

### Summary Report of Roundtable on Space and Satellite Communications

On 27 May 2025, key industry leaders, government bodies, senior regulators, and policymakers from ASEAN countries, and the Digital Forum of Small States (FOSS) joined IMDA, along with international partners from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Global Satellite Operator's Association (GSOA), at the ATxSummit's closed-door Roundtable.

Ms Aileen Chia, Deputy Chief Executive (Connectivity Development & Regulation) and Director-General (Telecoms & Post), Infocomm Media Development Authority, who chaired the Roundtable themed **“Navigating the Future of Space: New Opportunities, Regulatory Models and Global Cooperation”**, issued the following Chair's Summary:

*“At the Roundtable on Space and Satellite Communications held on 27 May, participants explored how advancements in satellite technologies can unlock new frontiers of innovation to support a thriving, accessible and secure space and satellite communications sector. There was broad consensus on the need for a multi-stakeholder, global approach to drive innovation and opportunities while effectively addressing regulatory challenges arising from emerging technologies, such as Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite connectivity and Direct-to-Device (D2D) models.”*

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### Fostering Digital Inclusion and Economic Opportunities

Discussions highlighted the potential of new LEO satellite communication and Non-terrestrial Network (NTN) D2D solutions to complement existing communications infrastructure and close last-mile connectivity gaps, both within countries and across geographical regions. Policymakers and regulators from Africa, ASEAN, the Caribbean, Europe, and the Middle East shared their experiences in leveraging satellite technologies to bridge the digital divide and catalyse economic development.

The role of satellite communications in crisis response, disaster recovery and other applications in the maritime and aeronautical sectors across the ASEAN and Asia Pacific regions was underscored.

Participants emphasised the importance of capacity building and multilateral cooperation to develop common regulatory frameworks and standards, given the sector's rapid pace of innovation. Many expressed interest in closer collaboration with industry to tap its technical expertise. Operators stressed the importance of low-cost and unmodified handset solutions, as key to unlocking diverse market models and expanding accessibility.

## **Evolving Policy and Global Norms for the Future of Space**

Participants recognised that regulations must evolve to support emerging business models while ensuring responsible growth of the satellite sector and equitable access to space resources as a global commons. The need for regional and international alignment was a key theme, particularly in areas such as spectrum harmonisation and device standardisation.

There was collective call for greater collaboration with international organisations to establish clear frameworks for responsible practices in space. This included ensuring authorised use of ground components, protection against interference and cyber threats, and setting clear rules for sustainable satellite deployment and long-term use of space.

## **Conclusion**

Participants agreed that the Roundtable fostered valuable dialogues and enhanced mutual understanding amongst international stakeholders. The discussions reaffirmed the importance of collaborative and collective actions to realise the full potential of satellite communications and the broader space economy, while promoting responsible, sustainable and inclusive growth.