



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

United Nations/Austria Symposium on “Space Science and the United Nations”

Graz, Austria, 22-24 September 2014

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
Vienna, Austria

**Symposium Planning Meeting
57th Session, Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Vienna, Austria, 12 June 2014**

United Nations Programme on Space Applications



- Established in response to recommendations of the first UNISPACE conference in 1968
- Operational since 1971, implemented by UNOOSA
- United Nations Expert on Space Applications
- UNISPACE'82 in 1982, and UNISPACE III in 1999, further expanded the mandate of the Programme

<http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/SAP/history.html>

Programme Mandate

International
Cooperation

Capacity Building

Dissemination of
Information

Technical Advisory
Services

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 37/90 (§ 7), <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/SAP/mandate.html>

Programme Implementation

Basic Space Science Initiative (BSSI)

Basic Space Technology Initiative (BSTI)

Human Space Technology Initiative (HSTI)

Conferences and Workshops on specific space applications

Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education, affiliated to the United Nations

Fellowship Programmes

Basic Space Science Initiative (BSSI)

Mission

Support the growth of small research groups in universities and research institutions in the developing countries in the fields of astronomy and space science.

Basic Space
Science
Workshops
(1991-2004)

International
Heliophysical
Year 2007
(2005-2008)

International
Space
Weather
Initiative
(2009-2013)

Basic Space Science Workshops (1991-2004)

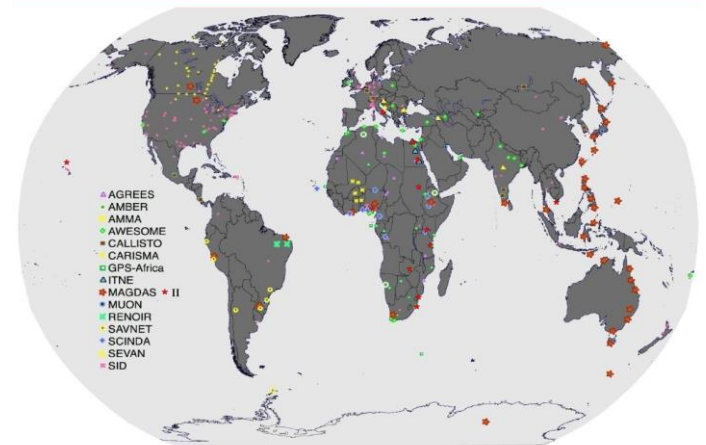
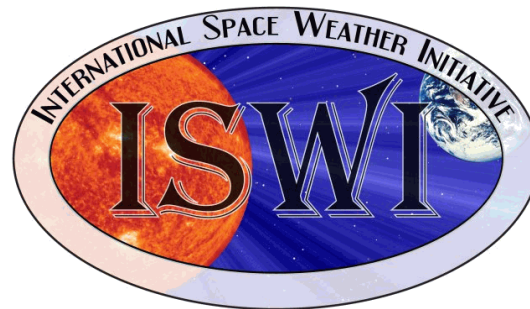
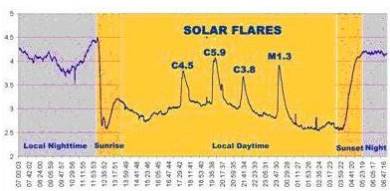
- Scope:
 - Fundamental physics,
 - Astronomy and Astrophysics,
 - Solar-terrestrial interaction and its influence on terrestrial climate,
 - Planetary and atmospheric studies, and
 - Origin of life and exobiology
- Conducted 12 Workshops
- Accomplishments:
 - Establishment of small telescope facilities in planetariums in several countries
 - Creation of teaching materials for space science education
 - Promoting World Space Observatory and Virtual Observatory concept
- See <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/SAP/bss/docs.html>

International Heliophysical Year (2005-2009)

- Scope
 - Promote the participation of scientist from developing countries in the activities of the International Heliophysical Year (IHY 2007)
- Conducted 4 Workshops
- Accomplishments:
 - Promoted and coordinated international cooperation in IHY 2007 activities at the level of the United Nations
 - Contributed to outreach activities
 - Issued several United Nations and other publications on the achievements of the IHY 2007
- See <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/SAP/bss/ihy2007.html>

International Space Weather Initiative (2010-2013)

- Scope:
 - Capacity Building in space weather science
- Conducted 5 Workshops
- Accomplishments:
 - Coordination of ISWI Instrument Networks
 - Deployment and operation of 14 ground-based, world-wide instrument networks
- See <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/SAP/bss/iswi.html>



Space Science and the United Nations

- What shall be the future role of space science in the UN Programme on Space Applications?
- Is there a role for space science in the Programme?
 - Taking into account BSSI achievements
 - Many new developments since the early 1990s:
 - Evolving space science programmes
 - New emerging space nations
 - New players (COSPAR, ESO, IAU, etc.)
- To be discussed with the space science community at a dedicated Symposium:
 - United Nations/Austria Symposium on “Space Science and the United Nations”, co-sponsored by COSPAR and ESA
 - To be held at Space Research Institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Graz, Austria, 22-24 September 2014

Symposium Objectives

1. Briefly review the history and assess the past accomplishments of the BSSI as well as relevant past and on-going activities of other UN entities;
2. Discuss the future role of space science under the framework of the UN Programme on Space Applications;
3. Bring together experts active in the space science field to present and discuss their relevant activities, in particular contributions to capacity building and international cooperation in space science, including in developing countries;
4. Discuss forthcoming and planned space science-related activities in the World and consider the possible opportunities they may offer for capacity building and international space cooperation.

