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UNISPACE+50: Status of preparations

Note by the Secretariat

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I. Introduction

1. The present document has been prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with the plan of work for UNISPACE+50, contained in document [A/AC.105/L.297](#) and endorsed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifty-eighth session in 2015 ([A/AC.105/L.297](#), para. 32) and is intended to assist delegations further in preparatory work for UNISPACE+50 in 2018.
2. In accordance with its workplan, UNISPACE+50 has set forth the process of charting the future role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its subsidiary bodies and the Office for Outer Space Affairs as unique platforms for international space cooperation, and of strengthening unified efforts at all levels and among all relevant stakeholders in addressing the overarching long-term development concerns of society with concrete deliverables pertaining to space for development.
3. In this process, which coincides with the time of global efforts towards goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as implementing actions contained in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Paris Agreement on climate change, UNISPACE+50 is a timely opportunity for the Committee, its subsidiary bodies and the Office for Outer Space Affairs to further align their work with global development agendas, which will stimulate action over the next years in an integrated way, balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.
4. UNISPACE+50 is therefore a milestone opportunity to steer the course towards strengthening the Committee's mandates to address the current challenges and opportunities, in particular in the areas of the seven UNISPACE+50 thematic priorities (TPs), as endorsed by the Committee in 2016 (see [A/71/20](#), para. 296):
 - (1) Global partnership in space exploration and innovation;
 - (2) Legal regime of outer space and global space governance: current and future perspectives;
 - (3) Enhanced information exchange on space objects and events;
 - (4) International framework for space weather services;
 - (5) Strengthened space cooperation for global health;
 - (6) International cooperation towards low-emission and resilient societies;
 - (7) Capacity-building for the twenty-first century.
5. Furthermore, the concrete deliverables and outcomes of thematic priorities will form, at the UNISPACE+50 in 2018, a comprehensive Space2030 agenda — for contribution of space activities in addressing overarching, long-term development concerns, presented under the four pillars of *space economy* — the development of space-derived economic benefits; *space society* — the evolution of society and societal benefits stemming from space-related activities; *space accessibility* — all communities using and benefiting from space technology; and (d) *space diplomacy* — building partnerships and strengthening international cooperation in space activities (see also [A/AC.105/1137](#), paras. 107-115).
6. As highlighted in the Dubai Declaration, adopted at the High-Level Forum on space for socioeconomic sustainable development, the four pillars of *space economy*, *space society*, *space accessibility* and *space diplomacy* constitute an inclusive Space2030 agenda for exploration, innovation and inspiration that calls for strengthened cooperation and governance of outer space activities.
7. In that regard, the present document gives an overview of the status of preparations under the seven UNISPACE+50 thematic priorities, as endorsed by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session ([A/71/20](#), para. 296), and provides further information on the UNISPACE+50 segment of the Committee's sixty-first session in

2018, its proposed expected outcomes as well as includes information on special activities and documents relevant for UNISPACE+50 and stakeholder engagement.

8. In furthering the preparatory work for UNISPACE+50, the role of the Steering Committee of UNISPACE+50, established by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifty-eighth session (A/70/20, para. 351) and acknowledged by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/82 of 9 December 2015 operative paragraph 14, should be noted.

9. The Steering Committee, in accordance with its terms of reference, has held in-depth discussions on both substantive and organizational aspects of UNISPACE+50, underscoring the importance of UNISPACE+50 as a major milestone for designing a vision for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its subsidiary bodies and the Office for Outer Space Affairs to strengthen their unified efforts at all levels and work with all relevant stakeholders in defining concrete deliverables pertaining to space for development, exploration and innovation.

II. Preparatory work for UNISPACE+50

10. It is foreseen that the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee, and their subsidiary bodies undertake a holistic approach and engage in joint efforts in preparations for UNISPACE+50.

11. The Committee at its fifty-ninth session in June 2016 also noted that, in order to allow for timely actions in the lead-up to UNISPACE+50, in 2018, the respective mechanisms under each of the thematic priorities, in coordination with the Secretariat, would begin preparations during the intersessional period to develop further expected outcomes and workplans with timelines under each thematic priority, for consideration and agreement by delegations at the sessions of the Committee and its Subcommittees in 2017 and thereafter (A/71/20, para. 297).

