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English only

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
Legal Subcommittee  
Fifty-sixth session  
Vienna, 27 March-7 April 2017

## **Gender equality and the empowerment of women: contribution by the Office for Outer Space Affairs**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

1. The purpose of this conference room paper is to outline the work and plans of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in the field of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and to provide information about the International Gender Champions Initiative, which has recently been extended to Vienna. This action, and the Initiative, were made in response to continuous joint efforts by Member States and the Organization aimed at strengthening of the work in the field of gender equality and empowerment of women.
2. The Office for Outer Space Affairs has a sound history of contribution into the one of the top priorities for the work of the United Nations, namely, furthering the goal of gender equality and women's empowerment within the policies and programmes of the United Nations system.
3. This contribution is being built up through — to mention a few — mainstreaming gender-related practices in the Office's policies and daily operations; active participation in the relevant work and activities of the United Nations Office at Vienna; active participation and contribution of the Director of the Office in various forums and initiatives, being pursued to achieve the goals of gender equality and women's empowerment at the international level.
4. These activities have been conducted in line with, and taking into account of, the work, the strategies, and the policies of the Organization and its Secretary-General; the United Nations Office at Vienna; the United Nations Interagency collaboration on the advancement of women and gender equality; the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).
5. In its above-explained work, the Office also takes due attention and action regarding the *Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls* of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The Office is developing the basis for the "Space for Women"- Project in support of the implementation of the UNISPACE+50 Thematic Priority on "Capacity-building for the 21st Century" as well as addressing Sustainable Development Goal 5.
6. In order to consolidate this existing knowledge, create partnerships and elaborate targeted capacity-building activities as well as aligning capacity-building



with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and addressing new arising thematic areas with the general goal to deliver outputs for the ‘Space for Women Project’, UNOOSA will be organizing a “Space for Women Expert Meeting” in New York 4-6 October 2017, in collaboration with UN Women.

7. Among recent actions in the field is joining of the Director of the Office to the International Gender Champions Initiative (<http://genderchampions.com>). This is a milestone event, as the Initiative is now officially being extended to Vienna — another cornerstone hub that hosts the United Nations family representatives, and many other international organizations.

8. The International Gender Champions Initiative is a leadership network that brings together female and male decision makers who commit to promote gender equality. All gender champions commit to strive for gender balance. The participation of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in this network should enrich the Office’s actions aimed at reaching its goals of gender equality and women’s empowerment within the policies and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as to promote and better conduct the Office’s “Space for Women”- Project.

9. Further, the Director of the Office took part in the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 13 to 24 March 2017. Representatives of Member States, United Nations entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world attended the session (<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw61-2017#sthash.GM1UgiTC.dpuf>). The Priority theme of the session was “Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work”, and the Review theme was “Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session)”. The Director of the Office affirmatively endorses the conclusions of the session, and is intended to implement them in the plans and operations of the Office. For information of the delegations, an advanced unedited version of the agreed conclusions, entitled “Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work”, is available at [http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/61/csw61\\_agreed\\_conclusions\\_advance\\_unedited\\_version\\_24\\_march\\_2017.pdf?vs=3358](http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/61/csw61_agreed_conclusions_advance_unedited_version_24_march_2017.pdf?vs=3358).

10. The Director of the Office intends to continue to appraise the Committee and its Subcommittees on the issue.

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