-Chair and Master of Ceremony
- **HE. Mehmet Fatih Kacır**, Minister of Industry and Technology, Türkiye, IAC 2026 Host Country

13:30

Lunch Break

15:30 – 17:30

MMoP Cultural Visit – Golf Master Class

Sueno Hotel, Kadriye Mah. 5. Sok. No:6/2, Serik / Antalya, Türkiye

Transfer will be provided from the MMoP Meeting venue (Gloria Sports Arena) to the Sueno Hotel and return.

19:30

IAF International Meeting for Ministers and Members of Parliaments Cocktail and Dinner at Side Ancient

Gloria Golf Club, Belek Mah. Turizm Cad. No:74, Serik / Antalya, Türkiye

- **Gabriella Arrigo**, President, International Astronautical Federation (IAF)
- **Dominique Tilmans**, Special Advisor to the IAF President on Parliamentary and Ministerial Relations and Master of Ceremony of the 15th IAF MMoP Meeting, International Astronautical Federation (IAF)
- **HE. Mehmet Fatih Kacır**, Minister of Industry and Technology, Türkiye, IAC 2026 Host Country

Monday 05 October 2026

The IAC 2026 will take place at the NEST Congress and Exhibition Centre located in Belek, 07506 Serik/Antalya, and the Gloria Sports Arena, Turizm Cd. No: 4, 07506 Serik/Antalya, Türkiye

- 08:30 – 09:15** **VIP Gathering**
Gloria Sports Arena, Restaurant
- 09:15 – 10:00** **IAC 2026 Prologue**
Gloria Sports Arena, Sports Hall
- 10:00 – 11:30** **Plenary Event 1: One to One with Heads of Agencies**
Gloria Sports Arena, Sports Hall
- 11:45 – 12:30** **VIP Exhibition Opening**
NEST Congress and Exhibition Centre, Exhibition Hall
- 12:30 – 13:30** **VIP Luncheon**
NEST Congress and Exhibition Centre, Cafeteria A-B-C Foyer (left-side)
- 14:30 – 16:00** **IAC 2026 Opening Ceremony**
NEST Congress and Exhibition Centre, Football Field - Reserved VIP Seats for the MMoPs
- 16:15 – 19:00** **Free time** to visit the Exhibition and attending the IAF GNFS Sessions and other portions of the IAC 2026 Programme
- 19:30 – 22:30** **IAC 2026 Welcome Reception & VIP Cocktail**
NEST Congress and Exhibition Centre, Football Field

Tuesday 06 October 2026

- 08:00 – 08:45** **Industry Breakfast**
NEST Congress and Exhibition Centre, Cafeteria A-B-C Foyer (left-side)
- 09:00 – 10:00** **Plenary Event 2: IAC 2026 Host Plenary “Bridging Eras: From Silk Road Astronomy to Lunar Exploration”**
NEST Congress and Exhibition Centre, HALL D1-D2
- 10:00 – 12:30** **Free time** to visit the Exhibition and attending the IAF GNFS Sessions and other portions of the IAC 2026 Programme
- 12:30 – 13:30** **Industry VIP Luncheon**
NEST Congress and Exhibition Centre, Cafeteria A-B-C Foyer (left-side)

2.3 IAC Hosts Summit – 13th EDITION

Date: Sunday 4 October 2026

Time: 10:30 – 13:00

Venue: Room D3, Ground Floor, NEST Convention Center, Antalya, Türkiye

Time:	Programme
	Welcome Coffee Introductory Teaser “The Road to IAC Success: Resilience, Experience, and Legacy”
Opening	Welcome by Master of Ceremony Peter MARTINEZ, Chair of the IAF Congress and Symposium Advisory Committee (CSAC) / President, Secure World Foundation (SWF)
Keynote	Hosting Beyond Borders: Winning Bids in a Fragmented World (10-min) Christian FEICHTINGER, Executive Director, International Astronautical Federation (IAF) In an era of geopolitical tensions, regional rivalries, travel restrictions, economic uncertainty, and competing national priorities, hosting a truly global event has become increasingly complex. A successful IAC bid must demonstrate not only technical excellence and organizational capability, but also the ability to serve as a platform that brings together the global space community without excluding anybody. What makes an IAC bid globally relevant and compelling to an international audience? This session will explore how IAC candidate hosts can build broad international support, foster inclusivity across regions and stakeholder groups, address geopolitical sensitivities, ensure accessibility and participation from emerging space nations, and position their proposal as a unifying opportunity for the global space community. Drawing on experiences from previous bids and hosts, the keynote will examine how IAC can continue to serve as a bridge across cultures, nations, and sectors in an increasingly divided world.
Panel Discussion	Mission Resilience: Preparing IAC for an Unpredictable World (30 min) Major international events are increasingly exposed to operational, security, geopolitical, health, and environmental risks. How can IAC Hosts strengthen preparedness while maintaining continuity and protecting the delegate experience? This session will examine practical approaches to risk assessment, contingency planning, crisis management structures, insurance coverage, stakeholder coordination, and decision-making during disruptive events, drawing on lessons from recent international congresses and major events.
Moderator:	Peter MARTINEZ, Chair of the IAF Congress and Symposium Advisory Committee (CSAC) / President, Secure World Foundation (SWF)
Panelists:	Adnan Mohammad ALRAIS, Assistant DG – Space Operations and Exploration Sector, Mohammed Bin Rachid Space Centre (MBRSC), United Arab Emirates Henriette CYUZUZO, Division Manager / GLOC 2026 IPC Co-Chair, Rwanda Space Agency (RSA), Rwanda Steve EISENHART, Retired Sr Vice President – Strategic and International Affairs, Space Foundation / Former IAF VP for IAF GNF / Member, Congress and Symposium Advisory Committee (CSAC), United States Rena JAFAROVA, Business Development Director, AnewZ / IAC 2023 Project Manager, Azercosmos, Azerbaijan Lionel SUCHET, Director General, Centre National d’Etudes Spatiales (CNES) / Former IAF VP, France

Panel Discussion	The Experience Factor: What Makes an IAC Truly Exceptional? (30 min) A successful IAC is measured not only by attendance, but by the quality of the participant's experience. How can Hosts enhance engagement before, during, and after the congress? This session will explore strategies for attendee journey design, networking facilitation, digital engagement, host city integration, and destination showcasing, with a focus on delivering a distinctive and memorable experience for delegates, exhibitors, sponsors, and partners. Moderator: • Steve EISENHART, Retired Sr Vice President – Strategic and International Affairs, Space Foundation / Former IAF VP for IAF GNF / Member, Congress and Symposium Advisory Committee (CSAC) Panelists: - Mukhiddin IBRAGIMOV, Deputy Director, Uzbekspace Agency / IAC 2028 LOC (Samarkand, Uzbekistan) - Lisa VITARIS, Director, IAC 2025 LOC (Sydney, Australia) - Łukasz WILCZYŃSKI, President and Co-Founder, European Space Foundation (ESF) / Chair, IAC 2027 (Poznań, Poland) - Enrico ZAPPINO, Associate Professor at the Politecnico di Torino / IAC 2024 LOC (Milan, Italy) / Member, Congress and Symposium Advisory Committee (CSAC)
Panel Discussion	The Legacy Equation: Measuring IAC Success Beyond Attendance (30 min) Hosting the IAC is more than organizing a one-week event: it is an opportunity to generate lasting benefits for the local space ecosystem, scientific community, industry, and society. But how should success be measured? This session will examine methodologies and case studies for assessing economic, educational, institutional, and reputational impacts, while exploring strategies to build a meaningful and enduring legacy that extends well beyond the IAC week. Moderator: • Christian FEICHTINGER, Executive Director, International Astronautical Federation (IAF) Panelists: - D. GOWRISANKAR, Director, Office of International & Interagency Cooperation (OIIC), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) / GLEX 2025 (New Delhi, India) - Mukhiddin IBRAGIMOV, Deputy Director, Uzbekspace agency / IAC 2028 LOC (Samarkand, Uzbekistan) - Imran MUKHTAROV, Head of Space Academy of Azercosmos / IAC 2023 LOC (Baku, Azerbaijan) - Enrico PALERMO, Head, Australian Space Agency / IAC 2025 Co-Host (Sydney, Australia) / IAF VP for Space Agency Relations - Yao ZHANG, Deputy Director General in Charge of Academic Activities; Chinese Society of Astronautics (CSA) / IAC 2014 (Beijing, China) and GLEX 2017 (Beijing, China) / Vice-Chair, Congress and Symposium Advisory Committee (CSAC)
Session	The 2029 Bid Candidates Showcase: Vision, Ambition, and Impact (30 min) An interactive session providing 2029 IAC Host Candidates with an opportunity to present their hosting concepts, strategic priorities, and key differentiators. The session will conclude with a drawing of lots featuring questions prepared by the IAF Congress and Symposium Advisory Committee (CSAC). Each participant will have one minute to respond to their question.
Closing	Closing Remarks by Master of Ceremony (3 min)
	Group Photo
13:00 – 14:00	IAC Hosts Summit Luncheon – Cafeteria, First Floor, NEST

2.4 The 33rd IAF Workshop on Space Economy Opportunities for Emerging Nations: Advancing Socio-Economic Resilience through Space Technologies and Applications

Date: 3 – 4 October 2026
Time: 09:00 – 18:00
Venue: Rooms G1,G2 & G3, Ground Floor, NEST Congress & Exhibition Center

Organized by:



United Nations
Office for Outer Space Affairs



INTRODUCTION

Continuing a series of technical workshops built on more than thirty years of cooperation, the **International Astronautical Federation (IAF)** and the **United Nations**, through the Programme on Space Applications implemented by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), are co-organising the **33rd UN/IAF Workshop**, taking place on 3–4 October 2026 at the venue of the 77th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Antalya, Türkiye.

Under the theme **“Space Economy Opportunities for Emerging Nations: Advancing Socio-Economic Resilience through Space Technologies and Applications”**, the workshop will bring together over 150 people from government, space agencies, research institutes, academia, and non-governmental organizations who prepare and carry out space activities and are specifically interested in building partnerships.

The UN/IAF Workshop is aligned with the theme of the Congress: *“The World Needs More Space”*, to ensure that space remains an open frontier for all while more countries and diverse stakeholders join the global space economy.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

Space applications are a game-changer in many sectors of the economy, and they have revolutionised the way services essential for socio-economic development are provided in many areas, from agriculture to transport, energy or telecommunications. According to the OECD, the space economy encompasses all activities and resources that contribute to human progress through the exploration, research, understanding, management, and utilisation of space. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) defines socio-economic resilience as the capacity of communities and systems to withstand, adapt to, and recover from shocks (such as disasters, economic crises, or conflict) while maintaining development progress. To face today’s challenges and to develop the resilience of key socio-economic sectors, space applications and technologies provide unique tools either integrated into decision-making processes or part of complex solutions where space is an essential component. In this context, developing socio-economic resilience would need discussions about how to increase capabilities in space technologies and space applications within developing countries.

The Workshop aims to bring together stakeholders from various governments – especially governments of developing countries – with space agencies, academia, and representatives of the space industry to network and discuss how to increase capabilities in space technologies and space applications within developing countries. With the wide-ranging topic of socio-economic resilience, the event will consider initiatives at the intersection of business, economics, and development strategy.

The Workshop will provide a platform to discuss trends in the space economy, increase awareness of successful socio-economic and regulatory approaches, and to explore innovative initiatives taking place within developing countries, highlighting the benefits that space activities offer with their wide range of applications.

Presentations made during the UN/IAF Workshop will be published on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and on the website of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), while the report of the Workshop and its recommendations will be distributed to the participants and to the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN COPUOS).

PROGRAMME

Saturday 03 October 2026	
09:00 – 10:00	Registration and coffee, NEST Convention Centre, ground floor, in front of room G3
10:00 – 10:15	Opening Aarti Holla-Maini (UNOOSA Director) and Gabriella Arrigo (IAF President)
10:15 – 10:35	Setting the scene Christian Feichtinger (IAF), Fatih Dulkan (TUA) and Driss El Hadani (UNOOSA)
10:35 – 10:40	Group photo
10:40 – 11:40	Session: Impact of space activities on key economic sectors Chair: Matias Campos , Astralintu (Ecuador) and IAF ACCESS committee • Mustapha Iderawumi, Space in Africa (Nigeria): “Learning from the Pioneers” • Ioana-Maria Petrescu, European Space Policy Institute (Romania): “Space-based property taxation” • Nandi Mtethwa, RIIS (South Africa): “From space data to flood resilience” • Hamdi Demir, Türksat (Türkiye): “The socio-economic value of satellite communications” • Ahmad Soleymani, Iranian Space Research Center (Iran): “Unlocking space economy opportunities in Iran”
11:40 – 11:50	Pitch: space applications and key economic sectors • La-Quita George (Trinidad and Tobago): “Bridging space and seas: harnessing Earth Observation technologies for sustainable fisheries” • Nebile Pelin Mantı (Türkiye): “AI-driven cyber architectures in cislunar space”
11:50 – 12:50	Panel: the transformative value of space applications in developing countries Moderator: Driss El Hadani (UNOOSA) with Hawa Abdulai (Nigeria), Fama Jallow (Gambia), Sardorjon Sodikjonov (Uzbekistan) and Eleonora Lombardi (Italy).
12:50 – 13:00	Networking tables: introduction of moderators
13:00 – 13:45	LUNCH BREAK

