

Statement of the Director of UNOOSA to the GEO XII Ministerial

Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo

delivered by Luc St-Pierre

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Distinguished Ministers, colleagues,

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) is the Secretariat of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and a Participating Organisation of GEO. COPUOS, at its fifty-eighth session last June, endorsed the plan of work of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 2018 (“UNISPACE+50”).

UNISPACE+50 will be an important milestone, which will take stock of the contributions of the three UNISPACE conferences to global space governance as well as consider the current status and chart the future role of the Committee at a time when actors, both governmental and non-governmental, are increasingly carrying out space activities.

A Steering Committee for the preparations for “UNISPACE+50” was established and comprises the members of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, the chairs of the working groups of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and the Director of UNOOSA.

Near-term upcoming activities for UNISPACE+50 include:

- ✓ The Committee and its Subcommittee should, in 2016, define the thematic priorities of UNISPACE+50, taking into account the cross-cutting areas of governance of outer space activities, capacity-building, resiliency, interoperability, and Space for sustainable development;
- ✓ The Committee and its Subcommittee should also discuss the outcomes of summits held in 2015 (WCDRR, SD Summit, COP21) with a view to considering synergies with the overall work of the Committee and in the lead up to UNISPACE+50; and
- ✓ The Office has started the preparations for the UN-Space Report by the Secretary-General on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system for the period 2016-2017 on the theme of contributions of the UN system to global space governance.

In the context of “UNISPACE+50”, UNOOSA will make continuous efforts under the themes of space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy. A series of UNOOSA-led High-level Forum, starting with the first meeting of the Steering Committee UNISPACE+50 on “Space as a driver for socio-economic sustainable development” this week in Vienna, will also include a conference in UAE in 2016.

GEO Members and the GEO Secretariat are warmly invited to contribute and participate to the process leading to UNISPACE+50 on common areas of interest that we look forward exploring.

Thank you.