

Space for SDGs

Space4Climate Action

Space technologies as enabler for climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience

“THE CLIMATE CRISIS IS THE MULTILATERAL CHALLENGE OF OUR AGE. SOLVING IT REQUIRES COORDINATION AND COOPERATION ON A SCALE WE HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.”

- ANTONIO GUTERRES -

Date & time: 14.07.2021 at 07:30 (ET) 90 min

Venue: Virtual

Registration Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/5q6bC7Mfy3>

1. Background

Climate change has serious impacts on the world's population, agriculture, water security, disaster risks, biodiversity, food security, habitat loss and much more. The importance for adaptation and climate change mitigation is increasingly recognized worldwide. Therefore, the need to use all available assets and to develop new ones to meet this global challenge is also growing.



Space based technologies provide added value to the way our planet is perceived and provide unique information that greatly assist in the understanding and management of climate change. More than half of the Essential Climate Variables (ECVs) defined by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) depend on space observations, making space assets the key elements in providing observations and data that are global, uniform, sustained over years and repeated regularly. Beyond their role in climate science, space-based technologies play a significant role in climate action. They support decision-making and trigger policies to achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.



The climate crisis shows the inconsistencies and contradictions of the system we live in, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the world builds back better, it is imperative to maximize both the direct and indirect contribution that a strong space sector can make to tackle climate challenges.

However, space assets are underutilised and access to space benefits remains unequal. To close this capabilities gap, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs supports a more inclusive and diverse space sector that opens up possibilities for early development and scaling up of space activities.

The strong UN footprint in Austria in combination with the aim of fostering cooperation and joint action led Austria to propose the topic “Space4Climate Action” for this year’s World Space Forum. The World Space Forum will take place from 6 to 9 December 2021 in Vienna at the Vienna International Centre with the objective to initiate concrete actions that secure the well-being for all on a healthy and prosperous planet.



2. Programme

The side event serves a first step into the World Space Forum. It will review how space capabilities can support climate action and how UNOOSA can provide a platform to create synergies in increasing the use of space technologies.

Additionally, the “Space for Climate Action” is part of UNOOSA’s series of events *Space for the Great Reset*, inspired by the World Economic Forum Initiative, which considers the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to identify and act on those priorities, such as climate action, that will bring forward sustainability and improve the state of the world.

Participants will learn about practicable solutions and explore concrete actions for the coherent implementation of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda.

3. The speakers will answer the following questions:

- Which concrete space-related initiatives exist already and are successful at global, regional and local levels to accelerate climate action and achieve the SDGs? What needs to be done to increase the use of space applications for climate action with a strong focus on bringing a real benefit to people’s lives and livelihoods?
- How best can the United Nations benefit from space-based solutions in implementing its climate action mandates and where is need for improvement?
- How can UNOOSA and its partners further improve targeted capacity-building aiming at scaling up the use of space assets in climate action?

AGENDA

Time	Speaker & Topic
07:30	Welcome
	Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo Director, UNOOSA
	Ms. Kathy A. Hibbard Climate Scientist, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
	Ms. Masami Onoda Director of Japanese Space Agency (JAXA) Washington DC Office
	Ms. Susmita Mohanty (TBC) CEO, Earth2Orbit
	Mr. Carlos Roberto de Jesús Duarte Muñoz Coordinator General de Formacion de Capital Humano, Mexican Space Agency (AEM)
	Mr. Clement Albergel Climate Applications Scientist, European Space Agency (ESA)
	Ms. Margit Mischkulnig Head of Department, Austrian Ministry for Climate Action
08:40	Moderated Panel Discussion and Q&A

[Join us](#) for this virtual event dedicated to the use of space applications for climate action with a strong focus on bringing a real benefit to people’s lives and livelihoods

