

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-third session (virtual meeting)  
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**Discussion on “Exploring space technologies for sustainable development and  
the benefits of international research collaboration in this context”**

Statement submitted by

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**COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Session - Virtual Informal Meeting**

**STATEMENT BY AUSTRIA**

**Discussion on “Exploring space technologies for sustainable development and the benefits of international research collaboration in this context”**

*(check against delivery)*

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

As this is the first time Austria is taking the floor during this virtual informal meeting of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), we would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing this meeting under these extraordinary circumstances. The work of this Commission is all the more relevant in light of recent development around the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year’s priority theme on “Exploring space technologies for sustainable development and the benefits of international research collaboration in this context” is of particular relevance to Austria.

Austria actively supports multilateral space cooperation within the UN since 1957. Our priorities are the following: We contribute to developing international space

law in the rapidly changing context. We support international cooperation in using space for sustainable development, in particular in the area of disaster management. Moreover, we encourage cooperation and partnerships by hosting longstanding symposia and conferences.

At the Vienna-based *United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space*, Member States currently negotiate and hopefully conclude in 2020 the “*Space 2030*” agenda. This agenda develops an ambitious implementation plan following four overarching objectives. Member States may wish to consider taking part in the discussions of the *Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space* and consider the “*Space 2030*” agenda and its implementation plan, when developing its space activities. This agenda lists a number of existing international and regional mechanisms, programs, projects and platforms, already in place or being developed to foster the use of space technologies for sustainable development.

Within the United Nations, the *Office for Outer Space Affairs* is the unique platform for international cooperation in the peaceful use and exploration of outer space, including the utilisation of space science and technology for sustainable economic and social development. The *Commission (CSTD)* is encouraged to use to the maximum extent this existing expertise within the United Nations system, when taking action in the area of space activities.

In concluding, Chairperson, please allow me to inform you that together with the *Office of Outer Space Affairs*, Austria developed the *World Space Forum*, a new conference series with the aim to open up the UN dialogue with different stakeholders in space. In November last year, the first *World Space Forum* took

place and we will start shortly the preparation of the *World Space Forum* in 2021, again in Vienna. Dialogue and information sharing is essential to improve the understanding of the concrete possibilities of use of space technologies.

Let me reiterate Austria's continued support of international cooperation in the peaceful and sustainable exploration and use of outer space. We look forward to the discussion today and thank all participants for their active engagement.

Thank you.