12. Furthermore, this document includes information on the High-level Forum on space as a driver for socioeconomic sustainable development, and it includes information on the so far proposed global conferences, in accordance with the Committee's decision (A/71/20, para. 303) at its fifty-ninth session, to invite States members of the Committee to volunteer to host United Nations workshops and conferences during the period June 2016-December 2017¹ that would present the thematic priorities to Member States and space-related regional and international stakeholders and engage them further in the implementation process. Other activities in preparation for UNISPACE+50 may also be held in the course of 2017 and 2018, with the Office committed to work constructively with member States to ensure a balanced scope of these activities, related to the UNISPACE+50 thematic priorities.

UNISPACE+50 Thematic priorities — status report

13. In preparation for UNISPACE+50 and in accordance with the Committee's decision at its fifty-ninth session in 2016 (A/71/20, para. 297), the Office for Outer Space Affairs, including in its capacity as the Secretariat of the Committee and its Subcommittees, has collected proposals from member States of the Committee to host activities in preparation for UNISPACE+50 and worked with them and the respective mechanisms under each of the thematic priorities on developing further actions, as outlined below.

¹ This time-frame was recommended by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session in 2016, and will also allow the Secretariat, in cooperation with editorial and translation departments, to issue reports on these activities in the six official UN languages. Other activities related to preparations for UNISPACE+50 may also be held in the course of 2017 and 2018 and the Secretariat will strive to issue those reports in all official United Nations languages, when feasible.

14. The Office has also directed and aligned its capacity-building programme in 2017 to support the preparations for UNISPACE+50, conducting its activities and workshops in close correlation with UNISPACE+50 thematic priorities and their objectives, to be able to capitalize on and use the recommendations from them for the UNISPACE+50 in 2018.

15. In furthering the objectives under the seven UNISPACE+50 thematic priorities, the first set of Guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, as endorsed by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session in 2016 and contained in the annex to its final report (A/71/20, pages 56-67) should also be taken into consideration by the respective mechanisms.

(1) *Global partnership in space exploration and innovation*

16. In accordance with the decision by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session (A/71/20, para. 298), the Office for Outer Space Affairs in July 2016 invited States members of the Committee for nominations for participation in the new Action Team on Exploration and Innovation.

17. A follow up information circular was sent to member States in October 2016, sharing the names of the States who have nominated Action Team members so far and introducing the States who have volunteered to act as Co-Chairs. States, members with the Committee, are further encouraged to express their interest to the Secretariat, to participate in the Action Team. An information circular was also sent to the permanent observers with the Committee on 20 December 2016.

18. The Action Team has been established with China, Jordan and the United States as Co-Chairs and, to date, with the following members: Austria, Canada, China, France, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Luxembourg, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Tunisia, the United Kingdom and the United States. The International Law Association (ILA) has nominated experts to the Action Team.

19. The first meeting of the Action Team is scheduled to take place on the margins of the current fifty-fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to discuss its terms of reference and method of work.

20. There are two flagship events planned under this thematic priority for 2017, in coordination with the Office of Outer Space Affairs: (1) an exploration and innovation event in collaboration with the Global Space Exploration Conference (GLEX) on 6 June 2017 in Beijing, China and an exploration and innovation event in collaboration with the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Space Forum in Orlando, United States from 15 to 16 September 2017.

(2) *Legal regime of outer space and global space governance: current and future perspectives*

21. Under this thematic priority, the Secretariat has informed both the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space of the Legal Subcommittee and the Chair of Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on further coordination necessary for the work under this thematic priority.

22. As part of the flagship global conferences and workshops under this thematic priority, the United Nations Workshop on Space Law was held on the theme "Contribution of space law and policy to space governance and space security in the twenty-first century", organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in Vienna, 5-8 September 2016. In 2017, the McGill conference on Global Space Governance and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be organized in collaboration with the Office for Outer Space Affairs, 4-6 May in Montreal, Canada.

23. The Vienna Space Law Workshop considered perspectives of progressive development of international space law, as well as governance models for maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and enhancing international

cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. It also highlighted the contribution of space law and space policy to global space governance and space security.

24. The Workshop, among others, recommended that under this thematic priority, an assessment of customary law perspectives relating to international space law should be conducted as well as an in-depth assessment of possible substantive and operational gaps in the legal regime of outer space, focusing in particular on responsibility and liability for national space activities. In parallel, possible gaps in the legal regime of a more conceptual nature should also be studied ([A/AC.105/1131](#), para. 50 (i)).

25. Furthermore, the Workshop recommended that under this thematic priority a guidance document should be created with the objective of promoting the universality of the United Nations treaties on outer space, with regard to which models for the implementation and application of the treaties should be developed (*ibid*).

26. In this regard, the Workshop also recommended that the Office for Outer Space Affairs should be tasked with outlining a model for national space legislation and that the role of the Office as a focal point for information exchange and a forum for discussing the progressive development of international space law should be strengthened, especially at the administrative and implementing levels ([A/AC.105/1131](#), para. 50 (i) and (k)).

27. With regard to the current session of the Subcommittee, the Workshop recommended that, in view of the importance for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to pay special attention to reinvigorating the annual reporting on national space activities, in which the Committee has been engaged since the 1960s, exploring whether there are any additional areas and dedicated topics which the international community wishes to add to that long-established transparency and confidence-building measure, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its current, fifty-fourth session, considers, as appropriate, criteria for the further reporting on and consideration of national space policies and national space activities, including transparency and confidence-building measures ([A/AC.105/1131](#), para. 50 (b)).

(3) *Enhanced information exchange on space objects and events*

28. Under this thematic priority and in accordance with its respective mechanism, as endorsed by the Committee ([A/71/20](#), para. 296 (3)), the Secretariat has prepared a non-paper for a new agenda item to be considered for establishment by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its current session in 2017, entitled “Enhanced information exchange on space objects and events”, with a working group under a multi-year workplan covering the period 2018-2020 that will coordinate its work with the Legal Subcommittee and the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

29. The non-paper has been prepared also in line with the recommendations contained in the Report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities ([A/68/189](#)) and the General Assembly resolution 68/50, to enhance transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities and ensuring safe, secure and sustainable outer space.

30. The non-paper will be considered in the meetings of the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its current fifty-fourth session.

(4) *International framework for space weather services*

31. The Secretariat has informed the Rapporteur (Ian Mann of Canada) of the Expert Group on Space Weather of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee,

which is the mechanism under this thematic priority, and is substantively supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs (A/71/20, para. 296 (4)), on the objectives under this thematic priority with which the Expert Group should align its existing workplan (as contained in document A/AC.105/1088, para. 169). The Expert Group will meet on the margins of the current session of the Subcommittee to discuss this further and inform the Subcommittee accordingly.

32. The Office has also aligned its space weather-related activities to be implemented through the capacity-building activities of the Office and through the role of the Office as the executive secretariat of International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG). The Office will also prepare a special UN-Space report on space weather in its capacity as the secretariat to UN-Space, to be issued for consideration by the Committee at its sixtieth session in June 2017, in the context of preparations for UNISPACE+50.

33. Furthermore, one of the flagship global conference under this thematic priority in 2017 will be the United Nations/United States Workshop “Space Weather: The Decades after the International Heliophysical Year 2007”, to be held in Boston, United States, from 31 July to 4 August 2017 to discuss, among others, relevant inputs for the development of objectives under this thematic priority for UNISPACE+50 in 2018.

34. The workshop marks the 10th anniversary of the International Heliophysical Year, which led to the genesis of the International Space Weather Initiative (ISWI) and will focus on recent advances made in scientific research by utilizing ISWI instrument data in conjunction with space mission data in adding significant new knowledge on space weather phenomena near Earth and interplanetary space. The Expert Group on Space Weather of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee will be invited to contribute, in particular, to the high level international forum on the economic and societal effects of extreme space weather, which will take place on the first two days of the workshop. This forum will include keynote speakers from major international organizations followed by a panel session to discuss issues and policies for acknowledging space weather as a global challenge.

(5) *Strengthened space cooperation for global health*

35. The Secretariat has informed the Co-Chairs (Pascal Michel of Canada and Antoine Geissbühler of Switzerland) of the Expert Group on Global Health, which is the mechanism under this thematic priority, and substantively supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs (A/71/20, para. 296 (5)), on its objectives with which the Expert Group should align its workplan (as contained in document A/AC.105/1088, annex I, para. 7). The Expert Group will meet on the margins of the current session of the Subcommittee to discuss further and inform the Subcommittee accordingly.

36. Of the direct relevance for this thematic priority is also the special report, prepared by the Office in its capacity as the secretariat to UN-Space, entitled “The Space for global health” — Special report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on the use of space science and technology within the United Nations system for global health (document A/AC.105/1091), which serves as a valuable information as well as input for further actions under this thematic priorities.

37. Furthermore, as the flagship global activity planned under this thematic priority in 2017 is a United Nations workshop on strengthened space cooperation for global health, planned to be held at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, possibly jointly organized with the World Health Organization.

(6) *International cooperation towards low-emission and resilient societies*

38. In accordance with the recommendation by the Committee, the Office for Outer Space Affairs has been identified as the mechanism to undertake the work

under this thematic priority (A/71/20, para. 296 (6)) and report regularly to the Committee and its Subcommittees on the work under this thematic priority.

39. In this regard, the Office has prepared “Progress report on the development of a strategy for TP6 ‘International cooperation towards low-emission and resilient societies’ by the Office for Outer Space Affairs”, which will be made available as the conference room paper 6 (A/AC.105/C.1/2017/CRP.6) at the current session of the Subcommittee.

40. The Office has already taken the lead in a number of activities related to this thematic priority, where concrete policy recommendations were identified. These include recommendations from the UN-SPIDER+10 Conference (June 2016), the UN-SPIDER/Dominican Republic Expert Meeting (July 2016), the United Nations/Austria Climate Change Symposium (September 2016), the United Nations/United Arab Emirates High Level Forum (November 2016) and its outcome Dubai Declaration, and the United Nations/Germany International Expert Meeting (December 2016).

41. These recommendations, together with the international policy framework in the domain of TP6, in particular the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change serve as the core basis for the Office’s consolidated strategy for TP6, as proposed in the conference room paper 6.

42. Currently the Office for Outer Space Affairs is also involved in a number of initiatives — such as the Global Partnership using Space-based technology applications for disaster risk reduction (GP-STAR) as well as the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction of UNISDR, the United Nations Senior Leadership Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for Resilience, and the intended early warning system on Near-Earth Objects together with the International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN) and Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG). The Office has also set forth its active involvement in the Climate Conferences (COP21, COP22) and plans to continue to contribute and help shaping their outcomes to include the space-related dimension and its interconnectedness with climate change mitigation. These initiatives and their recommendations will be considered and streamlined to the overall strategy of the office addressing TP6.

43. These initiatives and their recommendations will be considered and streamlined in the overall strategy in addressing TP6 by the Office, which has identified several areas that will be prioritised and expanded over the next months, and are further elaborated in conference room paper 6 (A/AC.105/C.1/2017/CRP.6), such as, in the area of resilience and disaster risk reduction — to deepen and widen the role of UN-SPIDER and foster specifically the use of space-based technologies and applications and Earth Observation in the context of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, develop a road map for enhanced resiliency of space-based systems and serve as a facilitator on space-based information in the wider domain of data/geospatial data itself, connecting with new emerging communities outside the traditional space/geospatial domain; and in the context of climate change address next to mitigation efforts also opportunities for climate change adaptation and the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage.

44. The overall strategy of the Office will be further shaped in the course of 2017, addressing the interrelation and synergies between climate change mitigation efforts, disaster risk reduction and reducing emissions, working towards low emission and resilient societies. The Office also aims to actively engage itself in furthering these issues at the COP23, organized by Fiji and hosted at the headquarters of the UNFCCC Secretariat in Bonn, Germany, 6-17 November 2017, which is also one of the locations of the UN-SPIDER programme of the Office and therefore an additional opportunity for stronger engagement by the Office.

45. In working towards resilient societies, the stronger interconnectedness with actions to enhance the safety, security and sustainability of outer space activities,

including the protection of space assets, space systems and critical infrastructures, as also highlighted in the Dubai Declaration (A/AC.105/1129, Annex, para. 10) should be noted.

46. In this context, the Space Law Workshop recommended that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should consider, as appropriate, an exchange of information and views on the applicability of cybersecurity to the protection of space assets and space systems, including critical infrastructures, with a view of finding common approaches to the protection of communications and space systems (A/AC.105/1131/para. 50 (c)).

47. As regards to the flagship global activity under this thematic priority in 2017, the Office will organize the United Nations/Germany International Conference on International cooperation towards low-emission and resilient societies, to be held in Bonn, Germany, from 22 to 24 November 2017, to discuss, among others, relevant inputs for the development of objectives under this thematic priority for UNISPACE+50 in 2018.

(7) *Capacity-building for the twenty-first century*

48. In accordance with the recommendation by the Committee, the Office for Outer Space Affairs has been identified as the mechanism to undertake the work under this thematic priority and report regularly to the Committee and its Subcommittees on the work under this thematic priority (A/71/20, para. 296 (7)).

49. To address and respond to societal, environmental and developmental challenges of the 21st century and how space-based technology and solutions can be supportive to providing solutions for them, the Office under this thematic priority has initiated preparations for an integrated strategy on capacity-building, which is based on strengthened collaborations and empowerment of stakeholders and parties involved, agility to adapt to emerging, rapidly changing and complex situations, strengthening existing and building new networks and to serve as the enabler of providing a safe space for cooperation for stakeholders and parties involved.

50. In approaching the development of its capacity-building strategy, the Office has also taken into account the recommendations of the Dubai Declaration (A/AC.105/1129, Annex) that underscored the need to modernize and reinforce the overall mandate and structure of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to better position the Office to assist States in using space for sustainable development, strengthen the Office's role in disaster management and emergency response and its capacity-building, outreach and awareness-raising efforts, including integrated legal and technical assistance, and reinforce the Office's spaceflight portfolio to allow broad access to space for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular for the benefit of developing countries.

51. The Dubai Declaration also emphasized the importance for the Office for Outer Space Affairs to strengthen its cooperation with industry and the private sector to be able to deliver its mandates as the unique United Nations entity in space affairs and to assist States to attain the Sustainable Development Goals.

52. In developing its overall capacity-building strategy, the Office has also taken into account the recommendations of the Workshop on Space Law, in particular that in further evaluating capacity-building objectives, the Office should be officially encouraged to conduct targeted capacity-building, education and training in space law and policy, building also upon best practices developed thanks to the UN-SPIDER programme, with the objective of establishing a capacity-building platform on the basis of the following criteria: (a) the need to determine the capacity within the Office to provide targeted technical legal assistance and conduct a comprehensive assessment of the needs of requesting States, taking into account judicial, administrative and technical requirements, and on that basis determine the assistance required; and (b) the delivery of the required capacity-building, assistance, training and education activities to meet the needs of States (A/AC.105/1131, para. 50 (h)).

53. Taking into account the above recommendations, the Office has prepared a “Progress report on the development of a strategy for TP7 ‘Capacity-building in the 21st century’ by the Office for Outer Space Affairs”, available as the conference room paper 7 ([A/AC.105/C.1/2017/CRP.7](#)), tailoring its preliminary overall strategy in particular aimed at addressing specific needs at a member state level, next to regional and global challenges and interconnect them; strengthen activities and build on the existing networks (such as the six UN-affiliated regional centres of the Office); further strengthen and enhance the uptake of new technologies in its capacity-building (such as e-learning, open online courses); integrate the private sector into the activities and raise awareness on space-based information in the wider domain of data/geospatial data itself.

54. The new capacity-building strategy will serve as a backbone for comprehensive, long-term engagement with Member States to harness benefits offered by outer space for development by building capacity on the individual and institutional levels and developing the enabling environment. The strategy may also look at creating impacts at local, national, subregional, regional, inter-regional, international, as well as inter-agency levels.

55. Among the flagship global activities under this thematic priority to be held in 2017 are: (1) the United Nations/Italy Workshop on the Open Universe, the initiative, which was presented and endorsed at the fifty-ninth session of the Committee in June 2016 is aimed at building and strengthening capacity in the use and applications of open source space science data and technology through international cooperation among Member States, at different stages of development, and international space-related entities (see document [A/AC.105/2016/CRP.6](#)); and (2) the United Nations Expert Meeting on Space for Women, organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in collaboration with United Nations entities, in particular UN-Women in New York from 4-6 October 2017, to address engagement and strengthening of efforts for women, in particular in developing countries, in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and invite partners, both governmental and non-governmental, that already have expertise, skills and experience in addressing issues particularly relevant to women, to develop partnerships with the Office as a gateway to space matters in the United Nations. Another Space for Women conference is also planned to be held in 2018, organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and hosted by Chile.

56. Furthermore, as part of its strategy under this thematic priority, the Office plans to hold a workshop in 2017, possibly as part of the annual United Nations/Austria Graz symposium in September on its proposed indicator-based approach to monitor the progress of the capacity-building activities on a country level, accompanied by a dedicated catalogue of solutions. The Office will also hold, in collaboration with the Russian Federation and the University of Samara a workshop on capacity-building in basic space science, from 30 October to 2 November in Samara, the Russian Federation.

High-level Forum: Space as a Driver for Socioeconomic Sustainable Development

57. In the lead-up to UNISPACE+50 in 2018 and with the aim of advancing the debate on the role of space science and technology in fostering global development, the first High-level Forum on space as a driver for socioeconomic sustainable development was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 20 to 24 November 2016, organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in collaboration with the Government of the United Arab Emirates.

58. The Forum provided a unique opportunity for the collective space community to elaborate recommendations for the UNISPACE+50 blueprint ([A/AC.105/L.297](#), paras. 19 and 22). To this end, the Office has defined four thematic pillars (space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy) to guide the process.

59. The United Nations/United Arab Emirates High-level Forum concluded with the Dubai Declaration, which, inter alia, recommended that the High-level Forum should become a permanent platform for strengthened partnerships among all relevant stakeholders in working towards the contribution of space activities in addressing overarching, long-term development concerns.

60. The Dubai Declaration, which is annexed to the final report of the first High-level Forum (document [A/AC.105/1129](#)), also stipulates that the four pillars of space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy constitute an inclusive global Space2030 agenda for exploration, innovation and inspiration that calls for strengthened cooperation and governance of outer space activities.

61. The next Forum — HLF2017 — will be held in Dubai from 6 to 9 November 2017, with a focus on building stronger partnerships and international cooperation and coordination in the peaceful uses of outer space at all levels and an opportunity for all the stakeholders to express their views on the initiatives to be put forward as part of UNISPACE+50 in 2018.

62. During the first two days, the HLF2017 will include the presentation of lessons learned and new ideas on the established four pillars of space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy, including their interactions and inter-linkages, as contained in the Dubai Declaration. The following two days of the HLF2017 will bring together decision-makers from governments, space agencies, and other high-ranking officials to discuss the plan of action, and resources to be allocated to the proposed activities, in preparation for UNISPACE+50 and beyond.

III. Scope and organization of UNISPACE+50 in 2018

Dates and format of UNISPACE+50 in 2018

- In 2018, the sixty-first session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is scheduled to take place from 20 to 29 June 2018 in the Vienna International Centre, M-Building, Board Room B.
- UNISPACE+50 segment will take place as part of the Committee's 61st session, with maximum of two first days of the session, 20 and 21 June 2018, dedicated to the UNISPACE+50 segment.
- Two days prior to the session, 18 and 19 June 2018, are allocated for activities engaging the broader space community and all relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the media.

63. In accordance with the plan of work for UNISPACE+50 ([A/AC.105/L.297](#), para. 15 (b)), as endorsed by the Committee in 2015, the UNISPACE+50 segment will be held as part of the sixty-first session of the Committee in 2018, with maximum two days of the Committee's session, 20 and 21 June 2018 dedicated to the UNISPACE+50 segment.