13:45 – 14:15	Networking [1st round] in Rooms G1 and G2
14:15 – 15:00	Session 2: starting from scratch: country pathways, practical experiences and lessons learned Chair: Ian Grosner, Brazilian Space Agency (Brazil) • Bibi Sara Karimullah, Asian University for Women (Bangladesh): “From dreams to space” • Belén Bustamante, Sideralis Foundation (Ecuador): “From start-up to ecosystem” • Ankit Khanal, University of Luxembourg (Nepal): “Grassroots space innovation for socio-economic resilience”
15:00 – 16:00	Panel 2: the role of cubesats projects in building capacity Moderator: Craig Burkhard, NASA (USA) <i>with Leila Nahiri (Morocco), Firas Jarrar (Jordan), Jose Martinez Munguia (El Salvador) and Zamba Leonel Bakeapai (South Sudan)</i>
16:00 – 16:10	Pitch 2: cubesats projects as a step to build capacity • Franco Morales Albarracin (Bolivia): “CubeSat projects to build capacity” • Eden Habteslasie (Ethiopia): “CubeSats as a step to build capacity”
16:10 – 16:40	COFFEE BREAK
16:40 – 16:55	Pitch 3: education opportunities • Timothy Kuhamba (Zimbabwe): “An AI-powered accessible space education platform for Africa” • Chidera Ikeh (Nigeria): “Nigeria’s space education gap” • Jeanne Holm (USA): “Impact of Space Data and Applications in New Regions”
16:55 – 17:55	Panel 3: civil society, education and inclusive development Moderator: Andrew Marchetti (UNOOSA) <i>with Ana María Segura Paz (Colombia), Ira Sharma (Nepal), Martina Elia Vitoloni (Argentina), Fiorella Arias Bonilla (Costa Rica) and Farhan Asrar (Canada)</i>
17:55 – 18:00	Information for Sunday
18:00 – 19:00	RECEPTION , NEST Convention Centre, first floor, Cafeteria A-B-C Foyer Left
Sunday 04 October 2026	
09:00 – 09:30	[Registration] Welcome coffee
09:30 – 10:00	Networking [2nd round] in Rooms G1 and G2
10:00 – 11:00	Panel 4: identifying practical pathways to scale up within emerging nations Moderator: Nathalie Ricard (UNOOSA) <i>with Zahra Imanova (Azerbaijan), Victor Ribeiro Baptista (Brazil), Paragjyoti Garg (India), Žaklin Butinar (Slovenia) and Philip Thomas (UK)</i>
11:00 – 11:20	Pitch 4: ecosystem development • Yankho Likaku (Malawi): “Space ecosystem development toolkit” • Esteban Fretes (Paraguay): “GuaraniSat-2 as a catalyst for socio-economic development in Paraguay” • Nazmelis Zengin (Türkiye): “Space agencies as ecosystem builders” • Rani Mesele (Ethiopia): “Building Africa’s space future”

11:20 – 12:30	Session 3: cooperation as capacity-building and ecosystem development tool Chair: Ayhan Incirci, APSCO and TUA (Türkiye) and IAF CLIODN committee • Masanori Muto, Mitsubishi Research Institute (Japan): “Designing cross-border space ecosystems for sustainable growth and resilience” • Rodion Immel, International Organization of Space Communications Intersputnik (Russian Federation): “Youth far beyond borders” • Abdelrahman Elshorbge, Egyptian Space Agency (Egypt): “Strengthening Africa’s participation in the space economy through ISS-based climate monitoring” • Paripat Pairat, GISTDA (Thailand): “Leveraging international cooperation to build space capability” • Beza Zewdie, Panafric Space Technologies (Ethiopia): “The political economy of space in Ethiopia”
12:30 – 12:40	Pitch 5: cooperation • Tejpaul Bhatia (USA): “Market infrastructure for the space economy” • Miqdad Mehdi (Pakistan): “China-Pakistan space cooperation”
12:40 – 13:00	Keynote speech Huadong Guo, International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (China)
13:00 – 13:45	LUNCH BREAK
13:45 – 14:15	Networking [last round] in Rooms G1 and G2
14:15 – 14:30	Pitch 6: regulation as incentive • Gaia Baroni (Italy): “The role of taxation in the space economy” • Bengisu Türkmen (Türkiye): “LEO market concentration: competition and orbital congestion” • Farah Diya Yasmine (Indonesia): “The implication of the hierarchy of law towards national space missions”
14:30 – 15:15	Session 4: national strategies Chair: Marlene Losier, Losier & González PLLC (USA) and IAF CLIODN committee • Mosebetsi Khobotlo, Access Partnership (Lesotho): “Regulatory infrastructure” • Smita Francis, Namibia University of Science and Technology (Namibia): “From classroom to cosmos” • James Murray, Civil Aviation Agency and University of the Bahamas (Ireland/Bahamas): “From island nation to space nation”
15:15 – 15:45	COFFEE BREAK
15:45 – 16:45	Panel 5: national strategies, policy frameworks and enabling conditions Moderator: Driss El Hadani (UNOOSA) with Dania González Rauda (El Salvador), Bilge Demirkoz (Türkiye), Ute Reisinger (World Bank/Austria) and Anh Tuan Pham (Viet Nam)
16:45 – 17:00	Feedback from participants
17:00 – 17:15	Closing with Yusuf Kirac (IAF), Piotr Zabadala (Poland) and Driss El Hadani (UNOOSA)
17:15	END OF WORKSHOP

2.5 Space Generation Congress (SGC) 2026

Date: 1 – 3 October 2026

Venue: Belconti Resort Hotel, Belek, Antalya, Türkiye



THE GLOBAL SPACE CONGRESS FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS INTERESTED IN TODAY'S KEY SPACE ISSUES

Space Generation Congress (SGC) is the annual flagship event of the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), held each year alongside the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in the host country. The congress brings together approximately 150 exceptional students and young professionals from around the world who share a passion for advancing the space sector.

Participants are selected through a highly competitive application process from SGAC's global network. The event provides a unique platform for the next generation of space leaders to exchange ideas, collaborate across cultures and disciplines, and contribute their perspectives on the future of international space development.

For its 2026 edition, the Space Generation Congress (SGC) will take place in Antalya, Türkiye, from 1–3 October 2026. Centered on the theme, "Under One Moon, Across All Nations," this year's congress highlights the importance of global unity in advancing the future of space exploration. We invite you to join this international dialogue, bridging cultural and geographical divides to foster collaboration, strengthen partnerships, and build a shared vision for the future of humanity in space.

SGC 2026 Programme

All programme times are listed in Turkey Time (TRT, UTC+3). The programme is subject to change.

Please refer to the official SGC website for the latest schedule and updates: <https://spacegeneration.org/sgc2026>.

