In its resolution 63/90 of 5 December 2008, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction that the Open Informal Session, held in conjunction with the annual Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities and in which representatives of Member States participate, provides a constructive mechanism for an active dialogue between entities of the United Nations system and Member States.

Taking into consideration the growing interest of Member States in having an open dialogue with United Nations entities, this year’s Open Informal Session will address “Space-related activities of United Nations entities in Africa” and is an opportunity for the United Nations entities to inform and exchange views with Member States on the ways and means that space technology and applications can benefit sustainable development in Africa.

The agenda of the Open Informal Session is attached in the Annex. Further information on the Open Informal Session, including presentations, will be made available at the United Nations website for Coordination of Outer Space Activities (http://www.uncosa.unvienna.org/).
Annex I

Agenda for the Open Informal Session of the United Nations Inter-Agency Meeting On Outer Space Activities, held in Vienna on 7 March 2009

Theme: "Space-related activities of United Nations entities in Africa"

14:30 Introductory Remarks
Acting Chairperson of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities

Introduction of Participants (Tour de Table)
All Participants

Presentations on Space-related activities of United Nations entities in Africa

14:45 - Activities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the benefit of Africa
UNOOSA
- Connect Africa Summit and follow up activities
ITU
- Remote sensing tools for cannabis monitoring in Africa
UNODC
- Coverage and applications of GIS support to UNHCR operations in Africa
UNHCR
- Activities supported by WMO in Africa
WMO
- Water resource management in Africa
UNESCO
- Other United Nations entities and Member States may wish to provide briefings on their initiatives related to the session’s theme

16:45 Questions and Answers
All Participants

Discussions among United Nations entities and Member States

17:30 Concluding Remarks
Acting Chairperson of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities