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Uses of Outer Space**  
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## Access to Space

### Strengthening the means for the Office for Outer Space Affairs to cooperate with industry and private sector entities in the space arena for the benefit of developing countries

#### I. Introduction

1. The United Nations has long recognized that working in partnerships can make important contributions to achieving United Nations organizational and development goals, in particular partnerships with the private sector.<sup>1</sup>
2. The United Nations General Assembly in numerous resolutions has viewed cooperation between the United Nations and the private sector as a primary factor in realizing internationally agreed development goals in developing countries in a wide range of areas, with the underlying aim of eradicating poverty, promoting full employment and achieving greater social integration.
3. The Office for Outer Space Affairs has been presented with opportunities to partner with entities in the private sector, that if successfully pursued, would enable the Office to directly support Member States, in particular developing countries, through an initiative that would directly contribute to realizing internationally agreed development goals.

#### II. Sustainable Development Goals

4. A key set of international development goals was agreed to in 2015. In that year, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution [A/RES/70/1](#) on Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Resolution contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals and is grouped together under People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership. Goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda

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<sup>1</sup> This Conference Room Paper is drawn from United Nations General Assembly Resolutions [A/RES/56/76](#); [A/RES/58/129](#); [A/RES/60/215](#); [A/RES/62/211](#); [A/RES 68/234](#); and [A/RES/70/1](#). Additional sources are [A/70/269](#) — Report of the Secretary-General on Enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector; and Guidelines on a principle-based approach to the Cooperation between the United Nations and the business sector, revised in 2015 as requested by GA Resolution [A/RES/68/234](#).



calls for strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

5. Specifically in relation to Sustainable Development Goal 17, the General Assembly noted that partnerships with the private sector will facilitate global engagement in support of implementation of all the other 16 Goals and targets, bringing together Governments, the private sector, civil society, and the United Nations system.

6. The General Assembly views implementation of Goal 17 as equally important to the other 16 Goals and that only through leveraging a wide array partnerships, but particularly with the private sector, the realization of each other Sustainable Development Goal, and thereby the Agenda as a whole, may be achieved.

7. This view is supported by the concrete policies and actions laid out in the outcome document of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13-16 July 2015, which developed the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in Resolution [69/313](#) and is considered as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda.

8. The Action Agenda is a comprehensive framework for financing sustainable development that aligns financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities. The Action Agenda recognized that public-private and multi-stakeholder partnerships are key instruments for mobilizing human and financial resources, expertise, technology and knowledge.

9. It is in this context that the Office for Outer Space Affairs has been presented with partnership proposals from the private sector entities active in the space arena. In viewing the numerous proposals in a holistic and integrated way, the Office sees direct alignment with the Action Agenda in that by pursuing partnerships, in particular with the private sector, the Office may mobilize human and financial resources, expertise, technology and knowledge to support institutions in developing countries in addressing each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

10. Through such partnerships, the Office has the opportunity to leverage the technological and innovative skill of private sector entities to deliver enhanced and integrated capacity-building initiatives in developing countries that promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and inspire workers to seek training in those fields.

11. The General Assembly views the private sector as playing a crucial role in development, by generating decent employment and investment, giving access to and developing new technologies that offer technical vocational training and capacity-building activities, and stimulating sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth. In this regard, investment and innovation by the private sector are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation.

12. Indeed, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda directly invites business to apply their creativity and innovation towards solving the 2030 Agenda and the Office for Outer Space Affairs has the opportunity to provide a conduit through which the private sector can channel creative and innovative skills to solve the 2030 Agenda, contribute to global sustainable development, and make a direct positive economic impact on Member States, particularly in developing countries.

13. The United Nations has a unique position as a builder of bridges among Member States and all stakeholders, in particular between Member States and the private sector. The Office for Outer Space Affairs welcomes the prospect of building such bridges between the private sector and Member States and bringing key private sector resources to the fore including knowledge, expertise, financing, assess and reach, that are often critical to advance United Nations goals. The Office for Outer Space Affairs intends to capitalize on technological and innovative skills of the private sector to benefit developing countries directly at the national level by

delivering the Access to Space initiative to address all 17 Sustainable Development Goals in order to benefit the global community.

