



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

Ninth meeting of the Research Dialogue (RD 9)

Forty-fifth 46th Session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
(SBSTA)

Bonn, Germany

10 May 2017

**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)**.

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 science and technology applications will contribute to the achievement of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UNISPACE+50 process will conclude with a dedicated session of the Committee in June 2018 that will be delineate and launch the "**Space2030 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 Space2030 Agenda. For additional information on UNISPACE+50 see <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/hlf/hlf.html>.

Distinguished Delegates, space research and technologies will contribute to the implementation of the Paris Climate Change Agreement in fields such as systematic observations and monitoring, mitigation, adaptation as well as loss and damage.

The current identified guidelines for the UNISPACE+50 process related to its Thematic priority number six on "International cooperation towards low-emission and resilient societies" can be summarized as following:

- Support key actors in the development and implementation of an observation system to contribute to reporting requirements for global stocktake and transparency framework
- Facilitate the access and use of space-based technology and applications for the assessment of adaptation needs, the monitoring and evaluation of adaptation strategies and the assessment of losses and damages, especially at the national level.
- Promote space research and technology development and transfer especially towards developing countries (technical advisory support, knowledge management and capacity-building)
- Strengthen international cooperation to enhance the use of space technologies and applications for systematic observations, mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage and global stock take;
- Advocate for open access to space-based data to contribute to planning and implementation of measures targeting mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage;
- Support development of integrated approaches, optimizing the value of space-based data, for the goals and targets of the three global agreements (Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development Goals)

Thereby the following cross-cutting requirements have been defined and are addressed:

- Improve integrated space applications approaches and interoperability of space-based systems and ground/in situ systems
- Provide requirements to new developers for coverage in geographical areas not sufficiently monitored or applications that need further development
- Resiliency and long-term sustainability of space-based systems, including protection of critical infrastructures

As a way to shape the Space2030 Agenda through the UNISPACE+50 process, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs will be conducting an international conference in Bonn, Germany, from November 22 to 24, 2017 that will address the use of space research and 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 further key recommendations that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should incorporate in its deliberations to shape this Space2030 Agenda. In a similar fashion, the Office will be conducting the United Nations/United Arab Emirates - High Level Forum: Space as a Driver for Socio-Economic Sustainable Development, which will take place from November 6 to 9 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, where all the thematic priorities will be discussed, including their interactions and interconnections.

Distinguished Delegates, the Office remains committed to align its programmes and mandates with the Paris climate change agreement and promoting Space research and technological development; 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.