

 **Permanent
Mission
of Austria**

to the United
Nations in Vienna

AUSTRIA, ITEM 16

“Space 2030” Agenda

65th COPUOS (1 – 10 June 2022)

Mr. Johann Spitzer, Alternate Permanent Representative

Chair,

Last year, the General Assembly, adopted the resolution 76/3 including the “Space2030” Agenda and respective implementation plan.

It is a major milestone since it describes concrete actions to achieve the ambitious goals laid down in this important document. The „Space 2030“Agenda reaffirms and strengthens the contribution of space solutions to the achievement of sustainable development.

In the following, we would like to inform you on Austrian activities and which tools we support. For ease of reference, we refer to the numbering of the resolution A/RES/76/3.

§ 24 (b) UNSPIDER: Austria has been one of the founding members of the Programme in 2006. Since then we supported the programme with different activities such as through direct funding agreements with UNOOSA, delegation of Austrian Experts to UNOOSA and projects directly linked to the UNOOSA work programme. At present, we prepare a project that links Austrian development policy objectives and Austrian space technologies expertise to support a region in Africa.

§ 24 (i) Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG): Austrian legal and technical experts actively contribute to the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group SMPAG. As in 2021,

Austria supports the organisation of the Planetary Defence Conference 2023, organized by UNOOSA.

§ 25 (d) Space for Women Project: Austria also supports UNOOSA in organizing Space for Women related events and activities.

§ 25 (i) The World Space Forums (WSF) series aims at strengthening partnerships and dialogue among the global community to support the implementation of the "Space2030" Agenda. We co-organised a first World Space Forum in 2019 entitled „Access to Space for All“.

In view of the great interest, we went into a cooperation with UNOOSA to support yearly meetings of this Forum.

In 2021, the Forum discussed „Space for Climate Action“. The Report on the United Nations/Austria World Space Forum on this topic with the reference A/AC.105/1266 can be found on the session page.

As announced in our General Statement we are pleased to have this year's World Space Forum again in Vienna from 12 – 15 December. We will discuss how space and space based solutions contribute to the Common Agenda in preparation of the planned Summit of the Future.

For the year to come, we would like to invite other Member States to step forward and to organize a World Space Forum. We shall be ready to share our experiences.

In addition, we contribute with the following activities to the objectives of the „Space 2030“Agenda:

The UN/Austria Symposium is an activity of the Programme of Space Applications of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs. It has taken place in Graz, Austria, since 1994. So far, we had more than 3,100 participants in total. And the topics we have discussed range from the use of space solutions for different communities and policy sectors to greater involvement of youth, to the use of space for sustainable development, as well as space accessibility and international cooperation. This year we focus on Space for Climate Action.

This activity contributes to **Overarching objective 1 (economic benefits), Overarching objective 2 (benefits for everyday challenges) and Overarching objective 3: (access to space for all).**

Austria actively supports the work of the Committees and Subcommittees with statements and technical presentations and active participation in Working and Expert Groups.

As a smaller country, Austria is deeply committed to international cooperation in particular in the area of space science and technology. Since 1959, we are member of the UNCOPUOS, since 1987 Full Member of the European Space Agency, since 1994 Full Member of EUMETSAT, the European operational satellite agency for monitoring weather, climate and the environment from space. Since 1995 Austria has been a Member of the European Union, thus contributing to the European Space Programme. We believe in rule-based cooperation and are deeply convinced of the increasing relevance and importance of UNCOPUOS.

For us, the core tasks for UNCOPUOS are

1. promoting international cooperation in the peaceful use and exploration of space, and in the utilisation of space solutions for sustainable economic and social development;
2. maintaining the Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space and fostering international space law;
3. providing the Secretariat to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees.

These activities contribute to **Overarching objective 4: (partnerships and international cooperation).**

For covering this valuable work for an increasing number of Member States, sufficient resources are needed. Austria encourages to consider sufficient means for the Office for Outer Space Affairs, so that the Office can fully and effectively implement its mandate.

In concluding, we encourage Member States to report on the implementation of the „Space 2030“Agenda with a view to the mid-term review in 2025 and the final review of the implementation of the “Space2030” Agenda.

Chair,

As this is probably our last statement at this session, Austria would like to address her special thanks to Niklas Hedman. Mr. Hedman, you steered this committee and its subcommittees throughout so many years with competence, sensibility and without ever losing your good humour. We thank you also especially for having taken over to head UNOOSA as acting director after Simonetta DI PIPPO's mandate ended.

Tack så mycket

Thank you!