



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

INFORMATION NOTE

United Nations/Austria Symposium on Space for the Sustainable Development Goals: Stronger partnerships and strengthened cooperation for 2030 and beyond

Organized by
The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs,

Co-organized by
The Government of Austria

With the support of
**The European Space Agency (ESA), German Aerospace Centre (DLR), Joanneum
Research, NPOC Space Law Austria and Graz University of Technology**

Graz, Austria

17 – 19 September 2018

1. Introduction and Background

The United Nations/Austria Symposium has been held in Graz as a scientific conference of international significance since 1994. This year's Symposium will take place shortly after UNISPACE+50, where the international community will consider the future course of global space cooperation for the benefit of humankind, in particular, the contribution of space to sustainable development and to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all, is at the core of the work of United Nations. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets forth 17 SDGs, with specific targets to be achieved until 2030.

Space has been used as a tool for humankind for over 50 years already; it is not new to the area of development and is a critical resource for developed nations. This year, the Symposium will build around the possible contributions stemming from space-related activities to sustainable development and the contribution of the space community towards the achievement and monitoring of the SDGs. Today, space-related activities have a significant contribution from private entities, therefore the discussion shall include public and private partners and has as its ultimate objective to close existing gaps that prevent countries from making full use of space assets.

For countries to make full use of the available space capabilities, there is the need of understanding what space can offer, and what it takes to making it accessible considering the applicable policy regimes. On the other hand, service providers will better be able to fit to what is requested by users if their needs are known. Therefore, it is a bidirectional process.

Based on the success of last year and following the same approach, the UN/Austria Symposium will encompass the legal and policy aspects together with the technical views, providing the attendees with a holistic view on how space contributes to the sustainable development.

2. Set up and Location

Venue:

Graz University of Technology
Institute of Communication Networks and Satellite Communications
Inffeldgasse 12
8010 Graz
Austria

3. Objectives

This Symposium is a key event for the space community pursuing sustainable development, seeking to highlight the importance of space for the Sustainable Development Goals. It is expected that decision-makers from key stakeholders will attend the meeting together with representatives of user communities.

The main objective of the Symposium is to present different initiatives and to elaborate roadmaps and concrete deliverables that could serve as guidance to stress the role of space in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The particular objectives are:

1. Elaborate on streamlining the user needs and their link to global agendas, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement.
2. Prepare a Space systems roadmap with a view on how they can contribute to the global agendas
3. Discuss the following portfolios that can be used by users to widespread what is available:
 - a. Data and Services Access Portfolio
 - b. Asset Access Portfolio
 - c. Technology Access Portfolio
 - d. Capacity-Building Portfolio
4. Enhance existing partnerships and forge new ones for capacity building and institutional support;
5. Promote participation of women and youth in space science;
6. Provide recommendations and elaborate on a roadmap on how space can contribute to sustainable development

4. Preliminary programme of the Symposium

The Symposium is aligned with the mission of the Office for Outer Space to strengthen international coordination and cooperation in the use and applications of space science and technology. In particular, the Symposium expects to generate draft implementation plans and skeletons of documents that can articulate and highlight the contribution of space to the Sustainable Development Goals. The program is designed to cover these objectives. Sessions might be added or modified depending on the availability of speakers.

The programme includes several plenary sessions and sufficient time for discussions among participants. Additionally, five working groups, with selected participants will be established with the purpose of elaborating on the deliverables. The working groups will discuss during the first day of the Symposium and then incorporate the inputs of the subsequent sessions. Furthermore, the programme contains two key note speeches from invited guests.

