



Permanent Mission of Austria

to the United
Nations in Vienna

AUSTRIA, ITEM 8 Space for Sustainable Development 68th COPUOS (25 June – 2 July 2025) Ambassador Gabriela SELLNER

Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to report on **initiatives with European partners** and **national initiatives**:

ESA's Living Planet Symposium (from 23-27 June 2025) takes place every three years and is one of the world's leading events on Earth observation. The response was overwhelming – both in terms of content and the number of participants. Nearly 7,000 experts from 120 countries came to Vienna to discuss Earth observation and its application in all areas of life.

We are particularly pleased that the Director of UNOOSA, Ms Aarti Holla-Maini, participated in the opening session and that UN-SPIDER offered training and tutorials.

The **Space in the City festival** brought the fascinating world of Earth observation into the heart of Vienna. From 24 to 26 June, Vienna's Karlsplatz has been transformed into an interactive stage for science, art and culture showcasing and celebrating the potential of satellite data for more sustainable, safer and more liveable cities. Our primary objective was to bring young people closer to the fascination of space, and we think that we fully achieved this objective with this event.

Finally, I would like to report on the progress of a **national initiative to align space and development policy**.

At the national level, Austria has launched a **drought monitoring project in Mozambique** in cooperation with the Austrian Development Agency. Following a **successful first phase** dedicated to **research** on innovative Earth Observation tools to monitor drought, the

project partners are now working to **integrate these tools into existing and well-used platforms**. We will also seek to identify partner organisations in the field of sustainable development financing to support the integration of these innovative Earth observation tools into institutional drought monitoring in the region.

This project is implemented by the Austrian Development Agency with financial support from the Austrian Federal Ministry for Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that **space solutions make an important contribution to achieving all 17 Sustainable Development Goals** and that Austria will continue to seek opportunities to support this at all levels of our work.

Thank you!