



12 February 2018

Dear Ms. Tilmans,

Exploration and Development of Space Opportunities and Issues in the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals, 27 – 28 March 2018, Castel Gandolfo, Italy

As Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), allow me to bring to your attention UNISPACE+50, the first United Nations Global Space Summit of the 21st Century, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The UNISPACE+50 high-level segment will bring together all State Members of the United Nations to set the future course of global space cooperation for the benefit of humankind. Our goal is to build, together with all stakeholders, a comprehensive Space2030 agenda to examine the contribution of space activities toward the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, addressing overarching, long-term development concerns, based on the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space.

In preparation for this exceptional gathering it is my great pleasure to invite you to participate in a joint UNOOSA / Holy See Seminar on ‘Exploration and Development of Space Opportunities and Issues in the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals’ to be held in Castel Gandolfo from 27 to 28 March 2018. The main goal of this collaborative initiative is to progress together with representatives of the Holy See and selected experts from different fields towards the United Nations Global Space Summit in June 2018.

We are delighted to invite you to participate and to provide inputs to a collective seminar outcome document, as a contribution of the Holy See towards UNISPACE+50. The event will be held in a seminar style, following selected keynote presentations, the 30–35 participants will have a focused discussion on the topics of:

- 1) Session 1: Space, Climate Change and Disaster Management
- 2) Session 2: Space and Sustainable Development Goals
- 3) Session 3: Space and Humanitarian Aid
- 4) Session 4: Space as a Tool for Diplomacy and Peace

Together with the Holy See we have selected these key areas of discussion which we hope will lead to a substantive contribution towards UNISPACE+50.

Ms. Dominique Tilmans
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By the kind invitation of the Holy See we have been invited to conduct the seminar at the headquarters of the Specola Vaticana (Vatican Observatory) within the Papal summer gardens in Castel Gandolfo. Please note, that all participants are responsible for making their own travel and hotel arrangements. Please also be informed that adequate health insurance is the responsibility of each seminar participant.

We are very much looking forward to receiving your confirmation of participation **by 07.02.2018**. For further information, please see the attached draft programme. If you do have any further inquiries, as well as for confirmation of your participation, please contact Mr. Markus Woltran of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs at (markus.woltran@unoosa.org).

In the meantime, you are advised to check with the Consulate or Embassy of Italy in your country for obtaining a visa as soon as possible. It is very important that you **check if any transit visa is required en route to Italy**. Please also check the validity of your passport.

We look forward to working with you towards a productive and successful Seminar in Castel Gandolfo.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Di Pippo'.

Simonetta Di Pippo
Director

Office for Outer Space Affairs