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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
**Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**  
**Fifty-fifth session**  
Vienna, 29 January–9 February 2018

## **Global Compact for Space**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

#### **A. Background**

1. Like other United Nations organisations, the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the unique United Nations organization dealing with outer space, has long considered the private sector to be an integral partner in fulfilling its general mandate to promote the peaceful uses of outer space. Recognizing that the United Nations and the private sector can create together an enabling environment for innovation and progress, the Office for Outer Space Affairs will be working on the creation of a Global Compact for Space.
2. As enshrined in Sustainable Development Goal 17, the achievement of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will depend on many different partnerships. The Office for Outer Space Affairs is eager to contribute to this approach through its unique expertise and focus on the space sector by setting up the global compact of space.
3. Multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, particularly in developing countries will prove to be essential in the realization of all Sustainable Development Goals.
4. The space sector as a whole is changing and moving towards building stronger partnerships, especially in private-public partnerships, with a view to developing innovative space solutions and activities for the benefit of humankind. Industry and private sector entities in space are therefore regarded as essential partners, opening the door to a new way of working.
5. In line with the groundwork already established through the United Nations Global Compact, which is focused on sustainability, the Office for Outer Space Affairs is working to establish a Global Compact for Space, focusing on the space niche and opening a forum where the space sector may partner with the Office on projects and activities in support of the internationally agreed development goals as well as in support of activities recommended by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.



6. The work on the global compact for space builds on General Assembly resolution [72/79](#) and as endorsed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its sixtieth session in 2017 enabling the Office to pursue greater engagement with industry and private sector entities to further their support for and contributions to the overall work of the Office.

7. The recently published “Guidelines on a principle-based approach to the Cooperation between the United Nations and the business sector”,<sup>1</sup> has the objective to institutionalize and enhance practices in the Office for Outer Space Affairs for making the best use the contribution of industry and the private sector to the projects and activities of Office. The guidelines will the basis to establish the global compact for space to create a solid mechanism and transparent framework for collaboration between the Office and industry and the private sector and as an entry point for private sector entities, in support of the implementation of the “Space2030” agenda.

## **B. Global Compact for Space**

8. Partnerships with the space industry and the private sector are not new in the United Nations system: the United Nations Global Compact, launched in 2000, is a voluntary initiative based on the commitments made by Chief Executive Officers to implement universal sustainability principles and to take steps to support the work of the United Nations. The United Nations Global Compact offers guidance, training, resources, tools, local network support and networking opportunities with Global Compact participants.

9. The Global Compact for Space will serve as the major gateway for alliances and collaboration between the private and public sectors in space bringing together different stakeholders to engage in dialogues, share information and take further action.

10. The principal mission of the Global Compact for Space is to foster synergies and promote the exchange of knowledge and expertise and to offer an entry gate for the engagement of the private sector with the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

11. Building on “Guidelines on a principle-based approach to the Cooperation between the United Nations and the business sector” the Office has established the strategy and framework to facilitate the formulation and implementation of partnerships between the United Nations and the business sector.

12. The Global Compact for Space is envisioned to be the main mechanism for collaboration between the Office for Outer Space Affairs and industry and private sector entities and provide the entry point for those entities to work together the Office on the implementation and advancements of the mandate of the United Nations, the targets enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives set under the Space2030 agenda.

13. The Global Compact for Space will provide a framework where the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the private sector, industry and other partners can engage in dialogue, share information and take concrete action and to learn more about specific needs of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, offer programmatic support, and provide in-kind and financial donations for the implementation of its defined objectives.

14. The Global Compact for Space, seeking a wide participation from a diverse group of industry and private sector entities will be a voluntary initiative, not based on a formal membership organization, to address and contribute to the great variety of mandates, targets and objectives of the Office. Additionally, the Global Compact for Space seeks to offer a policy framework for organizing and developing sustainable

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<sup>1</sup> Guidelines on a principle-based approach to the Cooperation between the United Nations and the business sector. - [https://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/issues\\_doc/un\\_business\\_partnerships/guidelines\\_principle\\_based\\_approach\\_between\\_un\\_business\\_sector.pdf](https://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/issues_doc/un_business_partnerships/guidelines_principle_based_approach_between_un_business_sector.pdf).

strategies based on accepted principles to encourage innovative initiatives and partnerships.

15. The Office for Outer Space Affairs will therefore work to establish under the Global Compact for Space two initiatives to address the dual needs for (a) Resource mobilization and (b) Responsible practice in outer space:

(a) Resource mobilization will be facilitated through a fund with the aim to mobilize additional resources facilitating the implementation and advancements of the mandate of the United Nations, the targets enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives set under the Space2030 agenda. Furthermore, as a voluntary initiative, parties interested in joining the global compact for space will be requested to make an annual contribution on a voluntary basis to support their engagement in the Global Compact for Space;

(b) Recognizing that space is crucial to global safety, security, and economic activity, all nations and their citizens have an interest in the responsible practice in outer space. Space as a “global commons” requires joint responsibility to allow every actor maintaining the same level of benefit in the common arena and to protect space for future use. Actions of any actor in space have an impact on the use of space by other actors now and in the future. In addition, there are an increasing number of actors operating in space, which — while increasing the potential for benefit to life on Earth — may increase the challenge of keeping the use of outer space sustainable. Addressing the wide consensus on the importance of space sustainability, a call for voluntary actions among the private sector is fundamental to align strategies and operations with principles among the space industry to preserve space as a “global commons”.

16. While there is a strong interlinkage with other initiatives of the Office for Outer Space Affairs such as the Global Partnership for Space, the Global Space for Development Fund or the Space for Development Profile and the Space Solutions Compendium which could benefit from the Global Compact for Space, the planned and proposed framework will support the Office for Outer Space in the implementation of mandates of the United Nations, the targets enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives set under the Space2030 agenda.

### **C. Next Steps**

17. The Office for Outer Space Affairs will work on the development and set-up of the Global Compact for Space to be able to open the dialogue and start the exchange with interested parties from UNISPACE+50 onwards.

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