

INFORMATION NOTE**UNISPACE+50**
High Level Forum: Space as a Driver for Socioeconomic Sustainable Development**Preparatory Meeting****19 November 2015**
Vienna International Centre, Vienna, Austria*Organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs***Introduction**

The first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE I) was held in 1968. The year 2018 will mark its 50th anniversary, and this could be a fitting time to take stock of the contributions of all three UNISPACE conferences, held in 1968, 1982 and 1999 respectively, to global space governance.

Furthermore, for more effective and strengthened implementation in line with the Millennium Declaration, the post-2015 development agenda will require advanced tools with transformative power. Such tools should not only have the highest transformative potential, but should also be universally applicable to all areas of development in the post-2015 framework. Space technology provides the means that can transform traditional approaches in virtually any sector of the economy. The United Nations General Assembly in its resolution on the international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (A/RES/69/85¹) recognized that the fundamental significance of space science and technology and their applications for global, regional, national and local sustainable development processes should be promoted in the formulation of policies and programmes of action and their implementation.

Leading towards 2018, a series of high level fora: Space as a Driver for Socioeconomic Sustainable Development, to be organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in 2016 through 2018, will be a unique opportunity for the collective space community to address the cross-sectoral impact of integrating economic, environmental, social, policy and regulatory dimensions of space in pursuance of global sustainable development.

A one-day preparatory meeting will be held on 19 November 2015 in Vienna. This meeting will bring together decision-makers from governments, space agencies, and other high-ranking officials to address the following four thematic pillars: space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy.

¹http://www.unoosa.org/pdf/gares/A_RES_69_085E.pdf

PRELIMINARY DRAFT PROGRAMME

19 November 2015

OPENING SESSION

09:00 – 09:30	WELCOME REMARKS	OOSA <i>United Arab Emirates</i> <i>Secure World Foundation</i>
09:30 – 10:30	Overview of the High Level Forum (2016 – 2018)	<i>OOSA and top-level representatives of space agencies and/or other relevant national/regional/international institutions and organizations from both space-faring and non-space faring countries will give a brief talk on the role of space science and technology in fostering global development</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00 – 11:30	Discussion sessions: Thematic Pillars of the High Level Forum	<i>One of the facilitators will explain to the meeting the main objectives and expected outcomes of a series of high level fora (2016 through 2018) and its four thematic pillars.</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Session 1: Space Economy	<i>“The full range of activities and use of resources that create and provide value and benefits to human beings in the course of exploring, understanding and utilizing space”. Economic growth is driven by technology innovation, and space is innovation by definition, because it is at the edge of what is possible for humanity to do and develop.</i>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30 -14:30	Session 2: Space Society	<i>Refers to a society, which carries out its core functions while making the best use of space technologies and space-based services and applications.</i>
14:30 – 15:30	Session 3: Space Accessibility	<i>Refers to all user communities and decision-makers being able, on an equal basis, to benefit from and use space technologies and space-based data. “Data accessibility”, a subset, promotes principles, policies and practices that ensure</i>

that all countries can benefit and make equal use of space science and technology applications and space-based data, information and products.

15:30 -16:00

Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:00

Session 4: Space Diplomacy

For the purpose of fostering socio-economic sustainable development, defined as cooperation among nations in using space technologies and applications to address common challenges facing humanity and to build constructive, knowledge-based partnerships.

17:00 – 18:00

Concluding Session and Concluding Remarks

Summary report of discussions: presentation of proposals and recommendations consolidated at the discussion sessions

18:00

Adjourn

United Nations Conferences on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

The first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE I) was held in Vienna on 14 – 27 August 1968. The Conference served primarily as an important platform for exchange of information and consultation in the field of practical application of space technology, and as an impetus for considering establishment of fellowships and technical assistance in support of national efforts to develop space activities, in particular taking into account the needs of developing countries.

The second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) was held in Vienna on 9 - 21 August 1982. The Conference dealt with a variety of issues, including the use of space science and technology and their applications for economic and social benefits as well as the development of international cooperative programmes related to space, in particular programmes that benefit the developing countries. Several other important issues were discussed, among them, the allocation of the geostationary orbit, direct broadcasting by satellites and remote sensing.

The third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) was held in Vienna on 19 - 30 July 1999. The Conference expanded the notion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses in outer space by looking into how space can help humankind in tackling global problems, from protecting the Earth's environment and managing its resources to using space applications for human security, development and welfare.

High Level Forum: Space as a Driver for Socioeconomic Sustainable Development

The United Nations/United Arab Emirates High Level Forum: Space as a driver for socio-economic sustainable development, which will be organised jointly by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the United Arab Emirates, aims to drive debate on the role of space science and technology in fostering global development. The Forum therefore represents a unique opportunity for the collective space community to address the future global space governance leading up to “UNISPACE+50” in 2018.

Main objectives of the United Nations/United Arab Emirates High Level Forum include the presentation of lessons learned in the four thematic areas of space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy, and all their interactions and inter-linkages. The Forum aims to produce a declaration with a set of recommendations to further shape and position space activities as drivers for innovation, socio-economic development and diplomacy for a sustainable future.

Expected outcomes of the Forum include: (i) Increased awareness about the on-going space activities and trends in the use of space technology and services that aid sustainable development; (ii) Acknowledged relevance of the space sector for the economy, society and diplomacy of a nation; (iii) Recognized benefits from the space as a core sector for socio-economic development; (iv) Identified strategies to link space activities as a driver for socio-economic development; (v) Recommendations on utilizing innovative space activities to address emerging sustainable development challenges; (vi) Establishment of partnerships to aid in addressing space for sustainable development; and (vii) Recommendations on how voluntary actions from governments, international organizations, research and development institutions, academia and other relevant stakeholders could support the partnerships in increased used of space as a driver for socio-economic development.