



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

UNITED NATIONS/AUSTRIA SYMPOSIUM
"ACCESS TO SPACE: HOLISTIC CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
GRAZ, AUSTRIA, 3-7 SEPTEMBER 2017

OVERVIEW OF UNOOSA CAPACITY-BUILDING IN SPACE LAW AND POLICY

NIKLAS HEDMAN

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
United Nations Office at Vienna



UNOOSA capacity-building programme on space law and policy

Series of UN Space law Workshops held: 2002 with The Netherlands; 2003 with Republic of Korea; 2004 with Brazil; 2005 with Nigeria; 2006 with Ukraine; 2009 with Islamic Republic of Iran; 2010 with Thailand; 2012 with Argentina; 2014 with China; 2016 in VIC Vienna. Planned: 2018 with Russian Federation; 2019 or 2020 with APSCO (in one MS)...

Space law Website:

- Treaty status database and national legislation database
- Travaux préparatoire (currently OST, ARRA, LIAB, REG, MOON, 1963 Declaration)
- Bilateral and multilateral agreements database
- Directory on education opportunities in space law
- Compendium on space debris mitigation standards
- Compendium on non-legally binding United Nations instruments
- United Nations Education Curriculum on Space Law

Technical legal assistance on registration of objects launched into outer space, notifications under the legal regime on outer space, development of national space policy and regulatory framework for space activities



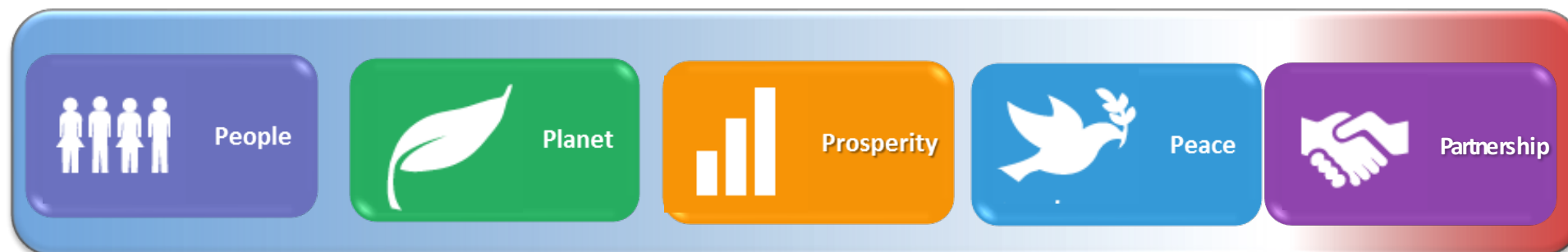
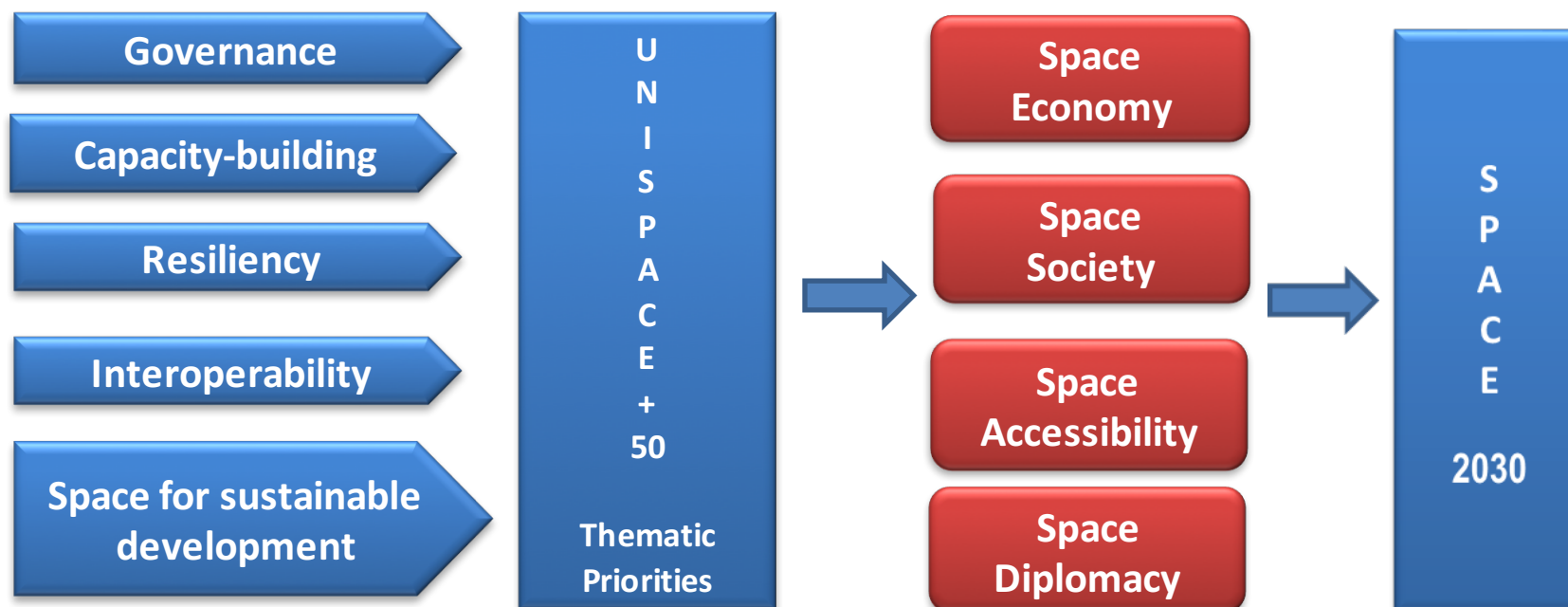
UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

UNISPACE
+50



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

UNISPACE+50 Process





UNISPACE+50 Process

2016: COPUOS and its Subcommittees (Scientific and Technical, and Legal) defined UNISPACE+50 **thematic priorities** based on the following **cross-cutting areas, where COPOUS has made its major contributions:**

- **Space governance** (UN treaties and principles on outer space, COPUOS guidelines, GA resolutions on outer space)
- **Capacity-building** (in the use of space science and technology and their applications for the benefit of all countries)
- **Resiliency** (disaster risk reduction, near-Earth objects, space weather)
- **Interoperability** (including work done by the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) and other current and new coordination mechanisms, such as IAWN, SMPAG)
- **Space for sustainable development** (efforts by the Committee and its member States as well as UNOOSA to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)



UNISPACE+50 Thematic Priorities

7 thematic priorities with mechanisms agreed by COPUOS in 2016:

- 1. Global partnership in space exploration and innovation - Action Team with MS***
- 2. Legal regime of outer space and global space governance: current and future perspectives - LSC WG on Treaties***
- 3. Enhanced information exchange on space objects and events – Mechanism TBD***
- 4. International framework for space weather services - STSC EG on Space Weather***
- 5. Strengthened space cooperation for global health - STSC EG on Space and Global Health***
- 6. International cooperation towards low-emission and resilient societies - UNOOSA***
- 7. Capacity-building for the 21st Century - UNOOSA***



TP2 “Legal regime of outer space and global space governance: current and future perspectives”

LSC WG on Status of treaties in 2017 agreed to a multi-year working method 2017-2020 on the basis of 3 “clusters”. **Cluster 3:**

- promoting the **universality** of the five UN treaties on outer space, including by identifying approaches and possible criteria for developing a guidance document, as well as promoting the increase in membership of COPUOS
- Progress and outcome of **past WGs** to be observed (launching State, registration practice, national legislation, international mechanisms)
- **Capacity-building and technical assistance** carried out by UNOOSA in the field of international space law and policy should be considered fundamental tools in those efforts, as should be the further **development of a model for national space legislation**, as appropriate, and as recommended in the report of the SLW (A/AC.105/1131, *para. 50 (h) and (i)*)



SLW 2016 conclusions (A/AC.105/1131, paras. 46, 47, 48)

The Workshop noted with appreciation that a number of capacity-building activities in space law were being undertaken by **governmental and non-governmental entities**, including **encouraging universities** to offer modules on space law; providing fellowships for graduate and postgraduate programmes in space law; and assisting in the development of national space legislation and policy frameworks. The importance of **innovation in education tools used for capacity-building in space law and policy** was highlighted, in particular in relation to the needs of developing countries

The Workshop regarded capacity-building, training and education in space law and space policy to be of paramount importance in further **developing the practical aspects of space science and technology and increasing knowledge of the legal framework within which space activities were carried out**

The Workshop also encouraged **closer cooperation and dialogue** between universities and institutions with established space law programmes and those educational institutions wishing to develop such programmes. The Workshop noted that such cooperation could help to **overcome the hurdles** of limited access to materials and the related costs



SLW 2016 conclusions (A/AC.105/1131, para. 50 (h))

In further evaluating capacity-building objectives, the **Office for Outer Space Affairs** should be officially encouraged to conduct **targeted capacity-building, education and training in space law and policy**, building upon the UN-SPIDER programme, with the objective of establishing a capacity-building platform on the basis of the following criteria:

- (a) the need to **determine the capacity** within the Office to provide targeted technical legal assistance and conduct a comprehensive assessment of the needs of requesting States, taking into account judicial, administrative and technical requirements, and on that basis determine the assistance required; and
- (b) the **delivery** of the required capacity-building, assistance, training and education activities to meet the needs of States



SLW 2016 conclusions (A/AC.105/1131, para. 50 (i))

An assessment of **customary law perspectives** relating to international space law should be conducted under the UNISPACE+50 thematic priority, “Legal regime of outer space and global space governance: current and future perspectives”

An in-depth assessment of possible substantive and **operational gaps** in the legal regime of outer space should also be conducted, focusing in particular responsibility and liability for national space activities. In parallel, possible gaps in the legal regime of a more **conceptual nature** should also be studied

Furthermore, under the thematic priority a **guidance document** should be created with the objective of promoting the universality of the United Nations treaties on outer space, with regard to which models for the implementation and application of the treaties should be developed. In this regard, the **Office for Outer Space Affairs** should be tasked with **outlining a model for national space legislation**



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

THANK YOU

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
United Nations Office at Vienna

www.unoosa.org
@unoosa