



UNITED NATIONS  
Office for Outer Space Affairs



وكالة الإمارات للفضاء  
UAE SPACE AGENCY



## ANNOUNCEMENT

### **United Nations/United Arab Emirates High Level Forum: “Space as a driver for socio-economic sustainable development”**

Organized by the  
**United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs**  
and the  
**United Arab Emirates**

Hosted by the  
**United Arab Emirates Space Agency and the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre**

**6 – 9 November 2017**

**Dubai, United Arab Emirates**



## **Background: UNISPACE+50 and the series of High-level Fora**

In 2018, the international community will gather in Vienna on 20 – 21 June for UNISPACE+50, a special segment of the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). Fifty years after the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE), and building on UNISPACE II (1982) and UNISPACE III (1999), UNISPACE+50 will be an opportunity for the international community to set the future course of global space cooperation for the benefit of humankind.

In the lead-up to UNISPACE+50 in 2018 and with the aim of advancing the debate on the role of space science and technology in fostering global development, the first High-level Forum on space as a driver for socioeconomic sustainable development was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 20 to 24 November 2016, organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in collaboration with the Government of the United Arab Emirates.

The Forum provided a unique opportunity for the collective space community to elaborate recommendations for the UNISPACE+50 blueprint and to address the future global space governance and the role of space science and technology in fostering global sustainable development. To this end, the Office has defined four thematic pillars (space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy) to guide the process.

The United Nations/United Arab Emirates High Level Forum concluded with the **Dubai Declaration**, which, inter alia, recommended 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 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.

## **HLF2017**

The next Forum — HLF2017 — **Space as a driver for socio-economic sustainable development, to be held in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, from 6 to 9 November 2017**, is being organized by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs in collaboration with the Government of the United Arab Emirates. The Forum is hosted by the United Arab Emirates Space Agency and the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre. The Forum is co-sponsored by Secure World Foundation, Sierra Nevada Corporation's Space Systems and the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems.

HLF2017 will focus on building stronger partnerships and international cooperation and coordination in the peaceful uses of outer space at all levels. The Forum will be an opportunity for all the stakeholders to express their views on the initiatives to be put forward as part of UNISPACE+50 in 2018.

The process coincides with global efforts towards goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as implementing actions contained in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Space is a driver of development and with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development came a growing recognition that its goals and major targets required stronger space governance and supporting structures at all levels, including improved space-based data and space infrastructure.



UNISPACE+50 is a timely opportunity for the Committee, its subsidiary bodies and the Office for Outer Space Affairs to further align their work with global development agendas, which will stimulate action over the next years in an integrated way, balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. The UNISPACE+50 process also coincides with an evolving and ever more complex space agenda, when more participants, both governmental and non-governmental, are increasingly involved in ventures to explore space and carry out space activities.

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 therefore 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.

### **Forum Objectives and Expected Outcomes**

**The United Nations/United Arab Emirates High Level Forum: Space as a driver for socio-economic sustainable development** has been seen as an important platform for providing updates and recommendations on the potential of space innovations to address new and emerging sustainable development challenges, as highlighted in the outcome of the first High-level Forum in 2016, the Dubai Declaration.

Space technology provides the means that can transform traditional approaches in virtually any sector of the economy. The United Nations General Assembly in its resolution on the International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (A/RES/70/90) noted that space science and technology and their applications provide indispensable tools for viable long-term solutions for sustainable development and can contribute more effectively to efforts to promote the development of all countries and regions of the world, and stressing in that regard the need to harness the benefits of space technology towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Objectives** of the United Nations/United Arab Emirates High Level Forum include the presentation of lessons learned and new ideas in the four thematic areas **of space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy**, and all their interactions and inter-linkages. 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 and 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.

**Expected outcomes of the HLF2017** are to build stronger partnerships and international cooperation and coordination in the peaceful uses of outer space at all levels. This includes: increased awareness about the on-going space activities and trends in the use of space technology and services that aid sustainable development; acknowledged relevance of the space sector for the economy, society and diplomacy of a nation; recognised benefits from the space as a core sector for socio-economic development; identified strategies to link space activities as a driver for socio-economic development; recommendations on utilizing innovative space activities to address emerging sustainable development challenges; establishment of partnerships to aid in addressing space for sustainable development; and recommendations on how voluntary actions from governments, international organizations, research and development institutions, academia and other relevant stakeholders could support the partnerships in increased used of space as a driver for socio-economic development.

### **Forum Working Modality**

The working language will be English.

The first two days will be organized in a form of **the discussion sessions, on 6 and 7 November 2017**, and will gather experts to present their views and work on space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy. The discussion sessions will be conducted on the four main topics of the High Level Forum, as described below, opened by a key-note speech of a renowned specialist on that topic. Discussion sessions in the format of breakout sessions will target specific topics and yield concrete recommendations.



The following two days of the Forum will be dedicated to the **panel sessions, on 8 and 9 November 2017**, focusing on the High Level Forum contribution towards the UNISPACE+50 goals. These panel sessions will bring together top decision-makers from governments, space agencies, and other high-ranking officials to discuss the plan of action, and resources to be allocated to the proposed activities, in preparation for UNISPACE+50 and beyond.

**A half day technical tour** will be arranged by the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre during the Forum.

**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.

### **Preliminary Agenda of the Forum**

#### **DAY 1: Monday, 6 November 2017**

##### **OPENING AND WELCOME REMARKS**

Welcome, opening address, and keynote speeches.