14. At the same time that governments and international organizations are increasingly recognizing the value of including the private sector into their work, a growing number of companies are identifying strategic opportunities to take action and align their business operations with national and international development priorities. Companies have been shifting from a primarily philanthropic approach to their activities with the United Nations towards a more strategic and holistic approach to corporate sustainability and there has been a gradual shift in emphasis from ad hoc, short-term partnerships, focused primarily on resource mobilization, towards more strategic collaboration.

15. The Office for Outer Space Affairs has witnessed this shift as private sector entities in the space arena have signalled in their proposals their desire for greater hands-on collaboration in developing innovative solutions that both address sustainability and development needs at the national, regional and global levels, and at the same time engaging in projects and initiatives with the United Nations that make business sense.

16. In recent years, private sector entities have played an increasingly large role in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. Private sector entities have been successful in conducting research and development into space science and technology and this success has allowed these businesses to attract, recruit, and employ the most highly trained specialists from around the world.

17. Private sector entities therefore have a vested interest in promoting capacity-building at educational institutions in order to ensure their continued access to qualified candidates in the space arena. In this regard, the interests of non-governmental entities are aligned with the Office's mandate to increase the capacity of Member states' educational institutions in space science and technology and to promote socio-economic development through the access to and use of space based technology.

18. Partnerships with private sector entities are additional and complementary to government action, and can yield positive results which government may leverage to advance society's best interests. Just as governments are increasingly seeing potential industrial and development benefits from greater engagement with the private sector, private sector entities see strategic opportunities to engage in partnerships that address their business needs. It is of strategic importance to private sector entities to demonstrate technological leadership and to engage in development activities that secure a long term economic development.

19. To capitalize on such collaboration in order to advance sustainable development, the private sector requires the normative guidance of the United Nations to determine how best to play a constructive role. In turn, the United Nations needs the support of Member States, in particular developing countries, first to authorize engagement in such partnerships and then to create an environment where technological and innovative solutions to development problems can be successfully and sustainably applied. Finally, through integrated partnerships that recognize and take into account the interests and benefits of all parties, the private sector is encouraged to apply creative and innovative skills to development issues in order to secure continued access to trained workers, adequate infrastructure development, and the legal certainty necessary to undertake business opportunities in new markets.

### **III. Contribution of partnerships to the work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs**

20. Partnerships have greatly contributed to the work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and in recent years the Office has seen increasing interest of States,

particularly developing countries, to apply space based technology in a way that promotes socioeconomic development, thereby increasing the quality of life of their citizens. During this time, the Office has also received proposals from space agencies and research institutions in Member States to utilize their national assets for the benefit of developing countries.

21. Through partnerships with governmental institutions, the Office for Outer Space Affairs has pursued programmes that have matched the generous offers from developed countries, with institutions in developing countries seeking to advance their space science research and socioeconomic development goals.

22. These programmes have included the now ongoing Zgip clinostat microgravity plant growth experiment programme, the DropTower Experiment Series (DropTES), the KiboCube small satellite programme, and the utilization of China's forthcoming manned space station.

23. In each of these programmes the Office carries out a similar role which includes receiving applications from institutions interested in conducting space related experiments, coordinating a process to select an appropriate institution based on the merits of their proposed experiment, working with selected institutions to further develop their experiment, and liaising with the asset owner or operator in the integration and experiment operation phase.

24. The Zgip programme has distributed clinostats to 46 institutions in 26 countries since 2013, the DropTes has awarded one fellowship annually, also since 2013 and the agreement has been extended until 2019 the University of Nairobi in Kenya has been selected as the first institution under the KiboCube programme to build a cube sat which will be deployed by the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) from the Japanese module Kibo of the International Space Station (ISS), and with the extra budgetary support of the China, the Office has recruited a specialist who will soon begin work on carrying out the coordinative and outreach work with the Government of China and the China Manned Space Agency regarding the utilization of China's space station when it becomes operational.

