



**Office for Outer Space Affairs**  
United Nations Office at Vienna



# **OOSA Activities Related to Public-Private Partnerships and Innovative Funding Approaches**

**Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities**  
**Open Informal Session**

**Geneva, Switzerland**  
**18 January 2008**



## Contents

- The Office for Outer Space Affairs
- Introduction
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Current Fundraising-related Activities
- Innovative Funding Approaches
- Planned Fundraising Activities
- Challenges and Concluding Remarks



## The Office for Outer Space Affairs

- Serves as the secretariat for the General Assembly's Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
- Implements the UN Programme on Space Applications
  - Holds annual workshops and seminars on space-related topics
  - Provides fellowships, training opportunities and support to pilot projects
  - Conducts a range of awareness raising and outreach activities
  - Disseminates information and provides technical advisory services on space application projects
  - Supports the four UN-affiliated regional centres for space science and technology education
- Implements UN-SPIDER



## Introduction

- The Office receives its basic funding through the regular budget of the United Nations
- However, many of the Offices mandated and discretionary activities depend on the financial and in-kind support provided on a voluntary basis by member States and other entities, including non-governmental organisations and the private sector
- The Office, since its inception in the 1960s, is involved in public-private partnerships and has been using a range of (innovative) funding approaches



## Public-Private Partnerships

- The Office cooperates with a large number of non-governmental organizations
- Examples: AIAA, CONGO, COSPAR, IAA, IAF, IASA, IISL, International Committee on GNSS, ISPRS, Planetary Society, World Space Week Association
- Many of these organizations are observers in the Committee of the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
- Co-organization of events such as the CONGO Outer Space Forum or the COSPAR/IAF Symposia
- Annual UN/IAF Workshops
- Publications, such as Highlights in Space



## Public-Private Partnerships

- The Office has established many links to the private sector
- Space industry (Asia-Pacific Satellite Communications Council, Astrium, SSTL, ...)
- Academia (AIT, ICT, ...)
- Publishing companies (Springer Verlag, International Space Business Council, ...)
- Participation to and co-sponsorship of conferences
- Exhibitions (GEOSPACE, ...)
- Demonstrations (Iridium, WorldSpace, ...)
- Bi-annual Space Industry Symposium



## Current Fundraising-related Activities

- A Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications was created in 1972
- Member States and other entities are called upon at the annual meetings of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its Subcommittees to contribute to the Trust Fund
- Donors are encouraged to contribute, while allowing for full flexibility to the Office, to carry out activities in accordance with the priorities set by COPUOS



## Current Fundraising-related Activities

- European Space Agency: annual support to the UN Programme on Space Applications, ~ US\$ 100.000/year
- Austria: annual support to a series of Symposia on space applications in support of sustainable development, ~ US\$ 100.000/year
- Austria and Germany: support to UN-SPIDER, EUR 150.000/year and in-kind support, each
- Switzerland: support to UN-SPIDER, CHF 240.000 one time contribution
- United States: multi-year support to a series of GNSS-related conferences, ~ US\$ 500.000 over several years





## Innovative Funding Approaches

- UNISPACE Conferences have been held in 1968, 1982 and 1999 and provided strategic guidance for the work of COPUOS and OOSA
- UNISPACE III held in Vienna, Austria, from 19 to 30 July 1999 concluded with “The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development”
- Recommendation 31: “Establish a special voluntary United Nations fund for the implementation of recommendations of UNISPACE III” (= existing Trust Fund)
- Recommendation 32: “Identify new and innovative sources of financing to support the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III”



## Innovative Funding Approaches

- COPUOS member States discussed new and innovative funding sources and mobilization of financial resources during the Sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in 2000 and 2002
- A/AC.105/736 “Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and new and innovative funding sources to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III”, (Annex II, paras. 24 to 30)
- A/AC.105/786 “Mobilization of financial resources to develop capacity in space science and technology applications”, (paras. 143 to 147)



## Innovative Funding Approaches

- In follow-up to UNISPACE III recommendation 32 an Action Team on Innovative Sources of Financing under the Chairmanship of France was created (2001 to 2003)
- The Action Team contributed to a special session on “Funding and financing strategies” at the UN/IAF Workshop on “Making Space Applications Operational: Opportunities and Challenges for Sustainable Development”, held in France, 27-29 September 2001
- A final report of the Action Team was released as document A/AC.105/L.246



## Final Report of the Action Team

- Reviewed findings of previous workshops and work of COPUOS on the subject of funding, examined ideas and made specific proposals
- Identified a large number of national and international sources and mechanisms for funding projects
- Space applications need to be integrated into a broader context to qualify for funding
- Private sector will contribute if it sees potential future revenues
- Proposal criteria have to be followed
- Describes funding agencies and development banks



## Planned Fundraising Activities

- OOSA is reviewing the best fundraising practices of the United Nations system
- Based on its identified needs it will develop a strategy for comprehensive, convincing, properly focused and targeted fundraising
- A first draft may be presented to COPUOS in June 2008
- This strategy may include, inter alia, considerations for further encouraging member States to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund
- It may also seek advice on public-private partnerships



## Challenges and Concluding Remarks

- In engaging the private sector, a number of challenges have to be taken into account:
  - Ethical Issues (Global Compact, Dual Use, ...)
  - Legal Issues (Use of UN Logo, Contractual Arrangements, ...)
  - Ensuring Independence and Impartiality
- OOSA is looking forward to exchanging and sharing its fundraising-related experiences with other entities and is looking forward to the conclusions and actions resulting from the open informal session
- OOSA documents and resources are available at <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/fundraising/index.html>



**Office for Outer Space Affairs**  
United Nations Office at Vienna



**Thank you for your Attention**

Office for Outer Space Affairs

United Nations Office at Vienna

Email: [werner.balogh@unvienna.org](mailto:werner.balogh@unvienna.org)

Fax: +43-1-26060-5830

[www.unoosa.org](http://www.unoosa.org)





## Useful Resources

- "New and innovative sources of funding to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III: Note by the Secretariat", A/AC.105/C.1/2000/CRP.12, 14 February 2000
- "Report on the United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on Making Space Applications Operational: Opportunities and Challenges for Sustainable Development (Albi, France, 27-29 September 2001)", A/AC.105/775, 4 January 2002
- "Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III): Final report of the Action Team on New and Innovative Sources of Funding", A/AC.105/L.246, 16 May 2003
- All documents and additional resources are available at <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/fundraising/index.html>