Questions to be Considered

- Shall space science and space science-related activities continue to be considered under the framework of the Programme on Space Applications to support capacity building and international cooperation in the field?
- Are there other existing relevant frameworks or initiatives that must be considered to avoid the duplication of efforts or to identify potential synergies for cooperation?
- Who would be beneficiaries, stakeholders and potential cooperation partners in the proposed activities and what would be the potential added value for them of the involvement of the Programme on Space Applications?

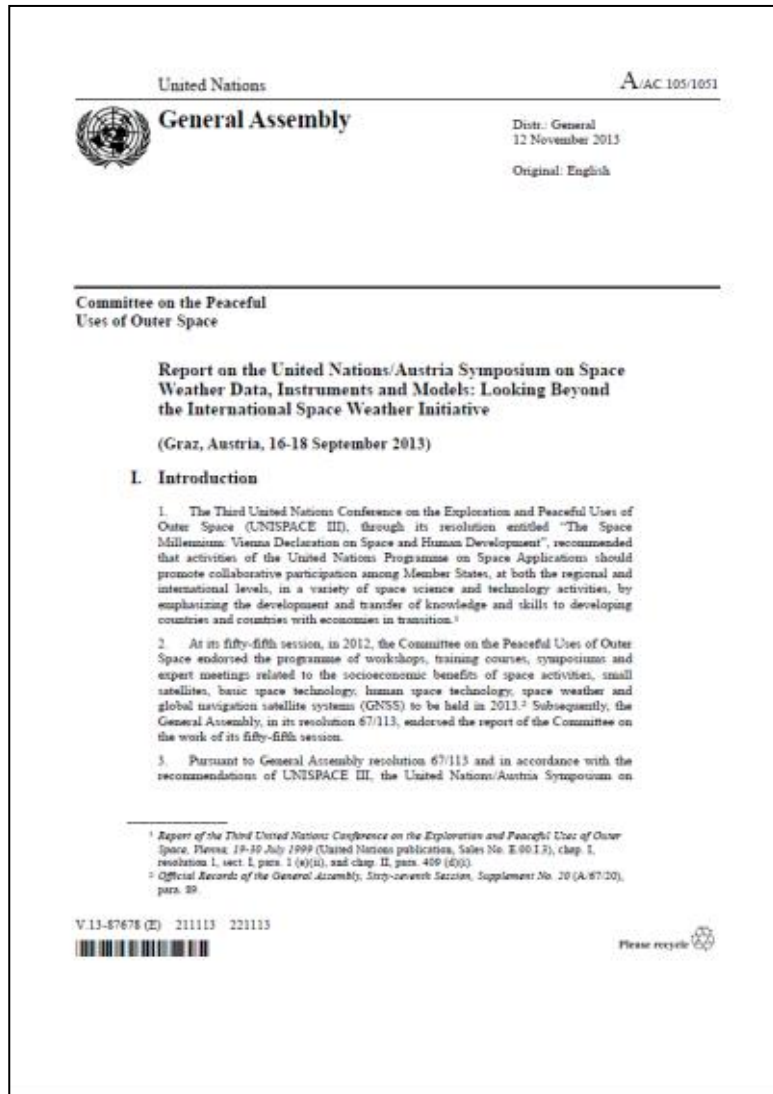
Questions to be Considered (cont'd)

- Shall priority be given to the consideration of particular space science disciplines and/or topics? If so, which ones?
- What could be the specific future roles and activities of the Programme on Space Applications?
- What level of resources would be required for these proposed activities and how could these resources be obtained?

Symposium Programme

- Keynote Addresses by eminent space scientists
- International Cooperation and Capacity Building in Space Science (COSPAR, IAU, UNESCO, OOSA, etc.)
- Status of World-wide Space Science Activities (space agencies, space research organizations, etc.)
- Sessions dealing with specific space science fields:
 - Astronomy and cosmology;
 - Planetary science;
 - Solar physics and space weather;
 - Astrobiology;
 - Physical and life science research in space

Symposium Output and Expected Outcome



- Official UN document available in the official UN languages
- Will contain observations and recommendations for future space science-related activities under the UN Programme on Space Applications
- Submitted to UN Member States through COPUOS
- Basis for future considerations on space science in the UN

Symposium Planning

- Invitation to all Member States and Observers to
 - Suggest members for the Symposium Programme Committee
 - Contribute to finalizing the Symposium Programme
 - Nominate qualified space science experts to actively participate in the Symposium to provide input on the future role of space science in the United Nations Programme on Space Applications
- Symposium Website:
<http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/SAP/act2014/graz/index.html>
- Focal Point:
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