25. The success of these programmes has demonstrated that this model of providing capacity-building opportunities to educational institutions and national space agencies to design, construct and deploy microgravity experiments is useful in fulfilling the needs of developing countries aspiring to take advantage of space science and technology. In this way, the Office has played a crucial role in channelling appropriate opportunities generously donated by countries having space capabilities, to institutions in developing countries that would otherwise have little or no prospect of carrying out space related scientific research.

#### **IV. The Access to Space Initiative**

26. Recently the Office has been presented with an opportunity to work with the private sector entity, the Sierra Nevada Corporation of the United States, as it has offered to donate the use of its proprietary orbital space vehicle for a multi-country mission intended to benefit developing countries.

27. The Office entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sierra Nevada Corporation in June 2016 in which the Office intends to carry out, under the Access to Space Programme, its familiar role of coordinating the selection process, working with selected institutions, and liaising between the selected institutions and Sierra Nevada Corporation for on board experiment integration.

28. Under the Access to Space initiative, experiments are to be designed and constructed by institutions in developing countries that specifically address the Sustainable Development Goals. In recognition of the fundamental role that partnerships will play in the realization of those goals, and to leverage greater technology and innovative capacity in the private sector, the Office intends to

partner with private sector business entities willing to provide their expertise directly to the selected institution to support the development of their experiment.

29. In this way, private sector entities and institutions in Member States will engage in an innovative, integrated multi-stakeholder initiative where private sector entities will provide substantive and technical support in the design and construction of experiments and applications, and engage in the delivery of capacity-building activities at the national level in an effort to promote science and technology education to ultimately create experiments designed to address the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Selected institutions will be paired up and matched with appropriate private sector partners which will provide commercial know-how and technological expertise which may otherwise not be available to participating institutions without the Access to Space initiative.

30. It is envisioned under the Access to Space initiative that private sector entities sharing the values of the United Nations will contribute to the training and empowerment of individuals at selected institutions in space science and technology, and will thereby make progress at ensuring an educated and inspired workforce within that country. Indeed, numerous private sector and industrial entities have already approached the Office seeking avenues to support the work of the Office, and these offers have been both in-kind and in-cash, and often with a mix of the two, with the underlying theme to promote scientific and technology education and address development needs in a commercially attractive and economically sustainable way.

31. Such offers have included proposing scientific and technical experts in specific space related areas as well as contributing to defraying the costs of conducting workshops, symposia and other related events, particularly in developing countries. Taking input from private sector entities in how they can contribute to the work of the Office is crucial to establishing successful partnerships for the long term as it recognizes that partners are engaged in the pursuit of business interests that have been aligned with the interests of the United Nations in realizing development goals.

32. In order to best match the skills and expertise that private sector entities are willing to provide to institutions in developing countries, the Office is working on the modalities to be applied so as to have a mechanism to gather the necessary resources for the implementation of the Access to Space initiative as well as other capacity-building work of the Office.

33. The United Nations is already using this approach for the Global Compact for the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, and the same mechanism can be used for Access to Space. The United Nations Global Compact seeks participation from a diverse group of private sector entities, who can join on a voluntary basis and have a firm commitment towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 roadmap.

34. The Office could develop a similar approach with a Global Compact on Access to Space. Private sector entities could join on a voluntary basis and if so, they will be asked to make regular annual contribution to support the work of the Office on Access to Space, in terms of direct funding and in-kind support. The Global Compact on Access to Space is intended to create a firm substantive network of private sector entities from which the Office can draw support to engage in numerous capacity-building initiatives in developing countries, in particular in the delivery of the Access to Space initiative.

35. It is clear that there will be costs associated with the Access to Space initiative that will have to be covered by extra budgetary contributions. To achieve success of "Access to Space" for everyone the Office will likely be required to engage in fundraising efforts in collaboration with partners to support the relevant activities. Therefore, the Office will need broad fundraising authority to gain contributions from a wide range of private sector entities. While fundraising efforts in the broader United Nations directed towards high-net-worth individuals and private foundations

have increased, it is anticipated that direct funding for the Access to Space initiative and the other work of the Office will come mainly from private sector business entities seeking to contribute in kind as well as financial support.

## **V. Integrated innovation partnership modalities**

36. United Nations entities are increasingly applying an integrated approach, which can, in one form, mean partnering with several or numerous companies towards the achievement of specific goals.

37. Innovation partnerships leverage unique business capacities to provide the United Nations with expertise relating specifically to core business competencies. Innovation has become increasingly relevant in many partnerships between the United Nations and private sector entities. This trend is due to growing recognition of the innovative strength of companies and the desire to apply rapid technological advances and/or new approaches to United Nations activities.

38. United Nations agencies, funds and programmes have demonstrated confidence with regard to managing partnerships and in this respect, two trends have emerged: diversification of partnership portfolios, and a growing focus on designing and implementing integrated partnership models.

39. Diversification of partnership portfolios can lead to a much broader and more sustainable base of support, which includes having multiple large, long-term, strategic partnerships focusing on different kinds of support, including financial, implementation or advocacy support, as well as some smaller, locally-focused partnerships with small and medium-sized enterprises. This not only provides organizations with more varied access to different resources, but also helps mitigate risks of being dependent on the resources of one partner. The Office for Outer Space affairs intends to seek support from the widest array of private sector entities, in terms of company size, geographic location, and technological expertise in order to maximize the contribution from the private sector while still remaining fair and neutral, and at the same time leverage the best available technologies to address development goals, thereby securing the greatest socioeconomic development possible at the national level.

40. United Nations entities may work extensively with one company on several different issues simultaneously. Examples may include working with individual companies on fundraising, joint activity implementation, advocacy and corporate behaviour to better align corporate performance with human rights or environmental principles. The Office for Outer Space Affairs intends to engage with companies on multiple issues in an integrated manner to best leverage the technological skills and unique contribution that each company offers, given the needs and interests of recipient institutions and the needs of those Member States.

41. Integrated partnership models can be powerful instruments for increasing impact as they leverage private sector engagement to achieve specific goals in a more holistic manner while facilitating much deeper engagement. While such models have the potential to greatly enhance partnership impact, integrated partnerships are also more complex and require more management skill and resources than conventional one-to-one partnerships.

42. Integrated partnerships are designed to match skills and abilities to needs. The Office for Outer Space Affairs intends to use the integrated partnership modality to match the skills and abilities of private sector entities with the development and capacity-building needs of institutions in developing countries. In substance, the Office intends to create integrated partnerships with the primary goal of the delivery of capacity-building activities focused on innovative solutions proposed by institutions and partnering entities to address the Sustainable Development Goals.

43. The Office for Outer Space Affairs sees innovative partnerships as unique opportunities to deliver initiatives that both meet the needs of Member States,

particularly developing countries, and realize Sustainable Development Goals. The Office intends to pursue such opportunities with the aim of managing and mitigating risks, including ensuring that there are sufficient extra budgetary funds, qualified Staff with adequate expertise, as well as the institutional and administrative support necessary to achieve success through partnerships with business sector entities.

44. Support from key internal United Nations stakeholders with important roles to play in the establishment of partnerships, such as the Office for Legal Affairs, Financial Resources Management Service, the Ethics Office, and the Global Compact will be cultivated upon the understanding that the General Assembly has requested the Secretary-General to continue to promote effective implementation of the Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector.

## VI. Key Considerations in Creating a Partnership

45. Along with heightened expectations of what the private sector can deliver to achieve the sustainable development goals, there is a growing demand for United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to redouble efforts to strengthen transparency and integrity in private sector engagement.

46. All partnerships include some risks and it is essential for the reputation and integrity of the United Nations to be protected at all stages of a partnership. Agencies, funds and programmes have continued to improve due diligence and partner selection process, and there has been an increase in inter-agency collaboration aimed at strengthening due diligence coherence and capacity across the United Nations system which has led many organizations to develop new or improved due diligence policies and procedures. Due diligence policy templates and good practice examples are being shared between entities to inspire improvements and strengthen coherence throughout the organization.

47. A risk managed approach includes assessing the perceived value of a partnership compared to the cost. It therefore must be examined whether the advantages for partnership beneficiaries justify the direct and indirect costs of implementation, especially in the context of estimating the value of non-financial contributions. This is especially important in estimating the costs of implementing an integrated multi-stakeholder partnership initiative such as the Access to Space initiative as envisioned by the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

48. The United Nations organizations have also consciously begun partnering with companies from higher-risk sectors such as extractive industries, chemical or alcohol producing companies or companies with historically risky track records. By developing integrated partnership approaches, agencies can design partnerships that combine resource mobilization and/or implementation support with elements of advocacy for ensuring that “riskier” corporate partners align their business practices with United Nations values.

49. The Office for Outer Space Affairs recognizes that many private sector entities active in the space arena have a connection to the defence industry. It is the intention of the Office to manage reputational and operational risks to the United Nations by engaging in an appropriate partner selection process, drawing from the due diligence procedures, documentation, and experiences of other funds, programmes and agencies, and working with partners that have demonstrated through their business activities that they share the values of the United Nations.

50. The Office for Outer Space Affairs will ensure that partnering entities in the Access to Space initiative have open opportunity to provide input into creative and innovative solutions to address the Sustainable Development Goals, but are prevented from engaging in the policy setting or decision making process in the Office or the broader United Nations.

## **A. Procedure to create a partnership**

51. Recognizing that partnerships were crucial to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals, the General Assembly requested in Resolution 68/234 that the Guidelines on a principle-based approach to the Cooperation between the United Nations and the business sector be revised in 2015 (Guidelines). In this regard, the United Nations has been encouraged by the General Assembly to continue to develop a common and systematic approach which places greater emphasis on transparency, coherence, impact, accountability and due diligence.

52. In that Resolution the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to improve the guidelines, disclose all the partners, contributions and matching funds for all relevant partnerships, and to strengthen due diligence measures to safeguard the reputation of the Organization and ensure confidence-building.

53. The overarching principle in the Guidelines, as encouraged by the General Assembly, is that collaboration between the United Nations and any relevant partners, including the private sector, should not impose undue rigidity in partnership agreements, but rather should always serve the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and always be undertaken in a manner that maintains and promotes the integrity, impartiality and independence of the Organization.

54. The stated purpose of the Guidelines is to provide a framework to facilitate the formulation and implementation of partnerships between the United Nations and the business sector while safeguarding the integrity, impartiality and independence of the United Nations and preventing and mitigating potential risks of adverse impacts on people and the environment.

55. The Guidelines define a partnership as voluntary and collaborative agreement or arrangement between one or more parts of the United Nations system and the business sector, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task to coordinate their respective responsibilities, resources and benefits.

56. The Guidelines apply only to the United Nations Secretariat and separately administered organs, Funds and Programmes of the United Nations, referred to in the Guidelines as “United Nations entities”. All United Nations entities are encouraged to adopt the Guidelines in accordance with necessary internal processes, and are also encouraged to develop more specific Guidelines in accordance with their particular mandates and activities.

57. In this regard, the Office for Outer Space Affairs has developed its own internal guidelines for creating partnerships that comply with the principles and procedures in the Guidelines applicable to United Nations entities. The Office is currently working with other interested internal stakeholders to revise the guidelines to ensure a robust and reliable process is created and consistently applied.

58. The general principles outlined in the United Nations Guidelines, and Office for Outer Space internal guidelines are integrity, accountability and transparency.

### **1. Integrity**

59. United Nations entities must have in place effective integrity measures to manage the risks inherent in collaboration. Partnership efforts should maintain the integrity of the United Nations, its independence and impartiality, in particular by clearly advancing the aims, activities and purposes of the United Nations, setting clear delineations of roles and responsibilities, providing no unfair advantages and including adequate partners.

60. The objective of the partnership needs to be articulated clearly and must advance the aims, activities and purposes of the United Nations as laid out in the Charter or other applicable texts. Chapter I of the United Nations Charter outlines



key United Nations goals such as: maintaining interactional peace and security as well as solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

61. The partnership should have a clear roadmap that identifies and clarifies each partner's roles and responsibilities. In addition to asserting goals and objectives, it should state the proposed outcomes of the partnership, the activities foreseen, and the participants if it's a multi-stakeholder process, and the governance structure needed to be put in place to ensure a transparent and accountable process.

62. All partnerships with the business sector, including those which will have financial implications for the United Nations, should be implemented only pursuant to a formal written agreement between the private entity and the United Nations. The agreement should delineate the respective roles and responsibilities of each party, be based on a clear understanding of the respective roles and expectation of the parties, with accountability and clear mechanism for coordination of respective responsibilities, resources, and benefits, and finally including defined timelines and measurable outputs.

63. Every member of the business sector community should have the opportunity to propose cooperative arrangements within the parameters of the Guidelines. However, cooperation should not provide exclusivity in its collaboration or imply endorsement or preference of a particular business sector entity or its products or services.

64. The United Nations may collaborate with the business sector for the purpose of development and provision of goods and services that explicitly support and accelerate achievement of United Nations goals. However, the United Nations must secure adequate partners and work only with business sector entities that share its values, including internationally recognized principles concerning human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption.

65. In considering collaborations and partnerships, the United Nations will engage with business sector entities that demonstrate responsible citizenship by supporting the core values of the United Nations and its causes, a commitment to meeting or exceeding the principles of the United Nations Global Compact by translating them into operations corporate practices, and a commitment to respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

66. Under no circumstances will the United Nations engage with business sector entities which contribute to or are otherwise complicit in human rights abuses, tolerate forced or compulsory labour or the use of child labour, are involved in the sale or manufacture of anti-personnel land mines or cluster bombs, or that otherwise do not meet relevant obligations or responsibilities required by the United Nations, or business sector entities that are engaged in any activities which are inconsistent with sanctions established by the United Nations Security Council or other similar measures.

67. United Nations entities may establish additional eligibility or exclusionary criteria for screening companies appropriate to their specific mission and advocacy role. In this regard, the Office for Outer Space Affairs is finalizing its evaluation and risk mitigation criteria which take into account the dual use nature of many space related technologies, and the over-all aspects of defence industry participation. Additionally, guidance is currently being sought from the United Nations Ethics Office to ensure that the Office has in place a robust due diligence process that will be applied to all potential partners which takes this unique industry consideration into account.

68. United Nations entities reserve the right to choose their partners on a case-by-case basis and to undertake research in support of such decisions. The integrity of a partnership process should be ensured through a robust due diligence process to

guarantee that adequate partners are selected. The due diligence process should be established by the United Nations entity considering the partnership.

69. At a minimum the due diligence process should be conducted on all potential partners proportionate to the scope of engagement, be planned so that such process can be completed well before partnership discussions are too far advanced, and be designed to select adequate and responsible partners sharing United Nations values.

70. The Office for Outer Space Affairs intends to evaluate and pursue partnerships on a case by case basis applying an appropriate due diligence process and conducting sufficient research to demonstrate that a risk managed approach is being taken to protect to the reputation, independence and integrity of the United Nations.

