

 **Permanent
Mission
of Austria**

to the United
Nations in Vienna

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AUSTRIA, ITEM 12

**Space and climate change
65th COPUOS (1 – 10 June 2022)
Ambassador Gabriela SELLNER**

Chair,
Excellencies – Colleagues,
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

On 4 April 2022, the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** published and presented the **third part of its current status report** on the state of the world's climate.

"The evidence is clear: the time for action is now" said the headline of the presentation and is calling for urgent action to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

Space technologies and applications can support the climate-friendly transformation - for example in the areas of e.g. **energy, transport and agriculture**.

Therefore, Austria has further expanded its ongoing cooperation with the Office for Outer Space Affairs in the area of Space for Climate Action to include the following elements:

From 13-15 September 2022, the **annual UN/Austria Symposium** will take place as part of the Programme on Space Applications. This year's topic is „**Space for climate action: experiences and best practices in mitigating and adapting to climate change and supporting sustainability on Earth**“.

We plan to focus on the following topics:

- case studies on using space data for adaptation to the climate crisis

- recent innovative uses of space applications in the areas of transport, energy production, or food production
- changes in space engineering practices to reduce the contribution of space activities to the climate crisis

As always, information and registration details can be found on the UNOOSA website.

In recent years, the symposium has attracted a lot of attention around the world and especially among young people. We have been able to triple participation due to the virtual nature of the event. Therefore, we will again propose the symposium as an online event.

Last year, thanks to the generous support of ESA, NASA and ISRO we were able to offer very successful **training sessions** after the symposium. Approximately 1700 people were able to participate in training sessions. This year, we want to offer this possibility again.

We are happy to announce that also the **Austrian Earth Observation Data Centre for Water Resources Monitoring (EODC)** will offer training and provide access to a variety of earth observation datasets.

If your country or an institution of your country is interested to provide trainings in this context, please contact the Office for Outer Space affairs.

To prepare possible next steps, we will ask participants to give us their feedback on the content and choice of topics of both the symposium and the trainings. In this way, we want to survey the need for further topics and trainings.

In addition, we are finalising one more activity of our intense cooperation with UNOOSA, which concerns the development of a **dedicated UNOOSA website on Space4Climate Action**.

The aim of this website is to present existing initiatives, activities and efforts of UNOOSA in support of SDG 13.

We hope to be able to present the website in September at the Symposium and for sure during STSC 2023.

With these activities, we want to contribute to increase the awareness and know-how of space applications in the fight against the climate crisis as well as the use space data and services to better understand climate challenges and support space data-driven climate policy making around the world.

Thank you!