

65th Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Statement by Acting Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs

Agenda item 7 (STSC report)

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

It is my pleasure to take the floor in my capacity as Chair of the 15th Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG), which was held in Vienna, from 27 September to 1 October 2021.

The meeting was hosted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs. There were over 300 attendees from 11 Member states of the United Nations and the European Union, and 16 member organizations. There were 17 invited observers.

The ICG meeting consisted of three plenary sessions and four working groups meetings focused on systems, signals and services; enhancement of GNSS performance, new services and capabilities; information dissemination and capacity-building; and reference frames, timing and applications. The working groups made substantive progress in furthering the ICG workplan.

An expert seminar entitled “Space weather and global navigation satellite systems (GNSS)” was held in conjunction with the meeting. The purpose of the seminar was to discuss space weather effects on the signals transmitted by GNSS, including the effect of ionospheric perturbations and solar radio bursts. The peculiarities and the evaluation of different ionosphere models was another focus area of the seminar.

The second edition of the ICG publication “*The Interoperable Global Navigation Satellite Systems Space Service Volume*” (ST/SPACE/75/Rev1) was launched at the ICG-15 meeting. This publication represents a thorough review and update of all content, including the latest constellation data from all providers and adding real-world GNSS space user flight experiences. In addition, the companion Space Service Volume video, was released. Both efforts had been developed to convey the significant improvements afforded by the use of a multi-GNSS Space Service Volume and its benefits to science and humanity.

The 24th meeting of the Providers’ Forum, co-chaired by the European Union and India, was held in conjunction with the 15th meeting of ICG. The Providers’ Forum continued to provide an effective multilateral mechanism for cooperation on GNSS and considered the following topics: International GNSS monitoring and assessment system update; Spectrum protection and interference detection and mitigation; and Multi-GNSS demonstration project in the Asia-Oceania region.

ICG accepted the invitation extended by the United Arab Emirates to host the 16th meeting of ICG, in 2022, and noted the offer made by the European Commission to host the 17th meeting, in 2023. ICG also noted the interest of New Zealand and Australia in jointly hosting the 18th meeting of ICG in New Zealand in 2024.

The results of ICG-15 and the Providers’ Forum meetings can be found in document A/AC.105/1251. All documents from the meetings and presentations can be accessed through the ICG information portal on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (www.unoosa.org)

Thank you.