

**General Exchange of Views
60th STSC (6 – 17 February 2023)
Ambassador Gabriela SELLNER**

Chair,
Excellencies – Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Austria supports the statement of the **European Union**. In addition, we would like to highlight the following issues:

Let me thank you **Mr. Juan Francisco Facetti (Paraguay)** for your excellent work so far. We are convinced that with your leadership this session will also be a success.

Let me also welcome the new members to the **committee, Guatemala and Uzbekistan**.

At the beginning of our statement, I would like to state that Austria stands in full solidarity and support with Ukraine and the people of Ukraine. We condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine which grossly violates international law and the UN Charter.

Let me recall the **mandate of COPUOS**: The Committee works to govern the exploration and use of space for the benefit of all humanity: for peace, safety and development. We as Member States to this Committee are tasked with **reviewing international cooperation** in peaceful uses of outer space, **studying space-related activities** that could be undertaken by the UN, **encouraging space research programmes**, and **studying legal problems** arising from the exploration of outer space.

The „**Space 2030 Agenda and its implementation plan**“ negotiated by COPUOS and approved two years ago is a very **practical and concrete mandate for the Office and the Member States to COPUOS**. We all are working on the **implementation** of these goals through a variety of activities that cover all aspects related to space.

On 19-20 September 2023, during the UN General Assembly high-level week, Heads of State and Government will gather in New York to follow-up and review the implementation of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. They will carry out a **comprehensive review of the status of the SDGs**

implementation. They will also provide **high-level policy guidance** for transformative and accelerated action towards the 2030 target year for achieving the SDGs.

The General Assembly in its resolution 70/299 decided that the **High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development** shall have only **one negotiated Political Declaration**, covering the functions of both sessions of the Forum and the Summit. This Declaration should mention **space solutions** as important tool supporting **monitoring and implementation** and **boosting efforts to achieve the goals.**

Austria **supports** this process driven by Member States.

Therefore, together with UNOOSA, Austria co-organized the **"World Space Forum 2022 on „Sustainability from space for Sustainability on Earth"**. This World Space Forum provided an opportunity for the enlarged space community to discuss and show how space solutions contribute to the Space2030 Agenda and its implementation plan and how effective space assets are.

We have seen that the space community is very active and successful in supporting a good life for all people with the help of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We support the Chair of STSC in his efforts to **include appropriate messages** in the **Declaration to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and to the SDG-Summit.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'm pleased to inform you that Austria will **continue its support** to these important processes with the aim to **strategically position space activities as well as space technologies, applications and solutions in the post-2030 Sustainable Agendas.**

In September 2021, the UN Secretary-General published his report **"Our Common Agenda"**. In his report, the Secretary General proposes a high-level **"Summit of the Future"**. **Peaceful, safe and sustainable use of outer space** features prominently in that document.

Austria supports this **holistic, intergovernmental process** for an **innovative global governance.** This process should bring together diverse national interests and values and generate results according to the broad agenda. Reinforced efforts are necessary to provide **enhanced global public goods.**

Austria is pleased to dedicate the **World Space Forum 2023** to address these important **long-term issues for the future of outer space from 2030 onwards.** We are delighted to

invite you to **Vienna from 11-14 December 2023**, this time hopefully in-person, with an again appealing and relevant programme.

I would like to raise one more important topic and that is attracting young **people** we should get **directly involved in the discussion about the future**. We have already opened the UN door and invited young people to the World Space Forum and we should think about how we can involve young people even more in all events co-organised by Austria. Their views and talents are necessary to find solutions to the challenges ahead.

Let me please conclude with an **outlook on our national space activities**:

In 2022 the **nanosatellite PRETTY (Passive Reflectometry and Dosimetry)** was completed. This ESA-funded Project was realised by **Beyond Gravity** as Prime Contractor; **Technical University Graz**, responsible for system design and integration, and **Seibersdorf Laboratories** as developer of a novel radiation detector. PRETTY will measure **glacier and sea level heights** and thus **contribute to climate research**. The spacecraft was already delivered to the launch provider and will be lifted into a Low Earth Orbit in the first half of 2023.

Earlier this year, the **formal authorisation process** established by the **national Outer Space Act** was successfully completed. The submitting entity has been informed by the decision of the responsible Federal Ministry for Climate Action.

This is the **second satellite authorized** under the national outer space law.

A Technical Presentation on the expected results of the climate research mission will be given during this STSC Session. During this session, we will also make statements on several points that are important to Austria or where we want to report on national activities to implement the "Space 2030 Agenda".

In concluding, let me underline that the Austrian delegation will continue to provide strong support to the work of UNOOSA and this subcommittee. In this spirit, we are convinced that this 60th session of the STSC will be successful.

Thank you!

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