

UNITED NATIONS
INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES (UN-Space)

Thirty-eighth session
29 October 2018
Conference Room 8,
UNHQ, NY, USA

**OPENING STATEMENT BY SIMONETTA DI PIPPO,
DIRECTOR, OFFICE FOR OUTER SPACE AFFAIRS**

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the thirty-eighth session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space). We are very pleased that this session takes place in New York, and I warmly welcome all of you to our meeting.

Holding UN-Space meetings in New York is becoming our new tradition – UN-Space sessions have been organized here in 2014 with the support of the Department of Safety and Security, and in 2016, hosted by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. Today, with great pleasure I would like to thank the United Nations Office for Partnerships for excellent arrangements made in the organization of the Session.

Dear Colleagues,

As I see many new faces in the room, I would like to give you a brief overview of UN-Space.

The Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Affairs was established as a standing mechanism in mid 1970s based on a recommendation made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) for better coordination of space-related within the United Nations system. In December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly recommended that the name UN-Space is used to refer to the Inter-Agency Meeting to increase its visibility and to further strengthen the role of this inter-agency mechanism.

The Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) leads the Inter-Agency Meeting and serves as its secretariat. UNOOSA stands at the centre of international efforts to bring the benefits of space technology to meet global development needs and protect and preserve the Earth and space environment, with the prime mandate to promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

UN-Space holds formal regular annual meetings – in Vienna, Geneva, New York, Rome, Paris, and Bonn – and produces a unique Secretary-General's report on coordination of space-related activities in the United Nations system, that serves as an important tool to raise awareness on the use of space technology applications within the United Nations system.

Every second year, UN-Space produces its special reports on topics of broad relevance and concern where UN entities are given the opportunity to address their activities in specialized areas, such as new and emerging technologies, space benefits for Africa, space and climate change, space for agriculture and food security, space for global health, implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, and space weather. Today, at this session, we will consider the focus and initiate the preparation of the next special report to be issued in 2019.

Dear Colleagues,

Today, the session of UN-Space is conducted in a result-oriented format. In line with the agreement of UN-Space at its 37th session in 2017, we will not only continue to consider the ways to enhance cooperation among the United Nations entities in space-related activities, but will also discuss public/private partnership models and cooperation with the private sector to increase the use of space science, technology and applications for economic growth and sustainable development, as well as the legal and ethical aspects of cooperation models involving non-State actors.

This became also possible in view of the mandate given to us by the 34th session of UN-Space held in 2014 in New York, that agreed that a more flexible agenda could allow for the consideration of ad hoc items, so we have more flexibility in shaping the agenda for our session.

Dear Colleagues,

Let me also provide an orientation on UNISPACE+50, the fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, that is being marked this year. UNISPACE+50 process was initiated by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 2015 and lead towards the UNISPACE+50 High-level segment on 20-21 June 2018. As part of the high-level segment, UN-Space organized a Panel entitled "United Nations: Reinforcing synergies for UNISPACE+50 and beyond" and issued, in connection with the Panel, its Joint Statement.

In the statement, which is available from our website, entities participating in the panel demonstrated commitment to promote and support

- Integrated and coordinated approach that strengthens the means of implementation and builds stronger partnerships and international cooperation and coordination in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space through greater involvement of the space community in global development efforts;
- Strengthened capacities of Member States for sustainable development, including through increased integration of space science, technology and their applications, as well as space law and policy, in national development strategies; and
- Equality and inclusiveness, reaffirming that the benefits of outer space shall be accessible to all States irrespective of their level of economic, social, scientific or technical development and in accordance with international law, and promoting gender equality throughout all sectors.

I am pleased to inform you that the UNISPACE+50 process has been formally concluded on Friday last week, with the adoption of the dedicated resolution on UNISPACE+50: space as a driver of sustainable development, in which General Assembly mandated COPUOS to develop a "Space2030" agenda and implementation plan for consideration by the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session in 2020.

In that resolution, the General Assembly also acknowledged the importance of global partnership and strengthened cooperation among Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, industry and private sector.

With this brief background I look forward to this 38th session of UN-Space being an opportunity to discuss the views of UN entities on the role of space-related activities in a wider context of development, focusing on partnership models and cooperation with non-state actors, and hope that our collaboration will result in greater use of space technology for development in the work of the United Nations entities and Member States.

In closing, I again express my sincere thanks to the United Nations Office for Partnerships for their support of this event, and I thank all the participants for your commitment and presence here. I wish you all a productive discussion and look forward to our continuous collaboration.