



INFORMATION NOTE

(Hybrid Format) United Nations Workshop on the International Space Weather Initiative: The way Forward

**Organized by
the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs**

**Co-sponsored by
the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG)**

**Vienna, Austria
26 – 30 June 2023**

1. Introduction

Space weather is an inherently international matter. Solar and magnetic storms affect large regions of the Earth simultaneously and equatorial ionospheric disturbances occur routinely around the world. It is therefore appropriate for the United Nations to promote improvements in space weather modelling and forecasting for the benefit of all nations.

The International Space Weather Initiative (ISWI) was launched in 2009 and has developed research capacities in the scientific disciplines of sun-Earth relations and space weather in many countries around the world. ISWI has established a platform that takes a bottom-up approach in order to produce space weather-literate communities, in particular in developing countries, enabling those communities to work together as a network to share ideas, information and data and to develop joint projects.

ISWI has enabled scientists to use global navigation satellite system data in studies on space weather. These data have brought together scientists from various disciplines (such as seismology, the ionosphere and the atmosphere) to work in the field of space weather and have made it possible to apply the fundamental physics of Sun-Earth relations to everyday life, which is of great importance to policymakers.

All achievements of international cooperation and coordination for ISWI, including instrumentation, data analysis, modelling, education, training, and public outreach, are made available through the ISWI Newsletter and the ISWI Website (<http://www.iswi-secretariat.org/>).

The United Nations workshop on ISWI will be held in Vienna, from 26 to 30 June 2023. This workshop is being organized by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and supported by the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG).

2. Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The main objectives of this workshop are to continue efforts in the deployment of instruments in developing nations and interpretation of space weather data; to focus on new research results and findings; and at the same time aim at strengthening international coordination and cooperation on space weather products and services.

The workshop will provide ample time for discussion open to all participants, and networking opportunities, as well as to address in-depth questions and answers on specific topics unique to a particular region.

The expected outcomes of the workshop will be recommendations for improved collection, exchange, and delivery of space weather data, as well as improved operational analysis, modelling and forecasting methods through the promotion of best practices, suggestions of means to improve accuracy, reliability, and interoperability.

The discussions at the workshop will also be linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to its targets set out for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The workshop will contribute to:

- *SDG 4: Quality Education.* Continuation of the efforts in space weather education to better define and characterize severe space weather events and their probability of occurrence and assess their impacts on technological systems.
- *SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure* in protecting infrastructure from space weather. Effects on the ground can include damage and disruption to power distribution networks, increased pipeline corrosion, and degradation of radio communications.
- *SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.* International coordination of operational space weather services, including monitoring, forecasting,

3. Preliminary Programme of the Workshop

The programme of the workshop will include a series of technical presentations addressing to address the following topics:

- Solar Physics and Solar Effects
- Sun-Earth Connection
- Space Weather Instrumentation, Data and Modelling
- Space Weather effects on global navigation satellite systems
- Magnetosphere-Ionosphere-Thermosphere Coupling
- National space weather programmes and studies
- Education and Outreach

4. Working Methods

Participants of the workshop are requested to deliver a presentation paper in a field related to the topics of the workshop. It is also necessary to submit an abstract of presentation with a maximum of 600 words including the following details: *Paper Title, Author (s) Name(s), Affiliation(s), and e-mail address* for the presenting author. **Applicants are requested to use the *template* to present an *abstract* in the required format.**

Presentations made at the workshop will be published on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (www.unoosa.org) approximately two weeks after the workshop.

5. Expected Participants

Applicants should be involved in space weather research activities in national or international organizations, research centres, academic institutions or industry. **Applications from equally qualified female applicants are particularly encouraged.**

The workshop programme committee, organized by an international group of space weather scientists, will select participants on a competitive basis. Successful applicants will be notified of the outcome within three weeks after the deadline.

6. Language of the Workshop

Applicants must have a working knowledge of English, which will be the only language of the workshop.

7. Financial Support

Within the limited financial resources available, a limited number of selected participants will be offered financial support to attend the workshop. This financial support will defray the cost of travel (a round trip air-ticket – most economic fare – between the airport of international departure in their home country and Vienna, Austria) and/or the room and board expenses for the duration of the workshop.

8. Deadline for Submission of Applications and Abstracts

The completed application form together with the presentation abstract should be submitted on-line **no later than Sunday, 23 April 2023**. Only complete applications with all the requested information and signatures will be considered by the workshop organizing committee.

Please note that on-line application form is available on the web site of the Office for Outer Space Affairs at: <https://forms.office.com/e/VKLE7F9XJ1>

9. Life and Health Insurance

Life and major health insurance are the responsibility of each selected participant or participant's nominating institution or government. The co-sponsors will neither assume any responsibility for life and major health insurance, nor for any other expenses related to medical treatment or accidental events.

10. Sponsorship of the Workshop

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs is responsible for organizing the workshop. ICG is a co-sponsor of the workshop. **Sponsorship of the workshop is still open to interested entities.**

11. Further Information and Points of Contact

For information regarding the submission of nominations for attendance and funding, please contact Mr. Patrick Gindler, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, at the following e-mail address: (patrick.gindler@un.org).

For information regarding the workshop programme, please contact Ms. Sharafat Gadimova, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, at: (sharafat.gadimova@un.org).

For the latest information on the workshop, please frequently check the website: