



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - New York



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

Invitation: Side Event at the 74th UN General Assembly
23 September 2019

Bringing the benefits of space to everyone, everywhere: the UN working with the private space sector

On the occasion of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, the above-noted co-sponsors would like to extend a warm invitation for you to join us for an unprecedented event showcasing how the UN is building exciting partnerships with the private space sector to bring the benefits of space to everyone, everywhere.

Last year, the international community celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first UN Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Encapsulating the foresight of world leaders who, half a century ago, came together at the UN to chart the course for a new chapter of human exploration, the anniversary underscored how much the space arena still demands cooperation among nations.

Today, after 50 years of the UN system supporting new approaches to civil and commercial space activities, space continues to be the example of how far humanity can go, when we go together.

International cooperation in space continues to deliver unparalleled advances in technology and innovation that will take us from the Earth to low Earth orbit to the Moon, Mars and beyond. As the UN, through the UN Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), adapts to this rapidly evolving sector, partnership with the private space sector is playing an increasingly important role as we work together to bring the benefits of space to everyone, everywhere.

The Governments of Italy, Zambia and the United States are proud to partner with UNOOSA to underscore the achievements made since the dawn of the space age and, as we look to the future of space, how the UN is uniquely positioned to work with the global space sector for the benefit of all humankind.

We are witnessing unprecedented levels of interest in space, with record levels of political and economic capital being invested in the space environment. The total number of active satellites will soon surpass 2,200 and with satellite mega-constellations becoming a reality new level of downstream activities are being unlocked. With countries establishing national space agencies - and commercial space activities continuing to expand – the UN must be at its most agile and innovative to keep pace with such a rapidly evolving sector.

The Event

At UNGA we will bring together leading political and private sector leaders from the space arena with CEOs from leading private space entities joining Member State and UN representatives for a discussion on how the UN can work with the private space sector as part of a rapidly evolving sector.

Showcasing the existing partnerships that the UNOOSA has established, the event will illustrate how UN-private sector collaboration is enhancing the UN's efforts to promote the responsible and sustainable use of the space environment in its work to bring the benefits of space to everyone, everywhere.

Space: supporting sustainable development

Space-based information has become crucial to well-informed, effective policymaking. A 2018 study to quantify the impact of space on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) found that 40%, or 65 out of 169 targets, underpinning the 17 Goals benefit through access to the information and data provided by geo-location and earth observation satellites. With the inclusion of telecommunication satellites, this statistic rises considerably.

Space is a great driver for economic returns and growth as through innovation and R&D. Space science and exploration have historically been a source of inspiration, hence kickstarting space sector in developing countries motivates young people to pursue STEM education and benefit also other industrial sectors, contributing to the advancement of relevant knowledge and skills as envisioned in *SDG 4 "Quality Education"*.

Additionally, in recent years we have seen an increasing interest of private investors in the sector. In 2017 alone, a record of 120 venture capital firms made combined investments of almost \$4 billion. This transformative potential of space is therefore of great relevance to *SDG 8 "Decent Work and Economic Growth"*, and *SDG 9 "Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure"*.

Space infrastructure is also a crucial asset for *SDG 13 "Climate action"*, as many aspects of the natural world can only be monitored and measured from space. Satellites have the unique potential for observing systematically and globally 31 of the 50 Essential Climate Variables (ECVs) identified by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS).

Event details and RSVP

Location: **United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 7 (CR-7)**
46th St & 1st Ave New York, NY 10017

Date: 23 September 2019 from 6.30 pm to 8 pm.

RSVP: To self-register for the event and secure access please click [here](#).

Agenda

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| 6:30 – 6:35pm | Welcome remarks by moderator |
| 6:35 – 6:50pm | Opening remarks by co-sponsors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senior Representative from the Government of Italy (tbc)• Senior Representative from the Government of Zambia (tbc)• Senior Representative from the Government of the United States (tbc) • Director of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, Simonetta Di Pippo |
| 6:50 – 7:30pm | Statements and moderated panel discussion with Private Sector Representatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avio International, CEO Giulio Ranzo• Virgin Galactic, CEO George Whiteside• Maxar Technologies, Vice President Mike Gold• Airbus, Vice President (tbc) |
| 7:30 – 7:50pm | Interactive discussion with audience |
| 7:50 – 8:00pm | Closing remarks |