



INFORMATION NOTE

United Nations/Morocco/European Space Agency International Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Sustainable Development

Hosted by the Royal Centre for Remote Sensing

Rabat, Morocco, 25 – 27 April 2007

1. Introduction

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA), the European Space Agency and the Royal Centre for Remote Sensing, on behalf of the Government of Morocco, are co-organizing the above workshop to promote activities related to carrying out the Plan of Implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The Morocco Royal Centre for Remote Sensing, which has been using space information to provide solutions necessary for sustainable development, is interested in expanding its efforts to technology transfer and to develop international cooperation. The workshop will also build upon the work being carried out by the Office for Outer Space Affairs within its Space Application Programme.

2. Background

At the 2002 WSSD held in Johannesburg, South Africa, more than one hundred Heads of States and Governments reaffirmed their strong commitment to the full implementation of Agenda 21, which was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. They also committed themselves to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

In 1999, the resolution entitled “Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration for Space and Human Development”¹, which was adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), contains a strategy for enhancing the use of space science and technology to contribute to the solutions of major global issues. In particular, the Declaration notes the benefits and applications of space technologies in addressing the challenges to sustainable development, and the effectiveness of space instruments for dealing with the challenges posed by depletion of natural resources, loss of biodiversity and the effects of natural and anthropogenic disasters.

The implementation of the recommendations contained in the Vienna Declaration could support many of the actions called for in the WSSD Plan of Implementation. In particular, the existing

¹ A/RES/54/68

space-based tools could contribute and strengthen the capacities of developing countries to improve the management of natural resources by increasing and facilitating the use of remote sensing data, and increasing access to more affordable satellite imagery.

3. Workshop objectives

The objectives of this Workshop are: (a) to increase the awareness among decision makers, and users on the potential benefits of applying space technology to environmental monitoring and management; (b) to expand the information and data exchange networking on the use of Earth Observation data; and (c) to develop regional/national pilot projects that use space technology to support the sustainable development for Africa.

4. Programme

The main topics to be discussed at the workshop will be the use of space technology for:

- Improving integrated management and sustainable development of water resources;
- Improving the management and protection of coastal and marine ecosystems;
- Supporting sustainable agricultural land-use and combating desertification and drought;
- Supporting sustainable forest management;
- Supporting sustainable development for Africa

The technical presentations will also cover examples of global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) applications that support sustainable development and protect the environment. Participants of the workshop will also learn how to receive free Landsat images, particularly through the Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education in Africa, and how to access the data through the Internet. Additionally, the programme will include discussion sessions for participants to identify priority areas for pilot projects to be launched and examine possible partnerships that could be established.

Further information on this workshop and its relevant documentation, including the Plan of Implementation of the WSSD can be found on the web site of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs at <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/index.html>

5. Expected participants

The workshop is being planned for a total of 75 decision-makers and technical experts drawn from the following groups: international, regional, national and local institutions, private organizations, academic institutions, multi-lateral and bi-lateral development agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGO) and international organizations.

6. Participation requirements

Participants should hold managerial or technical positions at governmental agencies, international, national and regional institutions, NGOs or private industry with programmes or activities relating to the areas listed in section 4 above or development of space technology capabilities and/or solutions. Applicants who demonstrate that the workshop is central to his/her professional activities/responsibilities will be selected on a priority basis. **Equally qualified female applicants are particularly encouraged.**

7. Language of the workshop

The working language of the workshop will be English.

8. Financial support

Within the limited financial resources available, a number of selected participants will be offered financial support to attend the workshop. This financial support will defray the cost of travel (a round trip ticket – most economic fare – between the airport of international departure in their home country and Rabat, Morocco) and/or room and board expenses during the duration of the workshop.

9. Deadline for Submission of Applications

The completed application form, properly endorsed by applicant's government/ institution, should be submitted by mail to Ms. Ayoni Oyenyin, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, United Nations Office at Vienna, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, **no later than Friday 2 March 2007**. To accelerate processing of your application, you should also fax an advance copy directly to the Office for Outer Space Affairs, United Nations Office at Vienna, FAX: (++43-1)-26060-5830. Only complete applications, with all the requested information and signatures, will be considered.

10. 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 accidental events.

11. Points of Contact

For information regarding the agenda and programme of the Workshop, please contact **Ms. Sharafat Gadimova**, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

E-mail: sharafat.gadimova@unvienna.org
Telephone: + 43 1 26060 5479
Fax: + 43 1 26060 5830

The focal point for Morocco is **Ms. Amal Layachi**, Royal Centre for Remote Sensing, can be contacted regarding local arrangements including venue of the Workshop, arrival in Rabat, hotel accommodation, transportation to and from the hotel and other logistical details.

E-mail: layachi@crt.s.gov.ma
Telephone: + 212 37 71 54 48 or + 212 37 71 54 98