

World Space Week Symposium

By General Assembly resolution 54/68, the General Assembly established World Space Week to celebrate the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition.

World Space Week is the world's largest annual space-related event. It builds the workforce of the future by inspiring students, demonstrating visible public support for the space programme, educating the public about space activities, and promoting international cooperation in space awareness and education. In 2018, more than 5,000 events were held in more than 80 countries to celebrate World Space Week.

The World Space Week Board of Directors, in close coordination with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, selects a theme for each year. The theme provides broad guidance to World Space Week participants in the content of their programmes. The theme is chosen to increase the impact of World Space Week on humanity as a whole by using a unified global theme

Space and Climate Change

This year's theme is "Space and Climate Change", celebrating the importance of space technology and its significant impact on our ongoing fight against climate change, while emphasizing the role that space exploration plays in enhancing our understanding and management of the Earth's climate

This year's World Space Week activities aim to promote innovative environmental solutions, including educational workshops, interactive sessions, discussions and collaborative projects to promote innovative environmental solutions

Background information

On 4 October 1957, the first man-made satellite (Sputnik 1) was launched into outer space, opening the door to space exploration. On 12 April 1961, Soviet Yuri Gagarin became the first human to orbit the Earth, opening a new chapter in human adventures in outer space. On 10 October 1967, the Magna Carta on Space, the fundamental instrument of international space law formally known as the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (annexed to resolution 2222 (XXI)), entered into force. Space science, technology and applications are increasingly being used to support a wide range of United Nations activities. At least 25 United Nations entities and the World Bank Group routinely use space applications. They make important, and sometimes essential, contributions to the work of the United Nations, including in implementing the recommendations of major world conferences and UNISPACE III, in efforts towards sustainable development. As a result, coordination, cooperation and collaboration within the United Nations system are essential for the effective implementation of these

activities by the United Nations system. The annual sessions of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities are the principal means of achieving this synergy. The effectiveness of the meeting has been enhanced by the holding, since 2004, of an informal open session immediately following the meeting, as a means of engaging Member States in a direct and informal forum on important space-related developments in the United Nations system. The agenda of the Inter-Agency Meeting is reviewed during each session and adapted to current operational needs.

The United Nations and Space

From the very beginnings of the space age, the United Nations has recognized that outer space has added a new dimension to the existence of humanity. The United Nations family continues its relentless pursuit of utilizing the unique advantages of outer space for the betterment of all humanity. The General Assembly adopted resolution 1348 (XII), entitled “Question of the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space”, its first resolution on space, recognizing the interest of all mankind in outer space, and strongly encouraged the exploration and full exploitation of outer space for the benefit of mankind. On 10 October 1967, the “Magna Carta on Space”, the basic instrument of international space law, formally known as the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, entered into force. Today, the United Nations Office for

Outer Space Affairs is responsible for building capacity in international space law, providing a platform for the exchange of information on space law and its application and promotion. In addition, the Office undertakes technical tasks related to international space law, including maintaining the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space, collecting and disseminating information on the status of the United Nations treaties on outer space, promoting the treaties, and implementing proactive and innovative measures to promote and effectively apply international space law for the benefit of all actors, including international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.