



UNITED NATIONS  
Office for Outer Space Affairs

## INFORMATION NOTE

### United Nations/Austria Symposium on Access to Space: Holistic Capacity-Building for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Organized by  
**The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs**

Co-organized by  
**The Government of Austria**

Co-sponsored by  
European Space Agency (ESA),  
Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (DLR),  
Austrospace, Joanneum Research, NPOC Space Law, Graz University of Technology,  
City of Graz, State of Styria, the Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology

**Graz, Austria**

**3 - 7 September 2017**

#### **1. Introduction and Background**

At its Fifty-ninth Session in June 2016, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space endorsed seven thematic priorities for the implementation of UNISPACE+50, including “Capacity-building for the twenty-first century” (Thematic Priority 7 of UNISPACE+50, TP7) which is the most cross-cutting aspect of the initiative. Member States seek to define new innovative and effective approaches to overall capacity-building and development needs as a fundamental pillar of global space governance.

The Symposium will build around innovative approaches to capacity-building in the space sector, including the need to measure progress and development. The determination of the long term impact of an activity can be a challenging task but can be overcome by creating a set of standardized set of Space Capabilities indicators covering all space related domains and applications and will provide orientation to countries in the evaluation of their capabilities and their prioritization. Therefore, this set of indicators becomes a key decision support tool for countries in space related matters. It could also serve the Office for Outer Space Affairs to measure the impact of its activities and can help propose targeted initiatives by identifying gaps or areas of improvement.

Based on the 2016 United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on Space Technology for Socioeconomic Benefits: Integrated Space Technologies and Applications for a Better Society in Guadalajara, Mexico<sup>1</sup>, which recommended that the Office for Outer Space Affairs should develop a space capacity index and a space solutions compendium, the Symposium will provide a unique opportunity to discuss ‘Access to Space: Holistic Capacity-Building for the 21st Century’ and the

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<sup>1</sup> A/AC.105/1128 Report on the United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on Space Technology for Socioeconomic Benefits: Integrated Space Technologies and Applications for a Better Society

contributions of space technology and its applications for sustainable development in the light of the technical, legal, political, regulatory developments.

## **2. Set up and Location**

The Symposium will be held in the following address:

Graz University of Technology  
Institute of Communication Networks and Satellite Communications  
Inffeldgasse 12  
8010 Graz  
Austria

Invited participants will receive information with details on hotels and other local arrangements.

## **3. Objectives**

This Symposium is the flagship event towards UNISPACE+50 Thematic Priority 7 (TP7). Under TP7, the Office is starting a pilot project on a Space for Development Profile (SDP), to create a profile of the space domain of countries, and a Space Solutions Compendium (SSC), to provide solutions to improve the indicators defined in the SDP.

The Symposium will be an opportunity to open a dialogue on TP7 to discuss innovative approaches to capacity-building in the space domain, particularly in the areas of applications and technology, policy and law including the need to measure progress and development, identification of partners, tools for capacity-building and funding opportunities and aims at providing recommendations to COPUOS for UNISPACE+50 concerning this Thematic Priority.

The Symposium will deliver plans and identify required partnerships for consideration by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for its strategy towards Space2030 . Its objectives are to:

- Identify innovative and effective approaches to overall capacity-building;
- Discuss infrastructure for cross-sectoral and integrated applications;
- Enhance existing partnerships and forge new ones for capacity-building and institutional support;
- Promote participation of women and youth in space science;
- Provide recommendations on the Space for Development Profile and Space Solutions Compendium;
- Discuss the role of the regional centres for capacity-building
- Discuss the role of UNOOSA in implementing capacity-building activities, particularly in developing countries

For the SDP and SSC, the particular objectives are:

- Provide measurable indicators of space capabilities and space applications currently used in a country
- Enable the identification of long term plans for developing its space capabilities based on the indicators, targeting the needs of each country
- Support Result-Based Management (RBM)
- Offer a catalogue of solutions which can be used to enhance particular indicators

## **4. Expected Outputs and Contributions to UNISPACE+50**

The outputs of the Symposium must help countries to equip themselves with the technical and policy

capabilities to integrate space technology and applications in their strategic planning towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UNISPACE+50 process shall provide recommendations on how to proceed with the implementation of this thematic priority.

