



25 years [Vienna International Centre](#)



## United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

### SPACE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) moved to Vienna in 1993 from the United Nations headquarters in New York. Initially created as a small expert unit within the Secretariat to service the ad hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space established by the General Assembly in 1958, the Office became a unit within the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs in 1962, when the permanent Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space met for the first time, and was transformed into the Outer Space Affairs Division of that Department in 1968. In 1992, the Division became the Office for Outer Space Affairs within the Department for Political Affairs.

The Office implements the decisions of the General Assembly and of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Subcommittees: the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee. The Office is responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space for social and economic development, particularly for the benefit of developing countries.

The Office implements the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, which assists Member States, in particular developing countries, in sharing the benefits of space science and technology and their application to economic and social development. Within the framework of the Programme, the Office organizes training courses, workshops, seminars and other activities to increase awareness of space benefits and to strengthen the capacity of developing countries in space applications in areas such as remote sensing, satellite communications, satellite meteorology, basic space science, satellite navigation and space law. Since its inception in 1971, the Programme has organized, among other activities, about 200 training courses, workshops and conferences attended by more than 10,000 participants. The Office also carries out pilot projects on various space applications as a follow-up to workshops and training courses.

On behalf of the Secretary-General, the Office maintains the Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space and disseminates information contained therein. As part of its technical assistance in the area of international space law, the Office provides a searchable index to the Status of United Nations Treaties Governing Activities in Outer Space, which is now available online. The Office prepares and distributes reports, studies and publications on various fields of space science and technology and their application, as well as on international space law.

The Office provided the substantive secretariat for the three United Nations Conferences on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE), which were held in Vienna in 1968, 1982 and 1999. The Office now supports and participates in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

The Office has two sections: the Space Applications Section, which carries out the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, and the Committee Services and Research Section, which provides substantive secretariat services to the Committee, its two subcommittees and their subsidiary bodies.

The Office has a multinational staff, and has been headed by Mr. Sergio Camacho-Lara of Mexico since July 2002.

**Office for Outer Space Affairs**

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