

**THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES (UN-SPACE)**

29 October 2018 - Conference Room 8, New York

Co-organized by

the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

and the United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP)

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**Vincenzo Aquaro – UN DESA**

**[Greetings]**

It is my great pleasure to be here with all of you today at the THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES (UN-SPACE).

And on behalf of the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, I would like to extend our deep appreciation to the organisers, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP). for inviting DESA to be present at this important event.

**[Introduction]**

The world is fast changing, with digital revolution taking prominence and new technologies such as space technology, disrupting everything from service provision to agriculture, telecommunication, healthcare, industry, transport and public security.

Space technology is now the playbook of smart governments, as well as for resilient and sustainable liveable societies.

The use of these frontier technologies may create new opportunities for development and economic growth in almost every aspect of government and society.

### **[2030 Agenda]**

Technologies, particularly Space technology are intricately linked to the development of today's societies and play an important role to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Space technology is already an indispensable and universal resource for the humanity but must be equally distributed within and among countries and be available for everyone or every government, no matter its own level of development or capacity.

For this reason, the 2030 agenda's principle of Leaving No One Behind should always be applied also for Space technology for achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

DESA recognizes that the pace and scope of rapid technological change can have far-reaching implications – both positive and negative – for the achievement of sustainable development and encourages entities of the United Nations system to participate, as appropriate, in UN-Space coordination efforts.

### **[UN-Space]**

Therefore, DESA supports the participation in UN-Space coordination efforts through formal inter-agency mechanisms, such as the UN-Space.

DESA has been initiating several activities and collaboration with OOSA to continue to examine how space science and technology and their applications could contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In this regard, DESA and OOSA are progressing well in advancing their cooperation.

### **[DESA and OOSA]**

Just few examples.

Let me acknowledge first the collaboration with UNOOSA for the preparation of our 2018 UN eGovernment Survey. The Survey is a UNDESA flagship publication issued every two years since 2003, It is the only report in the world that assesses the digital government development status of all 193 UN Member States and it is used as a benchmark tool to measure e-government development, build governments' capacity, provide policy recommendations and share good practices from around the World.

Other initiatives already developed with OOSA:

On 30 September, in Bremen, Germany, I have also joined the high level panel of the 26th United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on Space Technology for Socio-Economic Benefits: "Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure for Development (3Is4D)" and another panel in an International Astronautical Congress (IAC) special session entitled "A global space partnership towards 2030: addressing the needs of Member States of the United Nations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals" on 2 October 2018.

Both events were organized by UNOOSA and held in conjunction with the biggest annual space event, IAC2018. This provided a great opportunity to DESA to connect directly to the wider space community and showcase the work that DESA is doing for the SDGs, while demonstrating the strong connection between our two organizations.

On 26 September, in Vienna, DESA had a bilateral meeting between Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director of Statistical Division of UNDESA, and

UNOOSA to discuss on strengthen the collaboration between our Department and UNOOSA.

Among others, the main topic covered was UNOOSA participation in the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) and the 8th meeting of Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), and the Development Account (DA) project entitled “Strengthening geospatial information management in developing countries towards implementing the 2030 Agenda”.

### **[Conclusion]**

About the next future:

In the next few weeks, UNOOSA will join the 8th meeting of Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) to be held 6-8 November 2018 in Stockholm, Sweden.

In November, OOSA will participate at the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) in Deqing, China as a speaker in Plenary Session 2: Attaining Sustainable Development.

In December OOSA will also participate at the forthcoming EGM on new technologies organized by the Division of Public institutions and Digital Government in which it will be discussed how space technologies could play for Digital Government and their potential impact for increasing resilience of digital governments.

Thanks for your attentions.