Thematic Sessions
High Level Discussion Panel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A panel discussion will address the role of space in sustainable development.
Session 1: Working Groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working Group 1: User Need Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Categorization of needs ○ Mechanisms to capture user needs ○ Linkage of user needs to global initiatives ▪ Working Group 2: Space Systems Capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current and in-development capacity ○ Identification of gaps ▪ Working Group 3: Contributions of Space to achieving the SDGs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Elaborate on portfolios (data and services, infrastructure, including the space asset itself) ▪ Working Group 4: Contribution to Policy Definition Processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Data Access policies ▪ Working Group 5: Capacity-Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Generate a map of space-related capacity-building activities supporting the SDGs <p>The objective of the working groups is to elaborate on deliverables for each of the different processes represented.</p>
Session 2: Facilitate Country Access to Flight Opportunities and Associated Technologies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The objective of the session is to provide examples of access to flight opportunities and associated technologies and how they contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. ▪ This session will contribute to the work of working groups 2, 3, 4 and 5
Session 3: Facilitate Access to Data and Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The objective of the session is to provide examples of space data and services and how they contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Each speaker shall make the link between their presentation and specific SDG indicators and targets. ▪ This session will contribute to the work of working groups 2, 3, 4 and 5
Session 4: How Engage the Space Community Views into Policy Discussions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The objective of the session is to identify policies supporting the use of space in a sustainable manner, enabling the access to technologies, data and services.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This session will contribute to the work of working groups 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
Session 5: Space Capacity-Building Initiatives towards SDGs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This session will focus on the different capacity-building initiatives to raise awareness and increase knowledge associated with space technologies and policies. This activity is crosscutting as it will aid users to understand better how to express their needs and widespread the use of space as a tool for sustainable development ▪ This session will contribute to the work of working groups 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
Session 6: Wrap-up session
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This session aims at summarizing the different activities by the rapporteurs, under the optics of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Session 7: Deliverables and Implementation Plan Skeletons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This session will present the deliverables prepared by the working groups and additional content added during the Symposium. The session will consist of presentations by the rapporteurs followed by a dialogue to elaborate further on the deliverables. ▪ The objective is to issue the skeleton or the first draft of the deliverables and implementation plan

5. Working Methods

Speakers at the Symposium are requested to deliver a presentation paper and materials covering the topic of space and sustainable development, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the sustainable Development Goals, providing case studies/projects and examples of how space can contribute to the achievement of the sustainable development goals in their respective countries/organizations are welcome. Each speaker is allocated 10 - 20 minutes for the presentation. It is also necessary to submit an abstract of presentation with a maximum of 600 words including the following details: Paper Title, Author (s) Name(s), Affiliation(s), and e-mail address for the presenting author. Applicants are requested to *use* the *template* to present an *abstract* in the required format. Please note that abstract not in line with the requested format will not be considered.

Presentations made at the Symposium will be published on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (www.unoosa.org) approximately two weeks after the Symposium.

6. Side events and exhibits

Specific side events could be organized by participants and/or in cooperation with the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the local organisers to showcase lessons learned and best practices concerning the use of space for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

7. Sponsorship of the Symposium

The Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations and Austria are responsible for organizing the Symposium. The European Space Agency (ESA), The German Aerospace Centre (DLR), Joanneum Research, NPOC Space Law Austria and the Graz University of Technology are supporting the Symposium.

Sponsorship of the Symposium is still open to other interested entities.

8. Target Audience and Expected Participants

The Symposium is being planned for a total of 120 participants including scientists, engineers, university educators, and policy-and-decision makers and senior experts from the following groups: user communities represented by international, regional, national and local institutions, in particular from emerging and developing countries, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, research and development institutions, and also from industry.

Participants should be in senior managerial or decision-making responsibility at governmental agencies, national and regional institutions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations or industry. **The Office seeks to achieve the balanced participation of women and men to ensure gender parity.**

9. Language of the Symposium

The working language of the Symposium will be English.

10. Financial support

Within the limited financial resources available, a limited number of selected participants will be offered financial support to attend the Symposium. This financial support will defray the cost of travel (a round trip airticket – most economic fare – between the airport of international departure in their home country and Graz, Austria) and/or the room and board expenses for the duration of the Symposium. Participants will be selected on a competitive basis. Successful applicants will be notified of the outcome in due time.

11. Deadline for Submission of Applications and Abstracts

The completed application form together with the presentation abstract should be submitted on-line, to the Office for Outer Space Affairs, **no later than Sunday, 3rd June 2018 at 23:59 Central European Time**. Only complete applications with all the requested information and signatures will be considered by the Symposium organizing committee. Please note that on-line application form is available on the web site of the Office for Outer Space Affairs at the following address:

<http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/psa/schedule/2018/SDGs-un-austria-Symposium.html>

All candidates are strongly encouraged to apply for the Symposium online, as it helps to streamline the processing of applications as well as helps applicants to save their time.

12. Life and Health Insurance

Life/major health insurance for each of the selected participants is necessary and **is the responsibility of the candidate or his/her institution or Government**. The co-sponsors will not assume any responsibility for life and major health insurance, nor for expenses related to medical treatment or accidents.

13. Further Information and Contact Details

For information regarding the submission of nominations for attendance and funding, programme, presentations/abstracts and speakers please contact Mr. Jorge Del Rio Vera (jorge.delriovera[AT]un.org),

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

The focal point for Austria can be contacted at the following e-mail addresses:

Joanneum Research

Ms. Daniela Müller (daniela.mueller[AT]joanneum .at)

Ms. Maria Schaffer (maria.schaffer[AT]joanneum .at)