

Austria, Item 11

Near Earth Objects
60th STSC (6 – 17 February 2023)
Mr. Johann SPITZER, Minister-Counsellor

Chair,
Excellencies – Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Austria values the activities of the **International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN)** and the **Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG)**, which are part of the Implementation Plan of the „Space2030 Agenda“.

These groups aim at **strengthening preparedness** for the threat of potential impacts of near-Earth objects through **international cooperation and information-sharing**.

We therefore welcome the fact that the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs is hosting the **8th IAA Planetary Defence Conference**.

This conference will take place from **2 to 7 April 2023** at the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the United Nations Vienna International Center. It is co-organized by **UNOOSA, the Commission for Geosciences of the Austrian Academy of Sciences** and **ESA**.

In addition to the traditional session topics such as NEO discovery, NEO characterisation, deflection or disruption of asteroids, a **full, hypothetical asteroid threat exercise** will be presented during the conference.

This will be a **fictional, but realistic scenario** with the objective of identifying and exchanging national communication procedures for hazards caused by NEO or determining the need for such procedures.

Shortly you will find information on the conference on the respective websites of UNOOSA and the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA).

Austria contribute with its technical, legal and organisational expertise to support the co-organizers in providing an attractive programme also with rewarding opportunities to get-together.