

Austria, Item 5

Space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development
60th STSC (6 – 17 February 2023)
Ambassador Gabriela SELLNER

Chair,
Excellencies – Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We express sincere condolences to the victims of the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria and their victims.

Sustainable development is a key issue for all states in the world. Space technologies and their applications have shown their potential to support sustainable development. However, we also see that **more awareness and knowledge** is needed to make these technologies usable and applicable for sustainable development.

Let me report about last year's **UN/Austria World Space Forum** that took place as an online event from 13 to 15 December 2022. We chose the topic „**Sustainability in Space for Sustainability on Earth**“ to discuss current and future activities.

To structure the event and to choose the sessions and roundtable panels, we had prepared a **background paper** taking into account the **17 Sustainable Development Goals**, the 4 overarching objectives of the „**Space 2030 Agenda and its implementation plan**“ and the topics mentioned in the Secretary General's report „**Our Common Agenda**“ published last year.

We were very pleased with the great interest in that event. We registered a total of 1,034 participants from 114 Member States. Around 60 speakers shared their expertise in 6 sessions and 2 discussion rounds, focusing on partnership and cooperation in the following areas: „**Leave no one behind**“, „**Protect our Planet**“, „**Be Prepared**“, „**Space in the United Nations**“ with a focus on the newly created Space and Global Health Platform and Network, „**Boost Partnership**“ and „**Use Space Sustainably**“.

Despite the magnitude of the challenges given the many crises the world is currently facing, it is **encouraging** to see the international space community collectively pursuing so many impactful projects, programmes and initiatives.

The following observations are especially important to us:

- **Inclusiveness, diversity and equality** within the space sector and beyond is important to harness the full potential of innovation and creativity of the **private sector** and **civil society**.
- Increased **integration of the space sector with other sectors**, such as energy, education, resource management, food systems and climate action is important to strengthen the contribution of space technologies and its applications in the implementation of the SDGs.
- Still we need **awareness raising on every level** to understand the full potential of space solutions in supporting climate adaptation and resilience efforts and to foster further fact-based and data-driven decision making.
- **Information sharing, dialogue, cooperation and coordination** remain important measures **within the UN System** and on **international level** to identify synergies across all issue areas and to ensure an efficient use of resources.
- Given the wide range of data sources and data sets already available, **interoperability and capacity development** on all levels, including general public and policy and decision makers, needs to be further enhanced.
- Given the many benefits of space solutions, it is important to work collectively to **ensure peaceful, responsible, fair, sustainable and balanced use of outer space** by the different economic, scientific and societal actors and activities also in the future.

Having witnessed the lively and rich discussions during the World Space Forum focussing on the „Space2030 Agenda“ last year, we can say that the „**Space2030 Agenda**“ is an appealing instrument to support the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

We hope that this World Space Forum helps to **position space within** proceedings and a respective declaration of the **upcoming Sustainable Development Goals Summit 2023**.

Let me conclude by saying that the **World Space Forum** as **event series** is a **part of the implementation plan of the Space 2030 Agenda** and therefore closely linked with the current Work Programme of COPUOS. It has been launched in 2019 because of the growing interest of an increasing community in exchanging on the future of Space and international cooperation in support of sustainable development all over the world.

UNOOSA is currently preparing a report to be released shortly, at first as a conference room paper before its full release.

Last but not least, we would like to thank UNOOSA and in particular Markus Woltran for their commitment, dedication and support to make this World Space Forum a success.