

United Nations/Austria Symposium on "Access to Space: Holistic Capacity-Building for the 21st Century" Graz, Austria, 3 - 7 September 2017

**SESSION 6:
Workshop on specific tools for Space Law Capacity-Building**

**Endeavours for a renewed capacity-building in Space Law for the Space 2030
Agenda**

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UNISPACE+50: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TP7 AND TP2

It is not possible to seek universalisation and effective implementation of the UN treaties if the relevant stakeholders are not aware of the international legal regime that governs OS and how international obligations should be translated into domestic legal frameworks for conducting space activities

RECOMMENDATION:

Capacity-building should be conceived as an overarching strategy targeted at different levels, not only at the governmental one but also at the private sector, which is increasingly involved in this field.

CAPACITY-BUILDING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Space technology has become an indispensable and effective tool in addressing and resolving sustainable development issues and meeting many critical human needs.

Space applications are effective tools for monitoring and conducting assessments of the environment, managing the use of natural resources, providing education and health services to rural and remote areas .

RECOMMENDATION:

Capacity-building should put emphasis on the benefits that space activities bring to the development in our daily lives, as a way of encouraging developing countries to get involved in them and develop the necessary legal frameworks to guarantee their sustainability.

LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY AND NEW CHALLENGES IN CAPACITY-BUILDING

Art. 4 of the OST is a clear evidence that the international legal regime governing outer space activities includes topics on the agenda of other UN bodies.

RECOMMENDATION:

The role of OOSA in pulling together with other UN bodies and organizing joint events with the First and the Fourth Committee of the GA can really be a contribution to raising awareness that a more comprehensive approach of Space Law is required. In addition, the Office might explore the possibility of developing joint programmes of capacity-building with the Conference on Disarmament. Furthermore, the CD could present its views in COPUOS on how to contribute to the UN Curriculum

THE UN DIRECTORY FOR EDUCATION AND SPACE LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY

In many countries Space Law is not part of the Law career at all; not even essential elements of this field are included in the curricula of graduate courses. Furthermore, Master or other post-graduate degrees in International Law usually do not include Space Law as a subject, and just a very few universities offer specialization degrees in Space Law.

RECOMMENDATION:

The increase of programmes offered in developing countries may be a clear indicator to assess the progress in capacity-building in Space Law. For this purpose, the role of UNOOSA in encouraging delegations to keep this Directory updated and detailed is particularly important to make it an accessible and effective tool for future applicants.

THE UN CURRICULUM ON SPACE LAW IN EXPANSION

The UN Curriculum is a complete source, however, a mechanism to update it will definitely be necessary. When COPUOS finalizes the set of guidelines on the long-term sustainability, the compendium will also be part of the legal regime governing outer space activities and, therefore, references to it should be made in the curriculum.

RECOMMENDATION:

OOSA could develop a questionnaire for distribution to Member States to allow the views of representatives of the Education, Science & Technology and Foreign Affairs be expressed as to ways and mechanisms for developing a more overarching capacity-building strategy in the space field, applicable to different levels of the education cycle.

SPACE DIPLOMACY AND CAPACITY-BUILDING OF DELEGATES OF PERMANENT MISSIONS

A better knowledge of the topics addressed in COPUOS might allow a better understanding of the decisions that need to be taken in the Subcommittees. Diplomatic reports are an important tool of information for policy-makers in the Capital, and therefore capacity-building may have a positive effect in involving delegations in the work of COPUOS.

RECOMMENDATION:

UNOOSA might explore within the available resources the possibility of organising the workshop in Space Law in Vienna, without prejudice of other regional workshops in the field.

**Thanks for your
attention...**