



UNITED NATIONS  
Office for Outer Space Affairs

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### United Nations Expert Meeting on Space for Women

Organized jointly by  
the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and UN Women

4 – 6 October, 2017, New York, United States of America

Leading towards the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50), a series of events and activities, under the umbrella of the United Nations, will be a unique opportunity to address space as an area of innovation, inspiration, interconnectedness, integration and investment, and to strengthen unified efforts in this regard at all levels and among all relevant stakeholders of the space sector.

At the same time, the global community has recently committed to pursue the goals set by three interlinked milestone United Nations frameworks: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the Paris Climate Agreement.

Based on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 and in order to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs wishes to address the above mentioned milestone agendas in an all-inclusive manner and especially promote space technology in order to “enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women” (Target 5b – SDG5).

While the Office for Outer Space Affairs is the gateway to space in the United Nations, many United Nations and other entities – both governmental and non-governmental – already have expertise, skills and experience in both the empowerment of women and encouraging women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). It is important and valuable for the Office for Outer Space Affairs to develop partnerships with such entities to benefit from their expertise and build projects at the intersect of our respective mandates.

#### **The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs: Space for Women Project**

The vision of the Office for Outer Space Affairs is to bring the benefits of space to humankind. The Office for Outer Space Affairs is committed to ensuring that those benefits reach women and girls, and that women and girls play an active and equal role in space science, technology, innovation and exploration. This will be the focus of the Office’s Space for Women project.

In order to consolidate this existing knowledge, create partnerships and elaborate targeted capacity-building, as well as align capacity-building activities with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and deliver recommendations for a “Space for Women” project, the Office for Outer Space Affairs proposes a **Space for Women Expert Meeting** to:



- Develop the basis for the “Space for Women” project in support of the implementation of the UNISPACE+50 thematic priority on “Capacity-building for the 21<sup>st</sup> century” as well as to address SDG5;
- Strengthen capacity-building activities focusing on women’s perspectives in addressing goals and targets enshrined in the interlinked 2030 Agendas, namely the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the Paris Climate Agreement;
- Elaborate activities under the “Space for Women” project to help governments to equip and educate themselves regarding the technical and policy capabilities to integrate space technology and applications in their strategic planning towards, and capacity-building for, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the Paris Climate Agreement;
- Find new and innovative approaches to address the targets set out in the 2030 Agendas such as the provision of technical assistance, expert assistance, support for research and advisory services, which will enhance operational activity under the Office’s Space for Women project;
- Capitalize, through “capacity-building for the twenty-first century” as a cross-cutting thematic priority, on existing the Office projects and programmes, such as the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), or the Office’s climate change, space for health, space for agriculture and global navigation satellite systems activities.

The Expert Meeting will bring together expertise and experience from around the world, from international organizations, government agencies and non-governmental organizations, research institutions and the private sector, to consider these topics, share ideas, and develop concrete projects together.

The three-day event will include the presentation of lessons learned and new ideas focusing on the proposed Space for Women project along the tagline “Space for Women and Women for Space”, including:

- The opportunities, challenges and way ahead for a “Space for Women” project;
- The importance of the Office for Outer Space Affairs strengthening its capacity-building efforts and making them fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and being able to deliver its mandates to and assist States to attain the Sustainable Development Goals as the unique United Nations entity in space affairs;
- The use of space technology and applications for gender equality and the empowerment of women, particularly in the context of SDG5.

The core goals:

- ❑ Let’s make space work for the development of women;
- ❑ Let’s make space in the aerospace industry and STEM fields for women;
- ❑ Let’s make the Space for Women project together.

The outcomes of the Expert Meeting will be fed into the Office for Outer Space Affairs’ preparations towards UNISPACE+50 and will also be developed into a tangible “Space for



Women” project to be presented at UNISPACE+50 for approval. Furthermore, the United Nations Expert Meeting on Space For Women will also aim to steer the interest of stakeholders to actively engage in the “Space for Women” project as well as to start generating the necessary resources for the final implementation of the project.

More details will be coming soon. For additional information please contact Mr. Markus Woltran at ([markus.woltran@unoosa.org](mailto:markus.woltran@unoosa.org)) of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and Ms. Jennifer Breslin ([jennifer.breslin@unwomen.org](mailto:jennifer.breslin@unwomen.org)) of UN Women.