

**Remarks by Acting UNOOSA Director Niklas Hedman at the
Handover Ceremony of the G-77 Vienna Chapter
Thursday, 26 January 2023, 10:30 a.m.
CR-1, C-Building, 2nd floor**

Your excellencies, dear distinguished Ambassadors Farhane and Khokher, distinguished delegates of the G77,

During my 17 years serving as Secretary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), and in my last 10 months serving as Acting Director of UNOOSA, I've been impressed by the professionalism, engagement, and support received, from G77 countries.

Through COPUOS, G77 members have played leading roles in the development of the global governance of outer space activities. This legal framework underpins the safe and sustainable use of outer space, which as we all know, is necessary for sustainable development here on Earth. For those of you looking at developing spaceports, operating satellites in orbit, and establishing industrial hubs, UNOOSA is ready to provide guidance to all nations on establishing robust national legislation that implements the rights and obligations under international space law.

Excellencies,

My UNOOSA team and I are passionate about bringing the benefits of space to the G-77 because space is not science fiction; nations can

and should use space technology every day. From the GPS in your car; internet banking; monitoring of illegal fishing and climate change, tele-medicine and education in remote areas, precision farming, and disaster management... the G-77 can always do more to leverage space. And it's not just countries that need to incorporate space-based applications into their domestic strategies; from the examples I've just given, it's clear that space intersects with the work of all the Vienna-based international organizations.

The 2023 UN General Assembly Summit on the SDGs will be an important milestone for the international community. With over 20 projects and programmes addressing 15 of the 17 SDGs, UNOOSA is committed to helping Member States achieve their Sustainable Development Goals and implement the landmark 2021 resolution, the *"Space2030" Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development.*" We think COPUOS could, again, provide an important contribution to the political declaration. Leading up to the Summit, UNOOSA will also launch the *Space Solutions Compendium*, which is an online database of national and international Space4SDGs projects, which can support your capacity-building requirements.

Finally, with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS due to take place from February 6-17, my team and I stand ready to discuss your priorities for outer space. And if you're not aware, COPUOS is the fastest-growing UN intergovernmental forum. From the

original 24 Member States in 1959, at the height of the space race, to 102 today, space is rising up the international agenda. If your country is not already a member of COPUOS, we can share information on how to join. We all need space, and space needs you. Please come and join the journey.

Thank you.