The opening session will be followed by the discussion sessions on the High-level Forum four pillars: space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy.

##### **DISCUSSION SESSIONS**

Discussion sessions will target specific topics and yield concrete recommendations towards UNISPACE+50 blueprint – the Space2030 agenda.

Discussion sessions 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.

##### **DISCUSSION SESSION 1: SPACE ECONOMY**

*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.*

##### **DISCUSSION SESSION 2: SPACE SOCIETY**

*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.*

#### **DAY 2: Tuesday, 7 November 2017**



### **DISCUSSION SESSION 3: SPACE ACCESSIBILITY**

*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.*

### **DISCUSSION SESSION 4: SPACE DIPLOMACY**

*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.*

### **SUMMARY OF FOUR DISCUSSION SESSIONS**

*The primary purpose is for the Moderators to present results of their discussion sessions, including any draft recommendations/observations to be presented at the High Level Panel.*

**DAY 3: Wednesday, 8 November 2017**

#### **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

- Introductory remarks
- Presentations of Summary of the Discussions Sessions held on 6 and 7 November 2017

#### **HIGH LEVEL PANEL:**

##### **International Cooperation and Challenges towards UNISPACE+50**

*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.*

**DAY 4: Thursday, 9 November 2017**

#### **HIGH-LEVEL PANEL:**

##### **Space as an Arena for Innovation, Integration and Investment**

*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.*

#### **Concluding Session**



### **Side events and exhibits**

Specific side events could be organized by participants and/or in cooperation with the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the United Arab Emirates Space Agency (UAE-SA) and the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) to showcase lessons learned and best practices.

### **Poster exhibit**

A poster exhibit will also be organized to allow speakers and participants to present their ideas and to share them with the other participants. The posters will be grouped by subject and authors will be at the posters for one of the two afternoon poster sessions according to the schedule in the programme.

### **Sponsorship of the Forum**

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the United Arab Emirates Space Agency together with the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre are co-organizers and co-sponsors of the High Level Forum. **Sponsorship of the Forum is open to other interested entities.**

### **Expected Participants**

The Second United Nations/United Arab Emirates High Level Forum is expected to bring together around 120 participants from national, regional, and international public and private organizations and institutions including: decision-makers from government agencies (space agencies, ministries, etc.); high-ranking officials from regional and international agencies involved; representatives and experts from the United Nations agencies; experts from the space community; experts from entrepreneurial and business academic community and policy makers; experts from international Centres of Excellence; researchers involved in the use of space activities; representatives of the private sector in the space and non-space fields; and civil society leaders.

### **Participation requirements**

Applicants must have well-established professional working experience in the fields related to the topics of the Forum. Applicants, who can demonstrate that this Forum is central to their professional activities and/or responsibilities, will be selected on a priority basis. Applications from qualified female participants are particularly encouraged.

Selected participants will have the opportunity to prepare a presentation of approximately 10 – 20 minutes on topics relevant to the Forum objectives. Presentations on actual ongoing projects/initiatives to showcase best practices will be of particular interest to participants of the Forum. In addition, they are expected to contribute to reporting activities of the Forum. It is also necessary to submit an abstract of presentation with a maximum of 600 words including the following details: *Paper Title, Author (s) Name(s), Affiliation(s), and e-mail address for the presenting author.*

Presentations made at the Forum will be published on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs ([www.unoosa.org](http://www.unoosa.org)) approximately two weeks after the Forum concluded.



### **Financial support**

Within the limited financial resources available, a number of selected participants will be offered financial support to attend the Forum. This financial support will defray the cost of travel (a round trip airticket – most economic fare – between an airport of international departure in their home country and Dubai, United Arab Emirates) and/or the room and board expenses for the duration of the Forum. The co-sponsors of the Forum will jointly select participants on a competitive basis. Successful applicants will be notified within two weeks after the application deadline.

### **Deadline for Submission of Applications and Abstracts**

For those seeking financial support - the completed application form together with the presentation abstract should be submitted on-line **no later than Sunday, 20 August 2017.**

<https://register.unoosa.org/civcrm/event/register?id=79&reset=1>

Only complete applications with all the requested information and signatures will be considered by the Forum Programme Committee.

### **Life and Health Insurance**

Life/major health insurance for each of the selected participants is necessary and **is the responsibility of the candidate or his/her institution or Government.** The co-sponsors will not assume any responsibility for life and major health insurance, nor for expenses related to medical treatment or accidents.

### **Contact Information**

For information regarding the submission of nominations for attendance and funding, please contact **Mr. Markus Woltran**, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs at: [markus.woltran@unoosa.org](mailto:markus.woltran@unoosa.org) and **Ms. Romana Kofler**, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, at: [romana.kofler@unoosa.org](mailto:romana.kofler@unoosa.org)

For information regarding the programme and sponsorship of the Forum, please contact **Ms. Sharafat Gadimova**, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, at: [sharafat.gadimova@unoosa.org](mailto:sharafat.gadimova@unoosa.org)

The focal point for the United Arab Emirates is **Ms. Maryam Ahmed Alfalasi**, Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre, who can be contacted at: [Maryam.Alfalasi@mbrsc.ae](mailto:Maryam.Alfalasi@mbrsc.ae) and **Mr. Abdulla Abdulrahman Al Awadhi**, Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre, to be contacted at: [Abdulla.AAlAwadhi@mbrsc.ae](mailto:Abdulla.AAlAwadhi@mbrsc.ae)