

**United Nations Programme on Space Applications
60th STSC (6 – 17 February 2023)
Ambassador Gabriela SELLNER**

Chair,
Excellencies – Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The primary objective of our work here is to **make the benefits of space technology available to all countries**. This need is even bigger now, because space technologies have become an integral part of everyday life.

To support capacity development in exploring and using Outer Space, the **Programme on Space Applications (PSA)** has been created in 1971. The activities of the Programme help reducing the gap in understanding and using space technology.

The **United Nations/Austria symposium** is one of the long-standing activities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The symposium of 2022 was the twenty-eighth in the series.

The **UN/AT Symposium** took place from 13 to 15 September 2022 as an online event on the theme **„Space for climate action: experiences and best practices in mitigating and adapting to climate change and supporting sustainability on Earth“**.

The symposium attracted **817 registered individuals from 104 countries**. In total 61 speakers held keynote speeches and participated in panel discussions and presentation sessions.

We introduced a new format into our symposium design: **„country cases“**. During these sessions, representatives from **India and Nigeria** presented tools already implemented at country level and projects focussing on national needs. Austrian stakeholders gave also examples of interacting between the space and environment / climate communities on a project level. This part of the programme was felt particularly interesting as it enabled **concrete learning from other approaches**.

The **„Project Pitch“ format**, an online equivalent of a poster session, provided opportunities in particular for **young people** to present their activities and participate in these global discussions.

Two sessions presented **current initiatives**, in which Space application are used for climate action and Earth Observation satellites are being used to monitor natural or human-made phenomena that contribute to climate change.

The Panel on „**Greening space systems engineering**“ introduced a new topic never discussed at this level before. It is linked with the long-term sustainability of Outer Space activities and showed examples of modifying space-engineering practices.

After the symposium, a range of **five free online courses** has been offered. Around 2300 participants benefited from this opportunity. In addition to training courses generously offered already last year by **ESA, ISRO and NASA**, two new organisations proposed additional training courses, the **European Center for Medium Range Weather Forecast**, and the **Earth Observation Data Centre and Deltares**. We are particularly pleased about the young profile of those who have registered. 40 percent of the participants were younger than 30. We would like to thank all organisations involved for their generous support.

In conclusion, this **symposium together with the training sessions** supports **capacity development** in connection with available data sets and **help to increase the policy impact of available space data**.

All the presentations are available on the UNOOSA Website. An **excellent, very detailed and informative report on the symposium**, including **several recommendations for future activities**, is available on the Subcommittee’s website.

We are looking forward to preparing another edition of this symposium from **12 to 14 September 2023**.

At a **side event on UNOOSA Activities on Climate Action** last Tuesday, a **website dedicated to Space4Climate action, co-financed by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action**, has been presented. It will be connected to the UNOOSA Website and has been. This website provides information on using various space technologies for climate action and will enable further exchanges for capacity development and technical advice. We hope you find this resource useful and are very pleased with this additional cooperation with UNOOSA.

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges humanity faces. Austria will **continue her partnership with UNOOSA** to support information sharing, interaction between the space and climate communities and capacity development for space for climate action.