



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

ANNOUNCEMENT

United Nations/United Arab Emirates High Level Forum: Space as a Driver for Socioeconomic Sustainable Development

6 - 9 November 2017

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE I) was held in 1968. The year 2018 will mark its 50th anniversary (UNISPACE+50), and will be a fitting time to take stock of the contributions of all three UNISPACE conferences, held in 1968, 1982 and 1999 respectively, to global governance of space activities in order to ensure the benefits of space for future generations.

The United Nations/United Arab Emirates High Level Forum agreed in 2016 that the Forum will continue to serve as a driver for exchange to promote dialogue between governments, international organizations, industry, the private sector, academia and civil society, to connect the four pillars of UNISPACE+50 and Space2030 (space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy) and to facilitate partnerships with the Office for Outer Space Affairs. Furthermore, in order to implement this goal, it was underlined that the Forum should become a permanent platform for strengthened partnerships among all stakeholders in working towards Space2030.

As highlighted in the Dubai Declaration, adopted on 24 November 2016 at the High Level Forum: Space as a Driver for Socioeconomic Sustainable Development, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, (A/AC.105/1129) UNISPACE+50 is a milestone opportunity to demonstrate the broad societal benefits of space as an area of innovation, inspiration, interconnectedness, integration and investment, and to strengthen unified efforts at all levels and among all relevant stakeholders in the space sector.

Looking towards UNISPACE+50 in 2018, a series of high level fora: Space as a Driver for Socioeconomic Sustainable Development, under the umbrella of the United Nations, are a unique opportunity for the collective space community to address these cross-sectoral areas by integrating economic, environmental, social, policy and regulatory dimensions of space in pursuit of global sustainable development.

The four-day United Nations/United Arab Emirates High Level Forum will be held in Dubai from 6 – 9 November 2017, and will aim to build stronger partnerships and international cooperation and coordination in the peaceful uses of outer space at all levels.

During the first two days the forum will include the presentation of lessons learned and new ideas on the established four pillars of space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy, including all their interactions and inter-linkages as outlined in the Dubai Declaration. The following two

days will bring together decision makers from governments, space agencies, and other stakeholders to discuss the plan-of-action in preparation for UNISPACE+50 and beyond.

The primary purpose of the discussion sessions to be held on 6 and 7 November 2017 is to gather experts to present their views/work on space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy. This part of the forum will address the following:

- The wealth of options and arguments on why space is important for society, the need to guarantee access to space activities, and the need for a cooperative regulatory instrument mechanism for cooperation to ensure the benefits of space for societies;
- The attainment of the goals set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the support of space and how space can be a driver for social and economic sustainable development;
- The various factors of access to space, space technology data and facilities, and the importance of joining a global effort in the development of the entire space arena for the benefit of humanity; and
- The attention of governments to the need for regulatory frameworks and mechanisms at national, regional and global levels, as well as the role of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

The main purpose of the panel sessions to be held on 8 and 9 November 2017 will be to focus on the High Level Forum contribution towards the UNISPACE+50 goals. This part of the forum will address the following:

- International cooperation and challenges towards UNISPACE+50 and Space2030 in order for the international community to lay the basis for the use of space for the benefit of all humankind and to be able to collectively address cross-border concerns;
- Space2030 as an opportunity for innovation, integration and investment in order to generate the widest participation possible to promote space technology to address issues that are transnational in their nature and to deal with global concerns; and to strengthen unified efforts at all levels and among all relevant stakeholders of the space sector in addressing the overarching long-term development concerns of society with concrete deliverables pertaining to space for development.

A session with industry, private sector and non-governmental organizations may be held to discuss possible future cooperation with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs in preparation of UNISPACE+50 and beyond.

A session with all the participants potentially interested in partnering with the Office for Outer Space towards Space2030 will also be held.

More details will be coming soon. For additional information please contact Ms. Sharafat Gadimova at (sharafat.gadimova@unoosa.org) or Mr. Markus Woltran at (markus.woltran@unoosa.org) of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.