## **2. Accountability**

71. Partnership agreements should provide for clear and efficient accountability procedures, and should differentiate between accountability of each partners in particular towards principles included in the United Nations Global Compact and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and the internal accountability within the partnership, for example, between partners, including, in accordance with the regulations governing each entity and having a monitoring and evaluation process.

72. The Office for Outer Space Affairs will require a showing from a potential partner that it has included in its business processes, the principles included in the Global Compact, and the Guiding principles on Business and Human Rights. The Office is also putting in place sufficient and appropriate internal accountability and oversight procedures applicable to all partnerships, but will also be tailored specifically to the duties and responsibilities contained in the relevant formal partnership agreement.

## **3. Transparency**

73. Cooperation with the business sector must be transparent. Information on the nature and scope of major cooperative arrangements should be available within the United Nations entity and to the public at large, and should be made available on their respective websites. Such disclosure should include the names of the partners, contributions, and matching funds for all relevant partnerships including a country level.

74. The Office for Outer Space Affairs will include a page on its website dedicated to partnerships and will include all relevant information concerning partnerships with private sector entities, including names of partners, contributions both financial and in-kind, and scope of the partnership activities so as to ensure transparency.

## **B. Partnership modalities**

75. Partnership modalities include innovation partnerships to enable outcomes. As described above, innovation partnerships utilize the expertise of business partners to develop and implement innovative products and services. There are also resource mobilization partnerships which focus on engaging companies to provide resources or to mobilize external resources to enable United Nations entities to better fulfil their mandates.

76. When a chosen modality includes a direct contribution for specific purposes that would be made under a trust fund or special account, the agreement with the partners subject to applicable United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules.

77. When there is an indirect contribution by the business sector partners through the establishment of a charitable organization or foundation, this will require a relationship agreement established between the United Nations and the charitable organization or foundation.

78. Regarding the financial aspects of the Access to Space initiative, the Office is pursuing various options that include receiving contributions in trust fund accounts within the United Nations, as well opportunities to utilize charitable organizations and foundations outside the United Nations in order to make it more financially attractive to donors to make financial contributions. It is anticipated that maintaining flexibility and opening numerous avenues to support the Office will encourage a greater number of private sector entities to contribute to and participate in the Access to Space initiative and support the overall work of the Office.

79. Partnerships may also be entered into to provide the delivery of technical assistance projects, and this modality would necessitate the individual bilateral agreements between the United Nations, the business sector entity, and the Government of the country in which the assistance would be carried out, or a tripartite agreement between these parties.

80. The Office of Outer Space Affairs intends to match institutions in developing countries with appropriate private sector entities so that the private sector entities will contribute to the development of the experiments and engage more broadly in capacity-building activities. It is envisioned that this contribution will be in the delivery of technical assistance activities directly to the institutions and Member States, and the Office intends to assist and facilitate and support institutions and Member States in creating the necessary agreements with the business sector entities to enable the effective delivery of these activities.

81. The Office hopes that by establishing a relationship based on agreements, the Member State and the private sector entity will be encouraged to engage in further longer term activities at the bilateral level, which will further address needs of the Member State as well as provide a commercially reasonable basis for continued collaboration. Therefore, the Access to Space initiative could be the catalyst for greater direct cooperation between private sector entities and Member States, particularly developing countries.

## **VII. Request to COPUOS for endorsement for the Office to engage with private sector entities**

82. United Nations agencies, funds and programmes continue to consider private sector partnerships as important means to help them fulfil their respective mandates. As the overall mandate of the Office for Outer Space Affairs is to promote international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, and the Office sees its role to assist Member States, particularly developing countries, in using and applying space science and technology to improve the lives of their citizens as fundamentally important.

83. In this regard, the Office hereby requests the States Members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to endorse the Office for Outer Space Affairs in its pursuit of greater engagement with private sector entities to support and contribute to the Access to Space initiative as well as to supporting and contributing to the overall work of the Office.

84. On this basis the Office for Outer Space Affairs will be able to develop the initiative further and submit the final proposal to UNISPACE+50.