

World Space Week Association

Theme for 2018

In 1999, the World Community, during UNISPACE III, decided to set up the celebration of the space activity every where in the world during a week, from 4 to 10 October, year after year. In 2000, the COPUOS approved the proposal of World Space Week Association to support the United Nations in the implementation of this decision.

Every year a new theme has been proposed to the United Nations countries to celebrate space as listed below:

2017	(Final title to be completed)
2016	Remote Sensing: Enabling our Future
2015	Discovery
2014	Space guiding your way
2013	Exploring Mars, Discovering Earth
2012	Space for Human Safety and Security
2011	50 Years of Human Spaceflight
2010	Mysteries of the Cosmos
2009	Space for Education
2008	Exploring the Universe
2007	50 Years in Space
2006	Space for Saving Lives
2005	Discovery and Imagination
2004	Space for Sustainable Development
2003	Space: Horizon Beyond Earth
2002	Space and Daily Life
2001	Inspiration from Space
2000	Launching the Space Millennium

More or less, we have decided themes in alternance to our planet and discovery of the Universe.

In 2018, UNISPACE+50, (50 years after the first United Nations space conference of 1968) will be held in Vienna. UNISPACE 82 and UNISPACE III were dedicated to the evolution of space and its place in our lives. It has been also turned to the needs of developing countries and how can space help for the development of social and economic purposes. The proposed WSW theme for 2018 can address the objectives of 5 of the 7 seven thematic priorities agreed by COPUOS for the UNISPACE+50 celebration (Doc. A/71/20 (2016), Par. 296).

The objectives of World Space Week are to increase awareness among decision makers and the public at large of the benefits of the peaceful uses of space and to support the work of the United Nations. It is appropriate to come back to the main purpose of this particular week. At the early years after UNISPACE III, we have selected a theme focused on how space affects the daily lives of people the world over. More than 15 years after, it will be interesting to see how space applications in telecommunication, television, PNT (Positioning, Navigation and Timing) and Earth observation have changed our lives, in particular in developing countries, some of which are now space fairing countries, and to inspire people to look at what future developments would bring as benefits. It is also important to mention the main role of WSW which is to help young people and students to pay attention to sciences and mathematics.

It is why I propose to turn again our regards to these issues. The title should be, partly in reference to the theme of 2002 :

"Future of Space, Education and Daily Life"

This theme should be particularly included in the general frame of UNISPACE+50.

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