64. All Member States of the United Nations will be invited to participate in the UNISPACE+50 segment. The broader space community, including United Nations entities, other international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and non-governmental entities, including industry and private sector, will be able to attend as observers, in accordance with specific seating arrangements. High-level dignitaries, including the United Nations Secretary-General will be invited to attend the UNISPACE+50 segment of the Committee on 20 and 21 June 2018 ([A/AC.105/L.297](#), para. 15 (c)).

65. The opening segment on 20 June is planned to be held at the ministerial level. Member States will be invited by the Secretariat to identify appropriate minister at the national level to participate in the 2018 UNISPACE+50 segment on 20 June.

UNISPACE+50 Expected Outcome

66. The expected outcomes of UNISPACE+50 in 2018 will form a dedicated General Assembly resolution, including, among others:

(a) *A comprehensive Space2030 agenda* for strengthened cooperation and governance of outer space activities and their contribution in addressing overarching, long-term development concerns, to be presented under the four pillars of:

- *Space economy* — the development of space-derived economic benefits;
- *Space society* — the evolution of society and societal benefits stemming from space-related activities;
- *Space accessibility* — all communities using and benefiting from space technology; and
- *Space diplomacy* — building partnerships and strengthening international cooperation in space activities;

(b) *UNISPACE+50 Plan of Action* containing:

- Outcomes and future actions resulting from the UNISPACE+50 thematic priorities, presented under the four pillars of space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy, as constituting an inclusive global Space2030 strategy for strengthened cooperation and governance of outer space activities;
- Funding and implementation of actions and expected time-bound results, including any additional or repositioned mandates of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and corresponding resources, in order to strengthen the delivery of adequate services in particular for the benefit of developing countries.

(c) *A mission statement* of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their unique roles in global governance of outer space activities and in promoting the use of space in addressing the overarching, long-term development concerns for the benefit of all countries.

67. The UNISPACE+50 resolution will be before the UNISPACE+50 segment of the sixty-first session of the Committee for approval.

68. The UNISPACE+50 resolution will then be put before the General Assembly's seventy-third session as part of its plenary debate item. This follows the example of the 2004 General Assembly plenary debate under the item "Review and implementation of the recommendations of the third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (see document [A/INF/59/3](#), Programme of work of the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, item 23), which resulted in the General Assembly resolution [A/RES/59/2](#), containing further actions for implementation of the UNISPACE III recommendations.²

69. The consultations on the draft General Assembly UNISPACE+50 resolution will start with the 2018 cycle of sessions of the Committee and its Subcommittees.

Special activities in conjunction with UNISPACE+50 in 2018

UNISPACE+50-preparatory dedicated activities on 18 and 19 June 2018

70. The Committee at its fifty-ninth session in 2016 welcomed with appreciation the strong emphasis on the outreach component of UNISPACE+50 that aimed to engage the broader space community, including all relevant stakeholders, States that were not yet members of the Committee, permanent observers, the private sector, as

² As part of the regular work of the Committee, its report and the corresponding annual omnibus resolution on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, will also be before the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly.

appropriate, civil society and the media, in an all-inclusive manner to foster global space governance for the twenty-first century.

71. In that regard, the Committee encouraged the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the UNISPACE+50 Steering Committee to continue their outreach efforts through participation at conferences, lectures and other awareness-raising activities in order to present UNISPACE+50 through its thematic priorities and their deliverables to a wider audience (A/71/20, para. 305).

72. The Committee also noted that the UNISPACE+50 in 2018 will have two additional days ahead of the sixty-first session of the Committee, 18 and 19 June 2018, allocated for activities to present the Space2030 agenda, including the strategic output of UNISPACE+50 through the four pillars of space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy to a wider audience, engaging with all relevant stakeholders. The Office for Outer Space Affairs is in the early stages of preparation for these activities.

UNISPACE+50 Exhibition, 18-29 June 2018

73. The Committee at its fifty-ninth session noted the proposal for an exhibition, to be held in conjunction with the sixty-first session of the Committee, in 2018, and that the Office for Outer Space Affairs should start preparations, in cooperation with Member States and other stakeholders, to organize a UNISPACE+50 exhibition, on the theme “Space for sustainable development: present and future”, to be held from 18 to 29 June 2018 at the Vienna International Centre (A/71/20, para. 303).

