



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Fifty-seventh Session
of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS

Agenda Item 4:

General Exchange of views

Vienna, 3 February 2020

Madam Chair,

Austria would like to congratulate you to your appointment as Chairperson of the 57th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. We would also like to thank Ms. Pontsho Maruping of South Africa for her excellent leadership in the two previous sessions.

Furthermore, we warmly welcome COPUOS's three newest members – the Dominican Republic, Rwanda, and Singapore, which raises the membership total to an impressive 95. Gaining 25 new members in the last decade alone does show the increasing interest in space matters and the importance being placed on UNCOPUOS as a platform for international cooperation in regard of the peaceful uses of outer space.

A wonderful showpiece for successful cooperation in COPUOS was our consensus on the 21 LTS-Guidelines and the Preamble, after nine years of negotiations and deliberations, in June 2019. Austria highly welcomes the adoption of these 21 guidelines – and even though they are voluntary, Austria aims to fulfil them to the highest extent possible. We are currently finishing our in-depth examination and evaluation regarding the implementation of these guidelines at a national level.

Motivated by our strong interest in the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, Austria has always been an advocate of the newly established LTS-working group 2.0 and we appreciate the various proposals regarding the way forward for the group. We hope that the working group will quickly reach an agreement on the administrative questions – in particular pertaining to the chairmanship – so substantial, content-related discussions can start as soon as possible. We look forward to actively contributing in the working group, to elaborate on the implementation of the existing guidelines, to compile best-practice information and to adapt and create new guidelines in the face of emerging and ever-changing challenges in the space sector.

2019 also saw the very first edition of the World Space Forum, a networking platform, designed to bring together all actors in space, including NGOs as well as industries and individuals from the private sector. UNOOSA and the Austrian Ministries for Transport

and for Foreign Affairs proudly hosted the event last November under the overall theme of "Access to Space4all". The Forum offered technical sessions with experts, panel discussions with decision-makers from governments, space agencies, companies, young experts and other stakeholders, a poster session and 2 technical tours with an exclusive program at the Planetarium and a visit to RUAG Space Austria, our largest domestic supplier for space related products and market leader in navigation receivers and thermal insulation for satellites.

There was broad consensus among the 300 forum-participants from 66 nations, that outer space needs to be monitored and managed properly and international cooperation is needed to ensure a long-term sustainable space environment. A conference room paper summarizing the World Space Forum is available soon and there will be a technical presentation during tomorrow's morning session on this topic.

I have the great honor to announce that the World Space Forum will return to Vienna in 2021 and that it will be subsequently hosted by Austria every other year for the near future.

Madame Chair,

Another area of great importance to Austria is the creation of the "Space 2030" Agenda. We believe that the Agenda and its implementation plan present a unique opportunity to shape international cooperation in outer space activities for the next decades and to chart the future role of the Committee and its Subcommittees. In our view, it is important to elaborate clear objectives and goals that guide our future work as well as practicable measures for the implementation of the Agenda.

Austria highly appreciates the work of the Bureau of the Working Group in developing a Draft "Space2030" Agenda and implementation plan, based on input provided by Member States. We are of the opinion that the current draft forms an extremely solid

basis for our deliberations, which should allow us to finalize the Agenda and its implementation plan this year.

The Draft Agenda addresses crucial topics to ensure the sustainable and peaceful use of outer space in the future. From our point of view, it is therefore important that the Agenda aims at contributing to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities as well as at addressing current challenges in the space area, such as the increasing congestion of the outer space environment due to the growing number of space activities and space debris. We would like to reiterate again, that these issues demand a multilateral approach and need to be addressed at the international level. Austria wholeheartedly supports the emphasis placed on the strengthened international cooperation in fulfilling the "Space2030" Agenda among Member States, and with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as with industry and private sector entities.

The strengthening of the Committee and its Subcommittees as the prime international forum for multilateral cooperation in the space area as well as for the development of international norms and standards regulating space activities is also of central importance to Austria. We therefore consider global governance of outer space activities as an essential element of the "Space2030" Agenda.

The "Space 2030" Agenda also informed the program of last year's silver jubilee edition of our traditional UN/Austria Symposium from 2-4 September in Graz, titled "Space: a Tool for Accessibility, Diplomacy and Cooperation".

This year's Symposium is again planned for early September. An organizing meeting to discuss the content is scheduled for 10 February in Room C 431 from 1-3 pm. Details regarding the Symposium in Graz will be made available in due time.

Madame Chair,

Austria appreciates the activities of the Committee related to Near-Earth Objects (NEOs) as well as the work of the "International Asteroid Warning Network" (IAWN) and the "Space Mission Planning Advisory Group" (SMPAG), which we believe enhance international cooperation in the field of planetary defense, and we therefore highly welcome that the next IAA Planetary Defense Conference will be hosted by UNOOSA and will take place in Vienna from 26 to 30 April 2021.

Austria has become a member of SMPAG in 2017 and is particularly involved in the work item "Consequences, including failure, of NEO mitigation space missions". In addition, Austria also contributes to the SMPAG Ad-hoc Working Group on Legal Issues.

Madame Chair,

On 19 December 2019 two satellites with Austrian collaboration and technology were successfully launched on a Soyuz-Fregat rocket from Kourou: CHEOPS and OPS-SAT. CHEOPS is an exoplanet mission, with the Space Research Institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences as an important partner.

OPS-SAT is an innovative small technology satellite, demonstrating new operational concepts and facilitating a variety of hardware and software experiments in Space. OPS-SAT is owned and operated by ESA's Space Operations Centre (ESOC). Its development was led by the Graz University of Technology, with partners from Austria, Denmark, Germany and Poland.

The two Austrian BRITE satellites (BRITE-Austria/TUGSAT-1 and UniBRITE) – which are part of the BRITE Constellation – will celebrate their 7th year in orbit on 25 February and they are still delivering excellent scientific results on asteroseismology.

Concerning the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the Austrian Space Applications Programme, we can report that all 220 analyzed project proposals contribute to the implementation of the 17 SDGs. Projects in the area of satellite based

earth observation and navigation address in particular the following goals: SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 13 Climate Action and SDG 15 Life on land.

Another area of high importance to Austria is the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, better known as UNSPIDER. Austria is in the middle of reassessing and restructuring our engagement within and our contribution to this very useful and extremely important project. We are hopeful to report back to you soon on this topic with new information and further details.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the successful series of Diplomatic Space Breakfasts will be continued at the Permanent Mission of Austria through 2020. The next lecture is planned for the second half of February. Invitations will be sent out soon.

Thank you for your attention.