To this aim, the Space for Development Profile has to be accompanied by a collection of solutions specifically addressing capabilities in the areas of interest. For each indicator of the Space for Development Profile, the Space Solutions Compendium offers a set of possible solutions that can be applied to improve the future measurements of a particular indicator. The Symposium will discuss plans on the evolution of the Space for Development Profile and its associated Space Solutions Compendium.

#### **2018: UNISPACE+50 years of space cooperation and development**

UNISPACE+50 will take stock of the contributions of the three UNISPACE conferences (UNISPACE I, held in 1968, UNISPACE II, held in 1982 and UNISPACE III, held in 1999) to global space governance. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and sustainable development goals, UNISPACE+50 aims to chart the future role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), its subsidiary bodies and the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs at a time of an evolving and more complex space agenda when more actors, both governmental and non-governmental, are increasingly involved in space activities. The activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications are an integral part of the UNISPACE+50 thematic cycle, contributing to space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy. More detailed information is available at the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs:

<http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/aboutus/history/unispace.html>

The Symposium will deliver plans and identify required partnerships for consideration by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for its strategy towards Space 2030. Additionally, it could consider the following issues for recommendations to UNISPACE+50:

- Identify and propose new and innovative capacity-building approaches to UNISPACE+50, including recommendations on tools and means to be used, supporting a Result Based Management approach for capacity-building.
- Propose holistic solutions on space capacity-building encompassing from space law to space applications and technologies;
- Provide recommendations on partnerships for capacity-building considering the existing ones and potential ones as identified during the Symposium
- Recommendations for the way forward on the Space for Development Profile and Space Solutions Compendium based on the results of the pilot projects.
- Provide recommendations specifically targeted at the promotion the participation of women and youth in space science
- Provide recommendations on the role of UNOOSA for the implementation of TP7

## **5. Preliminary Programme of the Symposium**

The Symposium is aligned with the objective of UNISPACE+50 to strengthen international coordination and cooperation in the use and applications of space science, technology as well as policy and law. In particular, the Symposium is expected to contribute mainly to Thematic Priority 7: Capacity-building for the 21st Century. The programme is designed to cover these objectives. Sessions might be added or modified depending on the availability of speakers.

The programme will include plenary sessions and sufficient time for discussions among participants to identify the priority areas where pilot projects should be launched and examine possible partnerships that could be established. Pending the discussions in the Scientific Programme Committee the preliminary programme is as follows:

