

25th Anniversary of the G-77 Vienna Chapter

31 May 2023, 13:15, Boardroom C

Statement by Niklas Hedman

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Your excellencies, dear distinguished Ambassador Khokher, distinguished delegates of the G77,

I would like to start by joining others in congratulating you, the distinguished members of the G77, on the 25th Anniversary of your Vienna Chapter.

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, and as mentioned in your statement this morning, 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, UNOOSA is 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... all Member States can do more to leverage space, *and* make the benefits of space accessible to ordinary citizens.

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.*"

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.

Finally, with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) taking place from 31 May (today) to 9 June in Boardroom D, my team and I stand ready discuss your outer space priorities. Thank you.