Thursday 1 October 2026

08:30 – 09:00	Doors Open and Delegate Registration
09:00 – 09:20	Welcome & Opening Remarks
09:20 – 09:30	SGAC: Who We Are & What We Do
09:30 – 09:45	Welcome Address by the Executive Director of the IAF
09:45 – 10:00	Welcome Address by the President of the Turkish Space Agency
10:05 – 10:45	Astronaut Keynote & Q&A
10:45 – 10:55	Working Group Overview & Allocation
11:00 – 12:30	Working Group Sessions
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:35 – 15:30	Working Group Sessions
15:40 – 16:00	Official SGC Group Photo
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee Break
16:45 – 17:30	CT Engineering Fireside Chat

17:30 – 18:00 Scholarship Recognition & Logo Competition Reveal

18:05 – 18:15 Closing Remarks

19:30 – 00:00 **International Night**

Friday 2 October 2026

08:30 – 08:35 SGC Day 2 Welcome

08:35 – 09:20 Panel: Faster, Cheaper, Better? Rethinking the NewSpace Model

09:20 – 09:40 Keynote Address

09:40 – 09:45 Keynote by KARI

09:45 – 10:30 *Coffee Break by KARI*

10:30 – 12:15 Working Group Sessions

12:15 – 13:15 *Lunch*

13:15 – 14:30 Speed Mentorship Session

14:30 – 15:00 Keynote by Taiwan Space Agency

15:00 – 15:30 *Coffee Break*

15:30 – 17:55 Working Group Sessions

17:55 – 18:10 Keynote by AIAA CEO

18:10 – 18:15 Transportation Briefing

18:20 – 19:00 Travel to Larena Beach

19:10 – 00:00 **Space Night**

Saturday 3 October 2026

8:30 – 08:40 SGC Day 3 Welcome

8:40 – 09:00 Keynote by ASELSAN

9:05 – 09:30 Keynote by NASA's Associate Administrator for the Science Mission Directorate

9:30 – 10:00 *Coffee Break by Astrolab*

10:00 – 11:15 Panel: Shaping the future of space – Heads of Agencies panel

11:15 – 11:35 Keynote by AC Charania

11:35 – 12:30 Blue Origin Sponsored Panel: Sustained Presence on the Moon

12:30 – 13:45 *Lunch*

13:45 – 15:00 Working Group Presentations

15:00 – 15:30 *Coffee Break*

15:35 – 15:55 Keynote by ArkEdge CEO

16:00 – 16:25 Keynote by ESA's Head of Strategy

16:25 – 16:35 SGC Day 3 Closing Remarks

16:35 – 18:30 Free time to get ready for the Gala

19:00 – 00:00 SGC 2026 Gala Dinner

IAC 2026 – 5 – 9 October 2026

2.6 IAF Public Speaking and Presentation Skills Lab

Date: Sunday 4 October
Time: 16:00 – 18:00
Venue: E7, Ground Floor, NEST Convention Center



At an international congress like IAC, we are constantly representing ourselves, our ideas, our organizations, and our countries. Communication is not just a skill: it is a powerful tool for creating opportunities, building trust, and turning conversations into collaborations.

Join the **IAF Public Speaking & Presentation Skills Lab (IAF PS Lab)**, held in conjunction with the **77th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026)** in Antalya, Türkiye.

Whether you are **presenting an abstract for the first time, pitching a space startup, presenting groundbreaking research, or building your next international collaboration**, the ability to communicate with confidence and impact can make all the difference.

Why join the IAF PS Lab

A **2-hour, hands-on and highly interactive workshop** designed to help you:

- Speak with confidence, clarity, and impact
- Overcome stage fright and manage nervousness
- Communicate effectively across cultures and audiences
- Use body language and non-verbal communication to strengthen your message
- Master networking and make meaningful connections
- Deliver pitches and presentations that inspire collaboration

What to expect

- Real-stage practice in a dynamic, supportive environment
- Live feedback on elevator pitches and lightning talks
- Interactive networking exercises in small groups
- Practical tools and techniques you can apply immediately at IAC and beyond

Who should attend?

Speakers, students, scholarship awardees, researchers, entrepreneurs, and IAC participants – anyone looking to communicate more confidently and make a stronger impression in public or private settings.

Co-Moderators:



Matias CAMPOS
 CEO & Founder,
 Astralintu Space
 Technologies,
 Ecuador



**Marlène Michèle
 LOSIER**
 For all Moonkind Inc.
 United States



**Charles-Aimé
 NZEUSI-
 MBOUENDEU**
 SES, Specialist, Product &
 Space Sustainability,
 Space Generation
 Advisory Council (SGAC),
 Cameroon



**Ioana Roxana
 PERRIER**
 Professor Space Science
 and Physics,
 Institut Polytechnique
 des Sciences Avancées
 (IPSA),
 France

2.7 IAF Global Space Leaders Summit

The Third Edition – “The New Space Era: Global Challenges, Strategic Opportunities and Responsible Governance”

Closed Event (upon invitation only)

Date: Tuesday, 6 October 2026

Time: 10:30 – 12:30

Venue: Sports Hall, Ground Floor, Gloria Sports Arena



The New Space Era is defined by unprecedented commercial expansion, accelerating technological innovation, increasing geopolitical complexity, and broader international participation than ever before. Together, these developments are transforming the global space ecosystem, creating extraordinary opportunities for exploration, scientific discovery, economic growth, and societal advancement. At the same time, they underscore the need for responsible governance, sustainable operations, resilient infrastructure, and equitable access to the benefits of space.

Organized by the IAF and held annually in conjunction with the International Astronautical Congress (IAC), the **3rd edition of the IAF Global Space Leaders Summit (GSLS)**, under the theme **“The New Space Era: Global Challenges, Strategic Opportunities and Responsible Governance”**, will provide an unparalleled forum for Heads of Space Agencies to exchange strategic insights on the policies, cooperation, and governance frameworks required to navigate this evolving landscape.

Following the resounding success of its inaugural edition in 2024, which brought 60 Heads of Space Agencies around one table for the first time, the GSLS has established itself as a unique platform for global space leadership. Conducted on neutral ground and in a spirit of international cooperation, the GSLS fosters trust, strengthens partnerships, and advances collective action on issues of strategic importance.

Through candid dialogue, participants will explore how to harness emerging opportunities while ensuring that space remains safe, secure, sustainable, and beneficial for all humankind.

Summit Format

The Summit will be conducted through a series of high-level round tables, designed to encourage open exchange of statements among Heads of Space Agencies.

I. Lunar Economy: Building Humanity’s Next Frontier

As humanity prepares for a sustained return to the Moon, this topic will explore the foundations of a viable lunar economy. Discussions will address infrastructure development, scientific cooperation, commercial opportunities, resource utilization, international partnerships, and the governance frameworks necessary to enable long-term exploration and responsible development beyond Earth.

II. Orbital Resilience: Securing Space for All

This session will examine the growing challenges of the orbital environment, including space debris mitigation, space traffic coordination, responsible behavior in outer space, equitable access to orbital resources, and the international cooperation required to preserve the long-term sustainability, safety, and resilience of the space domain.

III. Earth’s Challenges & Disasters: Space-Powered Solutions

This discussion will focus on the critical role of space technologies in addressing global challenges through Earth observation, disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, environmental monitoring, data-driven decision-making, and sustainable urban development. Particular emphasis will be placed on strengthening international collaboration to maximize the societal impact of space-based capabilities.

In a spirit of trust, openness and shared responsibility, the 3rd IAF Global Space Leaders Summit will strengthen international dialogue, foster new partnerships and advance collective solutions for the benefit of humanity.

MASTER OF CEREMONY:



Christian FEICHTINGER

*Executive Director,
International Astronautical Federation (IAF),
France*

WELCOME REMARKS:



Gabriella ARRIGO

*President,
International
Astronautical Federation
(IAF),
France*



Yusuf KIRAÇ

*IAF VP for Relations
with International
Organizations
Chairman of The Board
and President,
Turkish Space Agency
(TUA),
Türkiye*

CLOSING REMARKS:



Enrico PALERMO

*IAF VP: Space Agency
Relations
Head,
Australian Space Agency,
Australia*

2.8 The IAF Startups Competition

Date: Tuesday 6 October 2026

Time: 14:45 – 16:30

Venue: Future Space Area, next to the NEST Plus Building

Discover the future of space innovation.

Join us at the IAF Startups Competition during IAC 2026 in Antalya, Türkiye, and watch 8 selected startups pitch their innovative solutions to a panel of leading space experts, investors, and industry professionals.

This exciting event shines a spotlight on the next generation of space entrepreneurs and offers attendees a unique opportunity to explore emerging technologies, gain industry insights, and connect with the global space community.

Not competing this year? Attend the session, get inspired, and keep an eye out for next year's competition, where your startup could take the stage.

Be part of the journey shaping the future of space.

The 8 Startups that have been selected to participate in the IAF Startups Competition are:

- Alpha Impulsion
- Deplotic
- Exobiosphere
- GUMUSH Space
- Manifest Space
- Satlyt
- Sirio Space Corporation
- Zenith Ascent

MASTER OF CEREMONY:



Francesco VENTRE
Business Development Officer,
ispace, inc ,
Luxembourg

JUDGES:



Alexander MALININ
Investment Analyst,
Hypernova Fund,
United States



Tolga ORS
Managing Director,
New Space Consulting
Ltd,
United Kingdom



Luigi SCATTEIA
Partner,
Novaspace,
France



Lorenzo SCATENA
Secretary General,
Fondazione E. Amaldi,
Italy



Aytan ZEYNALLI
Acting Strategy and
Business Development
Director,
Azercosmos Space
Agency of the Republic
of Azerbaijan,
Azerbaijan

2.9 IAF Career Forum

Date: Tuesday 6 October 2026

Time: 16:30

Venue: Future Space Area, next to the NEST Plus Building

The IAF Career Forum aims to connect students, young professionals, and experienced professionals with organizations across the global space sector.

While face-to-face meetings are limited to shortlisted candidates, all attendees are invited to join the company presentations to learn about participating organizations, their recruitment needs, open opportunities, and application processes.

These sessions offer a valuable opportunity to explore career paths, gain insight into employer expectations, and discover future opportunities within industry, agencies, and academia.

We also encourage both applicants and organizations who were not selected for this year's interview programme to stay engaged and keep an eye on future editions of the IAF Career Forum, which will offer new opportunities to connect, showcase opportunities, and participate in one-on-one meetings.

Participating companies:



Join us on Industry Day, Tuesday 6 October 2026, and connect with the organizations shaping the future of space. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us: career@iac2026.org

3 Social Events

Welcome Reception

Date: Monday 5 October 2026

Time: 19:00 – 22:00

Location: NEST Congress and Exhibition Centre

Gala Event & Dinner

Date: Friday 9 October 2026

Time: 19:00 – 22:00

Location: Aspendos Ancient Theatre

Cost: 299.00 € per person (VAT included)

Past, present and future will come together in the unique theatre of history!

The hosts promise an unforgettable and special gala event to the valuable participants of IAC 2026 in the unique atmosphere of Aspendos, one of the most important theatres in history; in Antalya, the apple of the eye of tourism. Gala dinner and special events before and during the event will offer a unique social program activity for the congress participants.



4 IAF Awards 2025

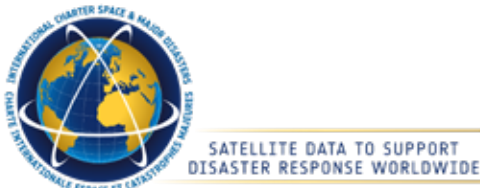
4.1 IAF World Space Award

The IAF World Space Award is presented during the **IAC 2026 Opening Ceremony on Monday 05 October 2026** for outstanding contributions in space science, space technology, space medicine, space law or space management of exceptional impact to the world's progress in astronautics.

The **IAF World Space Award for 2026** is bestowed to:

International Charter: Space and Major Disasters

The International Charter 'Space and Major Disasters', or the Charter, is a worldwide collaboration among space agencies to make satellite data available for the benefit of disaster management authorities during the response phase of an emergency. By combining Earth observation assets, expertise, and resources from participating organizations, the Charter enables a rapid and coordinated response to major disasters, assisting civil protection authorities and the international humanitarian community. The Charter is uniquely positioned to mobilize space agencies worldwide, providing access to their expertise and satellite resources through a single access point that operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at no cost to the user.



Team picture at the occasion of the 55th Charter Board meeting in April 2026, organised by the United Arab Emirates Space Agency (UAESA) and the European Space Agency (ESA) at ESA HQ in Paris, France



IAF World Space Award

4.2 IAF Excellence in International Cooperation Award

The IAF Excellence in International Cooperation Award is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated excellence in their efforts to promote and facilitate global engagement and cooperation in the space sector.

The **IAF Excellence in International Cooperation Award for 2026** is bestowed to:

Steve EISENHART



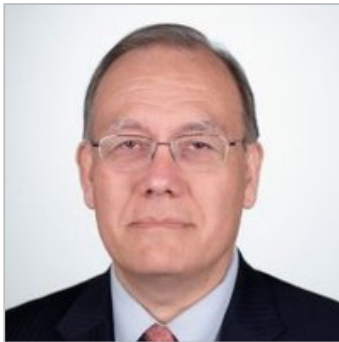
Senior Vice President, Retired,
Space Foundation
United States

Steve Eisenhart served as Space Foundation Senior Vice President – Strategic & International Affairs and later Senior Advisor, retiring in January 2026 after more than 29 years at the Foundation. Steve was principally responsible for the Space Foundation's global strategy, as well as the organization's relationships with international space agencies and organizations, foreign embassies, and U.S. organizations involved with global space programs. He was directly responsible for the program development and integration of key Space Foundation activities, including the annual Space Symposium and the New Generation Space Leaders program. Steve was a Vice President of the International Astronautical Federation from 2020–2023 leading the Global Network Forum portfolio. Steve also served as a member of the Advisory Board of the Space Generation Advisory Council in Support of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and has been a mentor to young professionals around the world.

4.3 IAF Global Award for Academic and Scientific Top Research Achievement (IAF ASTRA Award)

The **IAF Global Award for Academic and Scientific Top Research Achievement (IAF ASTRA Award) 2026** is bestowed to:

Scott PACE



Director,
Space Policy Institute, George Washington
University
United States

Dr. Scott Pace is the Director of the Space Policy Institute, Director of the Institute for International Science and Technology Policy, Director of the MA in International Science and Technology Policy program and Professor of the Practice of International Affairs at the George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs. He is also a member of the faculty of the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration. His research interests include civil, commercial, and national security space policy, and the management of technical innovation.