<b>Thematic Sessions</b>
<b>Session 0: Challenges for Capacity-Building</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inputs and experiences from participants</li> </ul>
<b>Session 1: Tools and technologies for capacity-building in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Theories on and approaches to technological, economic, and social development making use of space technologies and applications will be presented and discussed.</li> <li>▪ Experiences, results and lessons learnt will be explained and reflected.</li> <li>▪ Novel tools for capacity-building in space technology and space law shall be presented and identified.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 2: Infrastructure for capacity-building</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation and identification of infrastructure necessary for technological, economic, and social development in general</li> <li>▪ Access to Space</li> <li>▪ Discussion on the need of platforms and infrastructures available for capacity-building and access to space in space technology and space law</li> </ul>
<b>Session 3: Workshop UNOOSA pilot project on Space for Development Profile and Space Solutions Compendium</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The pilot project initiated by UNOOSA will be presented</li> <li>▪ A panel discussion will address the intended outcomes and potential improvements.</li> </ul> <p>Participants are encouraged to present their approaches to capacity-building and how results of such activities could be measured.</p>
<b>Session 4: Workshop on specific tools for Space Law Capacity-Building (organised by DLR)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cologne Commentary on Space Law</li> <li>▪ A future Space Law Compendium as an outcome of UNISPACE+50</li> </ul>
<b>Session 5: How to attract women and youth to space-related careers</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The educational situation of women and youth in a global perspective</li> <li>▪ Women and youth in space technology and space law</li> <li>▪ Initiatives in schools, universities and online platforms will be presented and discussed</li> </ul>
<b>Session 6: Workshop on model curricula for space technology and space law</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This session will focus on the usefulness of model curricula for capacity-building.</li> <li>▪ At the example of the curricula developed by UNOOSA on space technology and on space law, lessons learnt from their development will be discussed.</li> <li>▪ The Workshop aims at identifying ways and means of their appropriate use and implementation</li> </ul>
<b>Session 7: Institutional Capacity-Building</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The activities carried out by various institutions in the area of economic and technological development will be presented. Experiences and lessons learnt will be discussed.</li> <li>▪ Initiatives of UNOOSA and lessons learnt will be presented, including the regional centres</li> </ul>
<b>Session 8: UNISPACE+50</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This session will be focussing on the contributions of the Graz Symposium towards UNISPACE+50 and the next steps</li> </ul>
<p><b>Discussion Sessions</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Issues, concerns and approaches for pilot projects/initiatives, requirements of implementing, mechanisms and resources of implementing</li> <li>▪ Possible follow-up projects and initiatives and proposals for future Symposiums/training courses/technical seminars</li> </ul>

Kindly note that the Symposium organizers may modify the number and themes of sessions of the final programme.

## 6. Working Methods

Speakers at the Symposium are requested to deliver a presentation paper and materials covering the topic of Access to Space: Holistic approach to capacity-building for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century including case studies/projects in their respective countries are welcome. Each speaker is allocated 10 - 20 minutes for the presentation. It is also necessary to submit an abstract of the 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. Applicants are requested to *use* the *template* to present an *abstract* in the required format.

Presentations made at the Symposium 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 Symposium.

## 7. 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 local organisers to showcase lessons learned and best practices.

## 8. Sponsorship of the Symposium

The Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations and Austria are responsible for organizing the Symposium. The European Space Agency (ESA), Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (DLR), Joanneum Research, NPOC Space Law University of Vienna, the Graz University of Technology, Austrospace, the Municipality of Graz, the Government of Austria, the State of Styria, the Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology are supporting the Symposium.

**Sponsorship of the Symposium is still open to other interested entities.**

## 9. Target Audience and Expected Participants

The Symposium is being planned for a total of 120 participants including scientists, engineers, university educators, and policy-and-decision makers and senior experts from the following groups: international, regional, national and local institutions, in particular from developing countries, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, research and development institutions, and also from industry.

Participants should be in senior managerial or decision-making responsibility at governmental agencies, national and regional institutions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations or

industry.

The Office strives to support gender mainstreaming in its programs and is also committed to ensure a balanced representation from different perspectives.

## 10. Language of the Symposium

The working language of the Symposium will be English.

## 11. Financial support

Within the limited financial resources available, a limited number of selected participants will be offered financial support to attend the Symposium. This financial support will defray the cost of travel (a round trip air-ticket – most economic fare – between the airport of international departure in their home country and Graz, Austria) and/or the room and board expenses for the duration of the Symposium. Participants will be selected on a competitive basis. Successful applicants will be notified of the outcome within two weeks after the deadline.

## 12. Deadline for Submission of Applications and Abstracts

The completed application form **together with the presentation abstract** should be **submitted on-line**, to the Office for Outer Space Affairs, **no later than Friday, 5th June 2017**. Only complete applications with all the requested information and signatures will be considered by the Symposium organizing committee. Please note that on-line application form is available on the web site of the Office for Outer Space Affairs at the following address:

<https://register.unoosa.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=83>

## 13. 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.

## 14. Further Information and Contact Details

For information regarding the submission of nominations for attendance and funding, programme, presentations/abstracts and speakers please contact:

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