

United Nations Nations Unies



Special Panel

**40th Anniversary of the  
Landsat Programme  
and the Worldwide Evolution of  
Remote Sensing from Space**

**Wednesday, 6 June 2012  
15:00 – 18:00**

Conference Room M1, Building M, Vienna International Centre

**Important Notice**

Non-Delegates

In order to attend the Special Panel, please register by submitting your name to the Office for Outer Space Affairs in advance and present this invitation together with an appropriate identification document at the entrance of the Vienna International Centre.

Co-ordination by the

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The Committee agreed on the importance of commemorating the fortieth anniversary of Landsat - the first Earth-observation satellite mission, providing many countries with remote sensing data since 1972 - and decided to hold a special panel discussion during its fifty-fifth session, in 2012, allocating at least two hours to the panel discussions dedicated to that anniversary and the worldwide evolution of remote sensing, with full interpretation, and to organize a dedicated exhibition on the theme, with the assistance of the Secretariat in preparing for those two commemorative events. (A/66/20, para.305)

On the occasion of the fifty-fifth session of the  
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

## **40th Anniversary Landsat Programme and the Worldwide Evolution of Remote Sensing from Space**

On 26 July 1972 the Earth Resources Technology Satellite (ERTS) was launched. Renamed to Landsat in 1975, it marked the beginning of the longest running civilian Earth Observations programme. The latest satellite in the series, Landsat-7, has been launched in April 1999. It will be followed by the Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM), scheduled for launch in January 2013 as Landsat-8.

Today Landsat data is used for a wide range of applications such as in agriculture, cartography, geology, forestry, resources monitoring, water availability, surveillance, education and national security. Landsat data acquisition and management is handled by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) which makes data available at <http://landsat.usgs.gov>.

The Special Panel organized on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the Landsat Programme will take a look at the origins and legacy of the programme and at its role in fostering international space cooperation and in pioneering civilian Earth Observation activities all around the World.

**Panel Chair:** Mr. Yasushi Horikawa, (Chair, UNCOPUOS)

- 15:00 **Opening remarks**  
Mr. Ken Hodgkins (U.S. Department of State)
- 15:10 **Origin and Legacy of the Landsat Programme**  
Ms. Jean Parcher (USGS)
- 15:20 **Space-based Earth Observations**  
Ms. Barbara Ryan (WMO)  
*The effect of Landsat's open data policy on the array of EO systems and international mechanisms, such as GEO and CEOS.*
- 15:40 **Evolution of Landsat Data Utilization**  
Mr. Lothar Beckel (European Academy of Sciences and Arts)  
*Landsat Data Utilization and applications from ERTS/Landsat-1 to the present.*
- 16:00 **International Cooperation**  
Mr. Gerard Brachet (Former CEO of Spot Image, 1982-1994)  
*Coordination role and relation between Landsat and SPOT programme. Early investigators and ground-station programme.*
- 16:20 **Role of Landsat in Revolutionising the Management of Natural Resources**  
Mr. U.R. Rao (ISRO)  
*The role of Landsat in enabling developing countries to optimally use space technology for their national development.*
- 16:40 **Future of the Landsat Programme**  
Ms. Anne Castle (U.S. Department of the Interior)  
*Landsat Data Continuity Mission and beyond. Availability and access to Landsat Data (Data Policy).*
- 16:50-  
18:00 **Round Table: Landsat and the Evolution of Earth Observations over the past 40 years**  
Moderator: Mr. Sergio Camacho (Mexico)  
Participants: Mr. Adigun Ade Abiodun (Nigeria), Mr. Marek Baranowski (Poland), Mr. Tamotsu Igarashi (Japan), Mr. Ahmad Al Mansoori (UAE), Mr. Chaiyan Maolanont (Thailand), Mr. Felix Menicocci (Argentina)  
*Discussion of the contributions of the Landsat Programme and of Earth Observations programmes in general to policy- and decision making in support of sustainable development at the global, regional and national level.*