

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRWOMAN JESSICA ROSENWORCEL**

Re: *Amendment of Parts 2 and 25 of the Commission’s Rules to Enable NGSO Fixed-Satellite Service (Space-to-Earth) Operations in the 17.3-17.8 GHz Band, IB Docket No. 22-273, Report and Order (September 26, 2024)*

This past weekend I spoke at the Summit of the Future at the United Nations. I can report back that the future looks bold. Technology is transforming our world and the Global Digital Compact adopted at the summit is a testament to the power of this change. It is a comprehensive framework for multilateral digital cooperation, and it is an ambitious plan. So when I took to the stage I spoke about something equally ambitious—our efforts to support the growing space economy and open opportunities for communications in our skies.

Last year, with the support of my colleagues, I reorganized the Federal Communications Commission to have its first-ever Space Bureau. For more than six decades, the agency has worked on communications and commercial satellites. But what we are seeing now is new—the frequency of launch is increasing, the number of proposed constellations is growing, and the range of communications needed for non-terrestrial systems is expanding. So we reimagined the agency to support this development and build this future.

Since the Space Bureau launched, we have streamlined the satellite and earth station application process. We have updated our approach to orbital debris so that in the new space economy we are good stewards of our skies. We have adopted a new approach to spectrum sharing among non-geostationary fixed satellite service systems that promotes efficiency, competition, and innovation. We have created a first-of-its-kind in the world framework for satellite operators to partner with wireless carriers to use terrestrial spectrum to connect smartphones to satellites when there is no signal on the ground. This supplemental coverage from space is what I spoke about at the Summit of the Future because it represents our thinking about the networks of the future—where services combine to make communications more resilient and mobile dead zones are a thing of the past. On top of this, we have identified new airwaves to support the growing number of commercial space launches.

That brings me to our next big step toward the future of space. It’s what we do here today. We open up 1300 megahertz of spectrum in the 17 GHz band for shared use by satellite systems in geostationary and non-geostationary orbits. This large, contiguous block of spectrum will support advanced services, including high-speed broadband access. Our rules allow a range of use cases from different orbits, bolstering competition in the space economy and creating more opportunities for companies from the United States around the world.

This decision would not be possible without the work of the Space Bureau and Office of International Affairs at last year’s World Radiocommunication Conference in Dubai. They fought for the allocation of this band despite pressure from China, Russia, and Iran to block our plans for this spectrum. So I want to thank our formidable team, as well as the staff responsible for this order, including Clay DeCell, Carlos Flores, Whitney Lohmeyer, Scott Mackoul, Carolyn Mahoney, Kathryn Medley, Jeanine Poltronieri, Julia Tu, Merissa Velez, and Patrick Webre from the Space Bureau; Nese Guendelsberger from the Office of International Affairs; Chana Wilkerson from the Office of Communications Business Opportunities; Brian Butler, Jamie Coleman, Ira Keltz, Nick Oros, and Juan Montenegro from the Office of Engineering and Technology; Donald Stockdale and Aleks Yankelevich from the Office of Economics and Analytics; Susan Aaron, David Konczal, Joel Rabinovitz, and Royce Sherlock from the Office of the General Counsel; and Jessica Greffenius, Kimia Nikseresht, John Schauble, Blaise Scinto, and Janet Young from the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.