

24 June 2024

English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Sixty-seventh session
Vienna, 19–28 June 2024
Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
Space and sustainable development

**Promoting the Role of Women in Space For the Benefit
of All**

Submitted by Canada

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* [A/AC.105/L.337](#).



Promoting the Role of Women in Space For the Benefit of All

1. Gender equality is the foundation for a more peaceful and prosperous world. Canada has a long-standing commitment to achieve gender equality in all areas of society. One of the means of accomplishing this goal is through the practice of gender mainstreaming, which ensures that activities and programs are designed in a way that considers gender perspectives in order to increase the representation of women and to create enabling environments where women can thrive. Canada wishes to elevate awareness of the important work being spearheaded by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs through the Space4Women programme and its role in advancing Goals 4 and 5 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This is aligned with the broader United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda that seeks to promote women's leadership and empower women economically.
2. From 30 October to 3 November 2023 the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Government of Canada jointly hosted the Space for Women Expert Meeting on the theme "Building capacity to promote and advance gender equality in the space sector". The full report from the meeting was tabled during the 61st session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1309). The Expert Meeting built on the results of the previous meetings and brought together experts from governmental institutions, such as national space agencies and ministries, and representatives from the private sector, civil society, universities, research institutions and international organizations. The event was attended by a total of 69 participants from 36 member States.
3. The 2023 Expert Meeting focused on building the capacity of participants to promote and advance gender equality and empower women and girls in the space sector. Women play a significant role in areas directly affected by space-related activities, including, inter alia, disaster management and response, agriculture and food security, and water resources management. Participants contributed lived experiences directly to the preparation of the first ever gender mainstreaming toolkit for the space sector, which can be found here: www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/oosadoc/data/documents/2024/stspace/stspace92_0.html. The toolkit recognizes that not all situations are the same and thus aims to provide a series of simple and voluntary practical measures, supported by concrete examples being implemented by Member States, that stakeholders can use to adapt gender mainstreaming concepts to their own work.
4. Diversity is our strength. The knowledge, experiences, and participation of diverse groups of people, including women and girls, will help maximize the innovation potential of space while preserving its peaceful uses. To ensure a more equitable future, we urgently need women and girls of all backgrounds to help seize the opportunities created by the rapidly evolving space economy. The benefits of such efforts will be reaped by all COPOUS Member States and will help us collectively maximize the benefits of our space-related activities, including in vital support of efforts to realize the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, gender mainstreaming and the contributions of the toolkit are not theoretical but can provide a real-life difference for women and girls in the space sector and beyond.
5. Canada views the Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit as a starting point for an ongoing international dialogue on gender equality in the space sector. In the future, we welcome the expansion of the Toolkit by the addition of new examples, practical measures, and tools that could be key outcomes driven by the expertise and diverse insights from future Space for Women Expert Meetings.