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Office for Outer Space Affairs

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STATEMENT BY
THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR OUTER SPACE AFFAIRS
(UNOOSA)

Distinguished Delegates, the **United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)** promotes international cooperation in the peaceful use of outer space for sustainable economic and social development. It strengthens the capacity of developing countries to use space science, technology and applications for a variety of topics including climate change. The Office also serves as the Secretariat to the General Assembly's only Committee dealing exclusively with international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space — the **United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)**.

The Office implements many of its activities through its *Programme on Space Applications* and through its *Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER)*. The mission of the Programme on Space Application is to enhance the understanding and subsequent use of space technology for peaceful purposes in general, and for national development in response to expressed needs in different geographic regions of the world. This programme conducts a variety of international conferences and workshops on a variety of topics including climate change. UN-SPIDER addresses the issue of disasters, including those exacerbated by climate change. For more information on the Office and its programmes, please visit <http://www.unoosa.org/>.

Addressing the challenges of climate change and contributing to enhance the resilience of societies through international cooperation is one of the ways in which UNOOSA contributes to the implementation of the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Last year the Committee and UNOOSA launched the **UNISPACE+50 process** as a way to define the ways in which space technology applications will contribute to the achievement of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at a time when the space agenda is becoming increasingly complex and more actors are involved in ventures to explore space and carry out space activities. The UNISPACE+50 process includes a series of High Level Fora and International Conferences and will conclude with a dedicated conference and a session of the Committee that will be used to delineate and launch the "**Space 2030 agenda**". UNISPACE+50 will identify ways to promote the effective use of space tools to contribute to achieving sustainable development goals and targets, building resilient societies, and monitoring and mitigating climate change. Among them, improving the use of space technologies and space-based information and systems and forging partnerships to strengthen and deliver capacity-building in the use and applications of space science and technology, fit for the 21st century. UNISPACE+50 aims to become a major milestone for designing a road map for the United Nations space

policy that the global community needs for the next 15 years and beyond. It is viewed as an opportunity to strengthen unified efforts at all levels and among all relevant stakeholders in shaping the global “Space 2030” agenda.

One of the seven thematic priorities that have been agreed to by the Committee to guide this UNISPACE+50 process focuses on International cooperation towards low-emission and resilient societies. This thematic priority has been established to outline how climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development should be incorporated in the SPACE 2030 Agenda. For additional information on UNISPACE+50 see <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/hlf/hlf.html>.

Distinguished Delegates, space technologies will contribute to the implementation of the Paris Climate Change Agreement in fields such as systematic observations, mitigation, adaptation as well as loss and damage. And Heads of Space Agencies will meet here in Marrakesh on 11 November to express their determination to strengthen the role of space technologies in these fields and to reaffirm their commitments to work together on these matters within an international, coordinated framework with users, service providers and policy and decision makers.

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs would like to reiterate its commitment:

- To accelerate international cooperation to enhance the use of space technologies and applications for systematic observations, mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage and global stock take;
- To advocate for open access to space-based data to contribute to planning and implementation of measures targeting mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage;
- To carry out institutional strengthening efforts in developing countries to effectively use space technologies to contribute to the implementation of the Paris climate change agreement;
- To set up and strengthen international partnerships bringing together relevant actors (space, agencies, academia, donors, private sector) to enhance the use of space technologies in climate change related efforts.

As a way to shape the SPACE 2030 Agenda through the UNISPACE+50 process, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs will be conducting an international conference in Bonn, Germany, in September of 2017 that will address the use of space technologies in climate change and disaster risk reduction. This Conference, to be jointly conducted with the Government of Germany through the German Aerospace Center, should emerge with key recommendations that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should incorporate in its deliberations to shape this SPACE 2030 Agenda. In a similar fashion, the Office will be conducting a series of High Level Fora on the topic of “Space as a Driver for Socioeconomic Sustainable Development”. These fora offer a unique opportunity for the global space community to address the economic, environmental, social, policy and regulatory dimensions of space in pursuance of global sustainable development. As a way to ensure the successful conduction of these events, the Office would like to invite the UNFCCC Secretariat to collaborate in the conduction of the UN/Germany Conference and to participate in the High Level Fora.

Distinguished Delegates, the Office remains committed to align its programmes and mandates with the Paris climate change agreement; and in doing so, to fulfil its vision to foster international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space to bring the benefits of outer space to humankind.