

 **Permanent
Mission
of Austria**

to the United
Nations in Vienna

AUSTRIA
Statement to bid farewell to the
Director of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs,
Simonetta Di Pippo
Ambassador Gabriela SELLNER

Chair,

With real regret, we took note of Director Simonetta Di Pippo's announcement to end her term as Director of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs next month. Allow me, Chair, to address Director Di Pippo directly – as we know her so well, here in Vienna.

Director, dear Simonetta, during your tenure, the number of member states has increased to a hundred, and many new permanent observers including the European Union have been affiliated. Let me stress that in spite of the limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you made the work of COPUOS continue in an excellent way during the last two years. The "Space2030" Agenda will be a milestone always linked to your restless efforts. Most recently, you succeeded to bring in space issues most prominently into Our Common Agenda with regard to the preparation of the Summit of the Future next year.

Director Di Pippo,

As Host Country of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs and Member State of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Austria thanks you for your excellent work and also bilateral cooperation throughout the eight years of your tenure - be it the UNISPACE+50 Symposium, the UN/Austria Symposium in Graz or the World Space Forum,

Director Di Pippo,

Austria appreciates your full dedication and successful leadership of UNOOSA and thanks for your full engagement throughout your tenure. We wish you wholeheartedly all the best for your academic career and personal future.

Mille grazie – thank you Chair.