Dr. Pace rejoined the faculty of the Elliott School of International Affairs in 2021 after serving as Deputy Assistant to the President and Executive Secretary of the National Space Council from 2017-2020. He previously served as the Associate Administrator for Program Analysis and Evaluation at NASA from 2005-2008 and Deputy Chief of Staff for the NASA Administrator from 2002-2003. Prior to NASA, he was the Assistant Director for Space and Aeronautics in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. From 1993-2000, he worked for the RAND Corporation's Science and Technology Policy Institute, and from 1990-1993, he served as the Deputy Director and Acting Director of the Office of Space Commerce, in the Office of the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Commerce. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from Harvey Mudd College in 1980; Masters degrees in Aeronautics & Astronautics and Technology & Policy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1982; and a Doctorate in Policy Analysis from the RAND Graduate School in 1989.

Dr. Pace received the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal in 2008, the US Department of State's Group Superior Honor Award, GPS Interagency Team, in 2005, and the NASA Group Achievement Award, Columbia Accident Rapid Reaction Team, in 2004. He has been a member of the US Delegation to the World Radiocommunication Conferences in 1997, 2000, 2003, and 2007. He was also a member of the US Delegation to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Telecommunications Working Group, 1997-2000. He has served as a member of the U.S. Delegation to the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 2009, and 2011-15. Dr. Pace has been a member of the NOAA Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing (ACCRES), a member of the Board of Trustees, Universities Space Research Association, a member of the International Academy of Astronautics, an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and a member of the Board of Governors of the National Space Society.

4.4 IAF Excellence in “3G+” Diversity Award

The **IAF Excellence in “3G+” Diversity Award** is intended to recognize IAF member organisations (industry, government, academia) and within IAF member organizations worldwide for their outstanding contributions to the fostering of “3G+” (Geography, Generation, Gender) Diversity within the space sector.

The **IAF Excellence in “3G+” Diversity Award 2026** is bestowed to:

SPACE Academy of Azercosmos



SPACE Academy of Azercosmos is Azerbaijan’s national platform for developing the country’s future space workforce through education, scientific excellence, engineering and international cooperation. As one of the world’s fully institutionalized national space academies and a full member of the International Space Education Board (ISEB), the Academy has established a sustainable national ecosystem that connects education with research, innovation and industry while expanding equitable access to space opportunities across the country.

IAF Excellence in “3G+” Diversity Award

4.5 IAF Excellence in Industry Award

The IAF Excellence in Industry Award is intended to distinguish commercial industry organizations, whether members or non-members of the IAF, worldwide, for introducing innovative space technologies to the global marketplace. Recipients of this award are recognized throughout the space industry for successfully executing landmark space missions.

The **IAF Excellence in Industry Award for 2026** is bestowed to:

Firefly Aerospace



On 2 March 2025, Firefly Aerospace made history as the first commercial company to successfully land on the Moon. Firefly's Blue Ghost lunar lander delivered 10 NASA science and technology instruments to the Moon's surface and enabled several first-of-its-kind demonstrations, including tracking GPS signals on the Moon for the first time, unlocking new ways to mitigate hazardous lunar dust, taking X-ray imagery of Earth's magnetosphere from Moon, and robotically drilling and collecting science deeper into the lunar surface than ever before. Firefly completed all mission objectives and performed several bonus operations, including capturing incredible imagery of a total solar eclipse on March 14 when the Earth blocked the sun and cast a shadow on the lunar surface for over two hours of totality. The team also captured the lunar sunset on March 16, providing data on how lunar dust levitates and creates a lunar horizon glow first documented by Eugene Cernan on Apollo 17. Following the sunset, Blue Ghost operated 5 hours into the lunar night as designed. In total, Blue Ghost sent nearly 120 gigabytes of data back to Earth, significantly surpassing the mission requirements and unlocking new insights that will have a substantial impact on future human and robotic missions to the Moon, Mars, and beyond. Firefly's Blue Ghost Mission 1 not only marked the longest commercial operations on the Moon to date but also set the tone for the future of commercial exploration across cislunar space.

The **IAF Excellence in Industry Award 2026 – Small & Medium Category** is bestowed to:

Lunar Outpost



MAPP (Mobile Autonomous Prospecting Platform) is Lunar Outpost's customizable exploration-class lunar rover. Rugged, reliable, and spaceflight-proven, MAPP enables governmental, commercial, and scientific partners to go farther and achieve more on the

Moon. From deploying critical infrastructure to delivering instruments for breakthrough science, MAPP turns lunar ambitions into action. In 2025, MAPP made history during Lunar Outpost's Lunar Voyage 1 (LV1) at the Moon's South Pole. It became the first U.S. rover teleoperated on the lunar surface and in cislunar space. During the mission, MAPP collected and downlinked critical data, including multiple images, and achieved TRL 9 for key rover systems and subsystems. The mission also marked the first successful commercialization of a lunar rover system, partnering with NASA, LEGO, adidas/Juventus, Nokia, MIT, and others. Lunar Voyage 2 (LV2) in 2026 will send another MAPP rover to Reiner Gamma to investigate a mysterious magnetic anomaly in partnership with NASA and Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. The Lunar Voyage 3 (LV3) MAPP rover is already through critical design review and will scale commercial operations. Launching with Artemis IV, Lunar Voyage 5 (LV5) MAPP will support NASA's DUSTER investigation. It will become the first robotic rover to deploy alongside astronauts to conduct dust and plasma science—advancing the goal of a sustained human presence on the Moon.

IAF Excellence in Industry Award

4.6 IAF Hall of Fame

The **IAF Hall of Fame** is intended to create a standing forum of personalities that have contributed substantially to the progress of space science, technology and space benefits to humankind, within the framework of the IAF activities. It will consist of a permanent gallery of these personalities, including a citation, biographical information, and a picture, in a special part of the IAF web presence.

The **IAF Hall of Fame for 2026** is bestowed to:



Carlo MIRRA

Chair, IAF Industry Relations Committee,
Head of ESA Business Affairs,
Airbus Netherlands B.V.,
Netherlands



Carlo Mirra is an entrepreneurial senior executive with almost 40 years' experience in the international space field. Currently, he is Sales Director in the Institutional Business Growth division of Airbus Defence and Space.

Mr Mirra holds an aerospace engineering degree at the University of Naples (MSc), followed by a post graduation specialization in re-entry aerodynamics at the von Karman Institute in Brussels, Belgium.

He has managed European space operations in several ESA missions with NASA and Roscosmos for almost 10 years.

Before that, Mr Mirra was Infrastructure, Sales and Services Director at Intospace and SpaceHab. In this capacity he was responsible for European commercial sales of SpaceHab services. In his earlier career days, Mr Mirra worked at the MARS Center in Naples where he soon became responsible for the setup of the Italian User Support Center for ISS operations.

