I propose that one of the most pressing issues for this conference is the role of Space in promoting global stability. It is extremely difficult to deliver innovation, growth, prosperity and improved life chances for all without security and stability, and whilst space plays a critical role in both, space offers unique prospects to improve economic, social and environmental conditions around the world.

In addition to the surge in violent conflicts in the past decade, which have driven 80% of humanitarian needs, we are witnessing the global impacts of climate change and environmental destruction. The past 10 years were the hottest on record. Extreme weather displaces 20 million people every year. Covid-19 is the latest indicator of the negative impact of human activity on our fragile environment.

Space can help to create the conditions for stability by addressing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: prioritising climate change, environmental protection, resource management, poverty and inequality, education and the promotion of peace. These challenges transcend national borders. Such global challenges require global cooperation and require us to continue to develop effective approaches for managing simultaneous competition and collaboration with allies and rivals.

Space programmes that can deliver global benefits in meaningful timescales and enable broad international participation require affordable and accessible launch vehicles, space-based capabilities and space-enabled systems. Commercially-driven space systems, employing a wealth of cross-cutting technologies and innovations to create cost-effective services, underpinned by international frameworks, have the potential to support global Stability and thus promote global Security.

**Anita Bernie**