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**Statement of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF)
By IAF Executive Director, Christian Feichtinger**

Honorable Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

It is an honour for me to address the sixty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in my capacity as Executive Director of the International Astronautical Federation. I would like to first and foremost congratulate our UNOOSA colleagues for yet again ensuring the organization of this important meeting, despite the current global situation.

Distinguished Delegates,

The IAF is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. Since its creation in 1951 the IAF has pursued its main goal to provide a platform for organizations, agencies, communities, and individuals, active and enthusiastic about space, to meet, share knowledge and connect with each other in a cooperative spirit. Please allow me to briefly highlight some of the IAF's recent activities and give you an outlook on some of our upcoming events:

After the incredible success of the IAC 2020 – The Cyberspace Edition, held as a fully virtual Congress in October 2020, under the theme "*IAF Connecting @ll Space People*", the IAF took up another exciting challenge: hosting the first in-person event since the beginning of the pandemic, the Global Space Exploration Conference – GLEX 2021.

Organized in St. Petersburg from 14 to 18 June 2021, by the International Astronautical Federation and its partner ROSCOSMOS, GLEX 2021 brought together leaders and decision-makers within the science and



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human exploration community and discussed the future of space exploration and of global international cooperation, to the Moon, Mars and beyond. The Conference was attended on-site by more than 800 people from 32 countries, and remotely by 1500 people from 113 countries.

GLEX 2021 celebrated the 60th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's spaceflight and offered an attractive Plenary, Technical and Global Networking Forum (GNF) programmes, as well as an exciting and unique space exhibition. Delegates were also joined by an international group of 20 astronauts, as the Federation hosted the first ever International Astronauts Chapter, in cooperation with the Association of Space Explorers - ASE.

At the occasion of GLEX, the International Astronautical Federation launched its newest and most innovative tool: «The Virtual Technical Gallery», a user-friendly digital platform that hosts a vibrant mix of video lectures by the authors of the Technical Programme, engaging lightning talks and full manuscripts.

The Virtual Technical Gallery is hosted within the IAF Digital Library, the world's largest repository with over 50 000 digital papers delineating the legacy of 70-year of space achievements and international cooperation for the benefit of humanity since the inaugural International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in 1950.

These novelties allowed authors who could not travel to St. Petersburg due to the pandemic-related travel restrictions, to share their most recent research and studies with the IAF community, who had a chance to engage during these challenging times.

Dear all,

The IAF invites you to Save the Date for the upcoming 72nd International Astronautical Congress, that will take place in Dubai, UAE from 25 to 29 October 2021 under the theme "*Inspire, Innovate & Discover for the Benefit of Humankind*". With the IAC 2021, hosted by the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre, the UAE will become the first-ever Arab country to host this annual, high profile gathering of the international space community, and Dubai will become the first city in the region to host the event in its seventy-year history.

The IAC 2021 comes to the UAE at a very fitting time: it will follow closely on the heels of the launch of the Emirates Mars Mission (Hope Probe), the Arab's first space exploration craft to Mars. It will also mark the anniversary of the return of the first Emirati astronaut from the ISS, and the second anniversary of the launch of KhalifaSat — the first Earth-observation satellite to be produced wholly by Emiratis. These



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achievements are symbolic of the beginning of a new era in the region; the IAC 2021 will be an opportunity to shed light on how space science and technology can contribute to a nation's progress.

In addition, the IAF together with UNOOSA, are co-organizing the 28th Workshop on Space Technology for Socio-Economic Benefits on the theme "Space Exploration - A source of Inspiration, Innovation and Discovery" to provide space emerging countries with capacity building opportunities in using space science, technologies, and applications for space exploration in support of sustainable economic, social and environmental development and on the role of industry. The Workshop will be held in Dubai, from 22 to 24 October 2021 in conjunction with the 72nd International Astronautical Congress (IAC).

Finally, as many of you might know, Dubai will be hosting EXPO 2020 from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022. In this context, the EXPO 2020 Space Week, taking place from 17 to 23 October 2021 will be an official associated event of the IAC, allowing Congress delegates to attend both the space week at EXPO 2020 and the IAC. In fact, free tickets to the EXPO 2020 will be provided to all IAC registered delegates. Expo 2020 Dubai will welcome visitors from every corner of the globe, as it brings together the planet in one place to reimagine tomorrow and during its thematic space week, will be focusing on how we can safely and productively explore new frontiers.

We look forward to welcoming you in Dubai!

Honorable Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the International Astronautical Federation, let me thank you for your attention. We hope to welcome you at our upcoming IAC 2021 in Dubai.

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Christian Feichtinger

Executive Director

International Astronautical Federation