

**Speaking Notes for Dr. Klaus Pseiner (Managing Director of FFG)
for the
UNISPACE+50 Head of Agency Panel on 19 June 2018**

Space is as an integral part of Austria's national innovation system. Besides the political, scientific and technical values, Austria invests in space because of its:

- **Economic Value: industrial competitiveness, opportunities for SMEs, employment growth**
- **Societal Value: benefit for society**
- **Educational Value: inspiring young generations and attracting best talents**

ESA:

¾ of the Austrian space budget (a total of 67 M€ in 2018) are allocated to ESA Programmes; Austria participates in practically all major space missions of ESA through specific competences.

Various Austrian space projects address sustainable development; Through concrete space projects, Austria contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals particularly in the following areas:

- **Environment**
- **Water and Air Quality**
- **Land Usage**
- **Climate Change**
- **Health Services**
- **Education**
- **Innovation**
- **Partnerships**

Three projects in this context:

- **An Earth Observation Data Centre (EODC) for Water Resources Monitoring has been set up in Austria as a public-private partnership focusing on global soil moisture monitoring as part of the Copernicus Climate Change Service.**
- **ESA Project "Earth Observation for the Sustainable Development Goals" (EO4SDG). The decreasing cost of satellite data in the past decade, along with the launch of the ESA Sentinel mission, has made Earth observation (EO) and geospatial information more attractive than ever for addressing global challenges like poverty, monitoring environmental changes, and stimulating economic growth. It is especially valuable in developing countries, which often do not have adequate monitoring systems to track progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and other global and national goals. **GeoVille and its partners kicked off the project to support the utility of satellite EO in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.****
- **A national project addresses the development of operational, EO-based services and products for humanitarian action and relief support. The project is led by Z_GIS (University Salzburg).**

UN/Austria Symposia in Graz in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

The United Nations/Austria Symposium has been held in Graz as a scientific conference of international significance since 1994.

Last year's Symposium addressed the topic "Capacity-building for the twenty-first century", which is one of the seven priority themes of UNISPACE+50. The Symposium focused on innovative approaches to capacity-building in the space sector, including the need to measure progress and development. For the first time in the long-standing history of the Symposium, not only scientific and technical aspects were tackled but also legal and policy aspects.

This year's UN/Austria Symposium entitled "Space for Sustainable Development Goals: Stronger Partnerships and Strengthening Cooperation for 2030 and Beyond" is aimed at contributing to the implementation of the outcome of UNISPACE+50. It will focus on the elaboration of roadmaps and concrete deliverables that could serve as guidance to stress the role of space in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Particular objectives include:

1. Elaborate on streamlining the user needs and their link to global agendas, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement.
2. Prepare a space systems roadmap focusing on how these systems can contribute to the global agendas
3. Promote participation of women and youth in space science;

Due to the success of last year's Symposium, scientific, technical, legal and policy aspects will again be addressed in an interdisciplinary manner.

Education:

With respect to space education and capacity building, a **European Space Education Resource Office** was established in Austria two years ago. The **Summer School Alpbach** is being held since more than 40 years with the overall objective to recruit young talents to define scientific objectives of a space mission and to provide a preliminary end-to-end design of spacecraft, scientific instruments as well as mission and science operations.