74. The Office for Outer Space Affairs is undertaking initial preparations for this exhibition, and will release a call for proposals to Member States and permanent observers, which will be assessed and selected by a Selection Committee. The Office is also investigating other possible exhibition opportunities.

Other UNISPACE+50 outreach activities

75. The Office for Outer Space Affairs is planning a package of outreach activities for UNISPACE+50 in addition to the exhibition/s in the Vienna International Centre. Activities within this package will consider multiple audiences and communications methods, and address one or more of the following objectives:

- Raise awareness of UNISPACE+50 and Space2030;
- Raise awareness of the importance of space to humankind, including the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Raise awareness of UNOOSA’s work.

76. It is intended that this package will include a creative competition for young people, live video events on social media, and the issuance of a UNISPACE+50 stamp by the United Nations Postal Administration.

Champion for Space

77. In November 2016, the Office for Outer Space Affairs designated former astronaut Scott Kelly as United Nations Champion for Space. As Champion for Space, Mr. Kelly will help raise awareness of the Office’s activities and UNISPACE+50, as well as promote the use of space technology as a tool for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Mr Kelly will attend UNISPACE+50 and will be a key component of outreach activities in the lead up to and during UNISPACE+50.

78. Mr. Kelly was selected by the Office due to his high international profile and previous cooperation with the Office on the #whyspacematters campaign in 2015-16 and address to the United Nations General Assembly at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in 2015. Mr. Kelly’s appointment is for an initial period for two years.

UNISPACE+50 Local Organizing Committee

79. In order to strengthen the organizational, logistical and financial implementation of UNISPACE+50 in Vienna in 2018, the Office for Outer Space Affairs, together with the host country, Austria is planning to establish the UNISPACE+50 Local Organizing Committee to take lead on local organization matters in support of the preparations for UNISPACE+50. The Local Organizing Committee is expected to work in close coordination with interested contributors, and will be co-chaired by Austria and the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

80. Interested member States and permanent observers of the Committee are invited to contribute to the Local Organizing Committee based on voluntary contributions to the UNISPACE+50 event.

UNISPACE+50 branding

81. The Committee at its fifty-ninth session in 2016 welcomed with appreciation the presentation of the branding for UNISPACE+50, which was made by the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. (A/71/20, para. 306). The UNISPACE+50 logo was designed by the Graphics and Design Unit at the United Nations in New York and was inspired by space imagery and shapes. The UNISPACE+50 branding will be incorporated into outreach activities and UNISPACE+50 material.

IV. Funding

Strategic Support for the Office

82. The Committee welcomed with appreciation the engagement by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in working towards UNISPACE+50 in 2018 and noted that, in order to strengthen the Office's human resources and financial structure to be able to perform all the preparatory activities related to UNISPACE+50, the Office had launched the Multi-Donor Strategic Support to UNISPACE+50 initiative, which sought to provide flexible, coordinated and predictable funding on a voluntary basis. (A/71/20, para. 307).

83. The Committee noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs had invited States members and permanent observers of the Committee to support the Multi-Donor Strategic Support initiative in order to prepare, structure and implement activities on the promotion of space-based applications and technologies for innovative and timely actions to support Member States in meeting objectives of the global development agenda (A/71/20, para. 308).

84. In an effort to put into effect the Multi-Donor Strategic Support initiative and to strengthen the means for the Office to deliver greater breadth and substantive depth to programmes that are carried out for the benefit of Member States, particularly for developing countries, the Office intends to cooperate more closely with non-governmental entities offering to provide substantive and funding support for the work of the Office.

85. The multi-donor strategic support initiative has thus far only delivered modest results, with voluntary cash contributions being received from the Secure World Foundation towards the organisation of the High Level Forum, held in November 2016 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The Office also received offers of support from private sector entities and is presently working on developing a framework that will enable the receipt of such contributions. In addition, the Government of Austria is providing funding for an extra-budgetary post to support the preparations of UNISPACE+50.