



Bonn Declaration

Adopted at the United Nations / Germany International Conference on “International Cooperation towards Low-Emission, Resilient Societies”; Bonn, Germany, on 24 November 2017.

Expressing their appreciation to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Government of Germany for having organized the international conference with the generous support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, the German Aerospace Center, and the City of Bonn;

Emphasizing the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50), to be commemorated in 2018, which will be an opportunity for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Sub Committees to develop a road map for enhanced resiliency of space-based systems and the affiliation of existing and future Earth observation, global navigation satellite system and telecommunication to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change;

Noting with interest the declarations stemming of the Summits of Heads of Space Agencies on Climate Change in 2015 and 2016, and the efforts conducted by the Space community under the umbrella of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) regarding the implementation of the Strategy Towards an Architecture for Climate Monitoring from Space;

Highlighting the proposal made by the National Centre for Space Studies of France (CNES) to launch the Space Climate Observatory during the upcoming One Planet Summit to be conducted in Paris, France, on 12 December 2017;

Emphasizing the contributions made by the Space community to contribute to climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development through improved terrestrial, oceanic and atmospheric observation, satellite telecommunications and global navigation satellite systems;

Recalling the recent outcomes of the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for all Parties to move further, faster, together to achieve the goals of the

Paris Agreement on Climate Change; noting that climate action is not only about reducing emissions and increasing adaptive capacities, but a strong contribution to sustainable development and building resilience to humanitarian crisis such as drought and other hydro-meteorological hazards;

Taking note of the recommendations stemming from the high-level fora, international conferences, symposia, and expert meetings conducted by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and several Member States to contribute to the UNISPACE+50 process;

Seriously concerned about the devastating impact of disasters and desirous of enhancing international coordination and cooperation at the global level to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and to contribute to efforts regarding adaptation to climate change as stipulated in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change through greater access to and use of space-based services and geospatial information for all countries and facilitating capacity-building and institutional strengthening, in particular in developing countries;

Equally concerned about the degradation of the environment and the services it provides, the degradation of the oceans and coastal areas and determined to protect the planet from further degradation, including through sustainable management of natural resources and the restoration of the oceans and the environment, as contemplated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Recalling that the transition to a low carbon, resource-efficient economy demands a fundamental shift in technology, energy, economics, finance and ultimately society;

Convinced that space science and technology and their applications, including satellite communications, Earth observation systems and global navigation satellite systems provide indispensable tools for viable long-term solutions for sustainable development and can contribute more effectively to efforts to promote the development of all countries and regions of the world;

Emphasizing the role that the research community has played in contributing to an improved understanding of the dynamic processes that take place in the planet; the effects of humanity on the environment, including its oceans and natural resources, and the need for additional research for an effective and progressive response to the urgent threats of climate change and natural hazards using the best available scientific knowledge;

Taking note of the requests for the use of satellite technologies in the Sendai Framework to improve the understanding of disaster risks and to contribute the systematic observations of the climate as recognized by the Parties to the Climate Change Convention;

Being aware of the long-term, systematic approach that the space community has implemented through CEOS, CGMS and the World Meteorological Organization to contribute to track the climate in the atmosphere and the Essential Climate Variables that characterize the climate worldwide;

Taking note of the recommendation from the 2017 High Level Forum held in Dubai from 6 to 9 November 2017 regarding the establishment of a Global Space Partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as an essential and comprehensive coordination mechanism to facilitate the optimal service delivery of existing space assets and to foster partnerships for developing innovative systems and solutions.

The participants to the International Conference:

1. Agree that UNISPACE+50 is a milestone opportunity to further demonstrate the broad societal benefits of space as an area of innovation, inspiration, interconnectedness, integration and investment, and to strengthen unified efforts at all levels and among all relevant stakeholders of the space sector in addressing the overarching long-term development concerns of society with concrete deliverables

pertaining to the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Paris Agreement;

2. Recognize the usefulness of the establishment of the Global Space Partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change;
 3. Stress the importance of full and open access to space-derived data and partnerships for the development of open online search engines, towards increased discovery and use of data, information, products and services;
 4. Emphasize the usefulness of a systematic, integrated, and long-term approach by CEOS, CGMS and WMO and other relevant groups and organizations to contribute to long-term observations of the climate;
 5. Call on the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to work with the Space community and relevant partners to develop robust solutions for disaster risk reduction building on the pilot efforts of CEOS and UN-SPIDER;
 6. Call on the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to continue to work with the Space community and relevant partners to steer efforts regarding the combined and complementary use of terrestrial, oceanic and atmospheric observation, global navigation satellite systems, telecommunication constellations, technology, and ground/aquatic/atmosphere/in-situ systems for mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
 7. Encourage the private sector to contribute to these efforts, in the ways it considers best according to its objectives;
 8. Call for the national and international donor communities and financing institutions to contribute to these initiatives by allocating resources to facilitate their implementation, with a focus on developing countries;
 9. Call on the research community to contribute to develop applications geared to enhance the combined and complementary use of terrestrial, oceanic and atmospheric observation, global navigation satellite systems, telecommunication constellations and ground/aquatic/atmosphere/in-situ systems for disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change;
 10. Call on the Member States, the United Nations system, space agencies, the research and education community, the private sector and non-government organizations to enhance the knowledge and skills of those stakeholder in countries in charge of the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Paris Agreement on the use of space technology applications and ground/aquatic/atmosphere/in-situ data as a way to contribute to disaster risk reduction, mitigation and adaptation to climate change and sustainable development;
 11. Call on the World Meteorological Organization, other relevant United Nations entities, the Group on Earth Observations, and other relevant organizations, to facilitate together the identification of relevant satellite data and information as a way to respond to the demand for such data and information from stakeholders, particularly from developing countries, for the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the Paris agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
 12. Request that the Office for Outer Space Affairs present this Declaration to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 2018.
-