

AUSTRIA, ITEM 4

Space for sustainable development: technology and its applications, including the United Nations Programme on Space Applications 62nd Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (3 – 14 February 2025)

Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

Let me once more assure you, Madam Chair, of Austria full support. I would also like to thank UNOOSA-Director Aarti Holla-Maini and her team for preparing this session.

Austria is fully aligned with the statement of the European Union. I would like to take this opportunity to express on behalf of my delegation our deepest condolences at the passing of Ambassador Andrzej Misztal from Poland, who so successfully led the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities.

Space technologies play a critical role in addressing climate change and related challenges like forest fires, floods, and biodiversity loss.

Every year, innovative projects are developed. However, many face the challenge of implementing technical concepts in sustainable and effective services, which is often due to gaps in understanding and implementation.

The **UN/Austria Symposium 2024** focussed on "*Climate action: transforming space-based technology projects into sustainable services that support policy-making*". From 17 to 18 July 2024, various stakeholders shared their experiences and lessons learnt, explored solutions and discussed how to transform space-based innovations into sustainable services. Approximately 1,400 persons from 135 countries registered, 70 % of them from developing countries. Key topics included government support, financing, capacity building and impact measurement, with successful case studies highlighting best practices. This year's country case was **Indonesia**, and we would like to thank our colleagues from Indonesia and the National Research and Innovation Agency BRIN for sharing their knowledge, insights and learnings with us.

This event marked the 30th edition of this symposium. It is Austria's contribution to the UNOOSA's World Space Applications Programme. Since the first symposium, more than 5,102 participants have taken part in the events. Over the years, we have covered a wide range of topics together, ranging from space for sustainability to space accessibility and youth participation. Since 2020, the symposium has addressed a range of topics focused on Space for Climate Action in support of SDG 13.

Austria remains **committed to promoting space solutions for the SDGs**. That is why we, together with the European Space Agency, are organising the 2025 Living **Planet Symposium in Vienna**. The Symposium attracts several thousand participants from all over the world. It will take place from 23-27 June 2025. Since this is the period of our COPUOS meeting, we cordially invite you to participate in this unique event. The programme will be available on the ESA website at the beginning of April. Topics covered include: Earth sciences, climate change and sustainability challenges, current and future Earth observation missions, digital innovation and green solutions, partnerships with industry for new applications, and global cooperation and political support. We hope to see many of you there.

To advance the discussion on sustainability on Earth and in space, the **Centre of Excellence for Space and Sustainability (CESS)** at the European Institute of Space Policy (ESPI) will be established with the support of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology this year. CESS aims to develop interdisciplinary expertise and know-how on the role of space in supporting sustainable development on Earth and in space to contribute to UNOOSA's efforts on Space Solutions for sustainable development.

Thank you.