Mr. Mirra is very engaged in voluntary activities both with aerospace professionals organizations and young generation coaching and mentorship via ISU, TU Delft and the University of Naples.

His IAF career begun in 1989. Since then he contributed to the activities of the Publication (Acta Astronautica), Space Education and Space Operations Committees. He chaired the Human Space Flight Committee. He is currently member of the IPC-Steering Group and chair of the Industrial Relations Committee.

He was the recipient of several ISS mission awards, author of more than 50 papers, flew almost 200 parabolas and ranked 4th in the 1998 ESA/ASI astronaut selection.



Huadong GUO

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

Huadong Guo is the Director General of the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS), and a professor of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Aerospace Information Research Institute. He is an Academician of CAS, a Fellow of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), a Foreign Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, a Foreign Member of the Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters, and a Fellow of the International Science Council (ISC). He presently serves as Honorary President of the International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE), Director of the International Center on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage under the Auspices of UNESCO, Member of the ISC Global Commission on Science Missions for Sustainability, Chair of Digital Belt and Road Program (DBAR), and Editor-in-Chief of two scientific journals International Journal of Digital Earth and Big Earth Data. He served as Member of UN 10-Member Group to support the Technology Facilitation Mechanism for SDGs, Chairman of the International Committee of Remote Sensing of Environment, President of ISDE and ICSU Committee on Data for Science and Technology. Prof. Guo specializes in remote sensing, radar for Earth observation, and Digital Earth science. He has published more than 500 papers and 24 books, and is the awardee of 20 international and domestic prizes.

IAF Hall of Fame

4.7 Frank J. Malina Astronautics Medal

The **Frank J. Malina Astronautics Medal** is presented annually to an educator who has demonstrated excellence in using his/her available resources to promote the study of astronautics and related space sciences.

The **Frank J. Malina Astronautical Medal for 2026** is bestowed to:



Frank J. Malina
(1912 – 1981)



Franco BERNELLI ZAZZERA

Full Professor,
Politecnico di Milano
Italy

REFLECTIONS ON SPACE EDUCATION IN THE “SPACE FOR ALL” ERA

The keynote provides some reflections of the speaker on the evolution of space education at graduate level over the past fifteen years, taking into consideration mainly the evolution in Italy. Reflections will consider appeal of the space education, gender and geographical distribution of students, as well as scope of some Master degrees related to space technology.

Frank J. Malina Astronautics Medal

4.8 Interactive Presentations Competition Award

Join us on **Thursday 8 October at 13:00 in Room D3** for the Interactive Presentation Award Ceremony! Awards will be presented in five categories: A: Science and Exploration B: Applications and Operations C: Technology D: Infrastructure E: Space and Society



Date: Thursday 8 October

Time: 13:00

Location: Room D3, NEST Congress and Exhibition Centre

[Explore the full IP schedule and daily lineup](#)

Celebrate the Best Ideas at the IP Award Ceremony!

5 IAF International Astronauts Chapter

The 77th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026) in Antalya, Türkiye, will proudly feature the **IAF International Astronauts Chapter**, jointly organized by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and the Turkish Space Agency (TUA).

This year, we are honoured to welcome an exceptional and diverse group of **28 international astronauts** from across four major global regions: **North America, Europe, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific region**.

As the IAF's flagship programme, the Chapter brings together veteran explorers, active astronauts and pioneers of the emerging commercial spaceflight era – reflecting both the extraordinary heritage of human space exploration and the exciting future that lies ahead.

Türkiye proudly hosts this remarkable gathering and marks an important chapter in the country's journey into human spaceflight with the participation of **three of Türkiye's astronauts**.

Reflecting the IAC 2026 theme – “The World Needs More Space” – the Chapter will explore the vital role of astronauts in promoting the responsible and sustainable use of space. The programme will feature inspiring panel discussions and educational outreach activities, and public engagement events. Do not miss the astronauts' appearances during the IAC 2026 week:

B3.5 Technical Session on Human Space Flight

Date: Wednesday, 7 October 2026

Time: 10:15 – 11:15

Venue:

Press Conference with Astronauts

Date: Thursday, 8 October 2026

Time: 09:30 – 11:30

Venue: Hall 33, First Floor, Nest Plus Building

IAF Global Networking Forum (GNF): IAF-ASE Astronauts Session – Is Spaceflight Now Safe for Humans?

Date: Friday, 9 October 2026

Time: 10:15 – 11:15

Venue: D3 – NEST Congress and Exhibition Centre

Ask an Astronaut – Q&A session (in Turkish)

Date: Friday, 9 October 2026

Time: 13:15 – 14:15

Venue: D3 – NEST Congress and Exhibition Centre

Autograph Sessions:

Date: Friday, 9 October 2026

Time: 12:15 – 13:15 & 14:15 – 15:00

Venue: D3 – NEST Congress and Exhibition Centre

Do not forget to pick up your copy of the **IAF International Astronauts Booklet**, created as a special keepsake of IAC 2026, from the IAF Booth (number of copies is limited; subject to availability). Featuring the photographs of all participating astronauts, it invites you to collect their autographs and preserve a personal memory of meeting the men and women who have helped carry humanity beyond Earth.



Step into the World of Space Exploration: Meet the International Astronauts at IAC 2026 in Antalya!

Host Country – Türkiye

Tuva Cihangir ATASEVER

Gökhan ERDEM

Alper GEZERAVCI

North America

Tony ANTONELLI (United States)

Tim KOPRA (United States)

Michael LÓPEZ-ALEGRÍA (United States/Spain)

Thomas MARSHBURN (United States)

Julie PAYETTE (Canada)

Mark POLANSKY (United States)

Sian PROCTOR (United States)

Dylan TAYLOR (United States)

Andrew FEUSTEL (United States)

Christopher WILLIAMS (United States)

Europe

Reinhold EWALD (Germany)

Tibor KAPU (Hungary)

André KUIPERS (Netherlands)

Claude NICOLLIER (Switzerland)

Sławosz UZNAŃSKI-WIŚNIEWSKI (Poland)

Franz VIEHBÖCK (Austria)

Marcus WANDT (Sweden)

Rosemary COOGAN (Northern Ireland)

Anders MOGENSEN (Denmark)

Middle East

Nora AL MATROOSHI (United Arab Emirates)

Hazzaa AL MANSOORI (United Arab Emirates)

Sultan AL NEYADI (United Arab Emirates)

Mohammed AL MULLA (United Arab Emirates)

Asia-Pacific

Shubhanshu SHUKLA (India)

Koichi WAKATA (Japan)

Naoko YAMAZAKI (Japan)

Soyeon YI (Republic of Korea)

77TH INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL CONGRESS

5 – 9 OCTOBER, ANTALYA, TÜRKİYE



Hazzaa ALMANSOORI

Astronaut,
Mohammed Bin Rashid
Space Centre (MBRSC),
United Arab Emirates



Nora ALMATROOSHI

Astronaut,
Mohammed Bin Rashid
Space Centre (MBRSC),
United Arab Emirates



Mohammed ALMULLA

Astronaut,
Mohammed Bin Rashid
Space Centre (MBRSC),
United Arab Emirates



Sultan AL NEYADI

Astronaut,
UAE Minister of State for
youth Affairs,
United Arab Emirates



Tony ANTONELLI

Astronaut,
National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
(NASA),
United States



Tuva Cihangir ATASEVER

Astronaut, Galactic 07,
Turkish Space Agency
(TUA),
Türkiye / Azerbaïdjan



Rosemary COOGAN

ESA Astronaut /
Astrophysicist,
European Space Agency
(ESA),
United Kingdom



Gökhan ERDEM

New Shepard NS-34 Mission
Astronaut,
Blue Origin,
Board Member,
Erdem Holding,
Türkiye



Reinhold EWALD

Astronaut & Professor for
Astronautics and Space
Stations at the Institute of
Spaceflight System,
Institute of Space Systems,
University of Stuttgart,
Germany



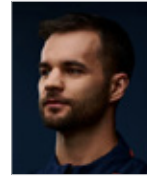
Andrew FEUSTEL

Lead Astronaut,
Vast,
United States



Alper GEZERAVCI

First Turkish Astronaut,
Turkish Space Agency Board
Member, Turkish Space
Command Coordination &
Execution Director F-16 &
KC-135R Pilot,
Turkish Space Agency (TUA),
Türkiye



Tibor KAPU

Astronaut,
Hungarian to Orbit
Program (HUNOR),
Hungary



Tim KOPRA

Chief Human Exploration
Officer, Retired NASA
Astronaut,
Voyager Technologies,
United States



André KUIPERS

ESA Astronaut,
European Space Agency
(ESA),
Netherlands



Liwei YANG

Deputy Director General,
Deputy Chief Designer,
China Manned Space
Engineering,
First Chinese Astronaut,
China Manned Space
Agency,
China



Michael LÓPEZ-ALEGRÍA

VP: Astronauts Relations and
Outreach,
International Astronautical
Federation,
Chief Astronaut, Senior
Vice President of Human
Spaceflight,
Axiom Space, LLC,
United States / Spain



Thomas MARSHBURN

Chief Astronaut and VP of
Mission Integrity,
Sierra Space,
United States



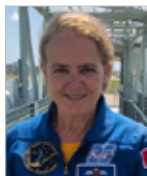
Andreas MOGENSEN

Astronaut,
European Space Agency
(ESA),
Denmark



Claude NICOLLIER

Astronaut and Professor,
Swiss Federal Institute of
Technology,
Switzerland



Julie PAYETTE

Astronaut,
President,
Association of Space
Explorers,
Canada



Mark POLANSKY

Astronaut - Retired Vice
President for Government
Services, Barrios,
National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
(NASA),
United States



Sian PROCTOR

Commercial Astronaut | Pilot
| Geologist | Artist | Science
Communicator,
United States



Marco Alain SIEBER

Astronaut Candidate,
European Space Agency
(ESA),
Switzerland



Shubhanshu SHUKLA

Astronaut,
Indian Space Research
Organisation (ISRO),
India



**Sławosz UZNAŃSKI-
WIŚNIEWSKI**

Astronaut,
European Space Agency
(ESA),
Poland



Franz Viehbock

Astronaut and CEO,
Berndorf AG,
Austria



Koichi WAKATA

Astronaut and Chief
Technology Officer, Asia-
Pacific,
Axiom Space, LLC ,
Japan



Christopher WILLIAMS

Astronaut,
United States



Naoko YAMAZAKI

Astronaut.
General Manager of Vast
Japan, and Council Member
of The Earthshot Prize,
Japan Aerospace
Exploration Agency (JAXA),
Japan



Soyeon Yi

Astronaut,
Korean Astronaut Program
(KAP),
Republic of South Korea



6 Public Day

PUBLIC DAY AGENDA Friday 9 October 2026

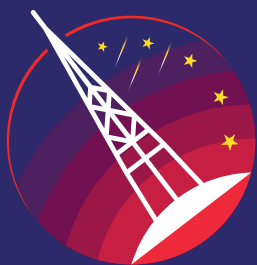
On Friday, 9 October, the final day of the 77th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026) will open its doors to the public at the **NEST Convention Center in Antalya**.

During the entire IAC General Public Day the attendees will have the possibility to visit the “Exhibition hall”.

MORNING:	
09:30	Doors Open
10:15 – 11:15	IAF GNF Session with Astronauts (NEST D1-2-3) <i>Is Spaceflight Now Safe for Humans?</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Science Show
AFTERNOON	
13:30 – 14:15	Astronaut Autograph Session I (NEST D1-2-3)
14:15 – 15:00	Astronaut Autograph Session II (NEST D1-2-3)
16:15 – 16:45	Science Show

Join us for an unforgettable experience the final day of IAC 2026!





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ASTRONAUTICAL
FEDERATION

Hosted by:



**IAC 2027
POZNAN
POLAND**

78TH INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL CONGRESS



**One Space.
Shared Future.**

SAVE THE DATE!

27 September – 1 October 2027

IAC2027.COM

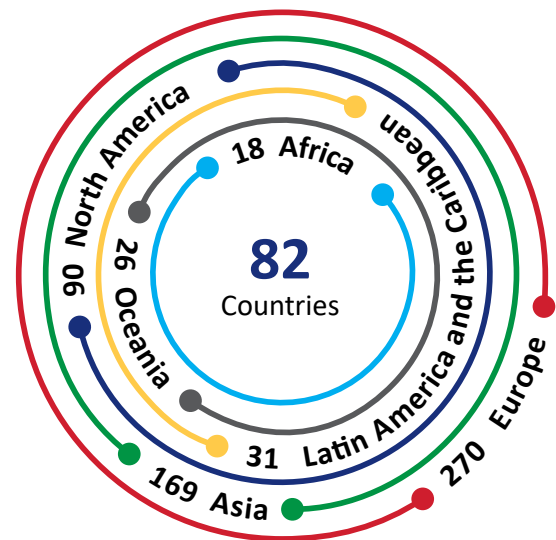
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Join the IAF, the World's Leading and Most Diverse Space Advocacy Body



Become an IAF Member

- ✓ Apply on <https://www.iaf-membership.org/>
- ✓ Participate in the IAF Committees in charge of defining the Technical Programme
- ✓ Propose to host a Plenary Event during the IAC
- ✓ Propose a Global Networking Forum (GNF) Event to showcase your organization's latest achievements or to discuss the most interesting topics about Space
- ✓ Participate and vote in the General Assembly and nominate IAF Officers
- ✓ Host one of our events!

Contact: membership@iafastro.org

JOIN US

1 

Connect to the [IAF Membership Platform](#) through the [IAF Website](#)

2 

Complete the Application Form and attach the requested documents.

3 

Remember to include the Logo of your organization and a short description.

4 

We will review your application and ask in case of missing information.

5 

Once reviewed, your application will be recommended by the IAF General Counsel.

6 

Final approval by the General Assembly during the IAC.

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HOST:



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Turkish Space Agency (TUA)

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