

United Nations



Nations Unies

COSPAR SYMPOSIUM

Important Notice

Non-Delegates

In order to attend the Symposium, please register by submitting your name to the Office for Outer Space Affairs in advance and present this invitation together with an appropriate identification document at the entrance of the Vienna International Centre.

Co-ordination by the

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**PLANETARY PROTECTION AND
SPACE EXPLORATION**

**Monday 14th February 2011
15:00 -18:00**

Conference Room M1, Building M, Vienna International Centre

Space operations beyond Earth orbit will soon include private parties, as well as sovereign states. With this new phase in the use of Outer Space, there will be new challenges in maintaining the provisions of Article IX of the Space Treaty to avoid “harmful contamination” of the Moon and other celestial bodies. Since 1963, COSPAR has maintained a policy to protect other bodies from biological contamination from Earth, and to protect the Earth from potential introductions of biological agents from space that might have an “adverse” effect on the Earth's biosphere.

As an essential step in preserving science opportunities elsewhere, and protecting our home planet, this policy is of interest for its own sake. As an example of a policy that is adapting to the changing face of space exploration, however, the COSPAR policy can also be appreciated as part of the changing face of environmental protection in outer space, which will have to protect scientific and other resources more generally in the future. This symposium will examine these changes and the challenges of space environmental protection anticipated for future consideration by the UN.

**On the occasion of the Forty-eighth session of the
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

Monday, 14 February 2010

Chair

Dr. John D. Rummel (COSPAR)

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|-------|--|-------|---|
| 15:00 | <p><i>Planetary protection overview: the role of COSPAR in international missions</i>
Speaker: John Rummel, Chair, Panel on Planetary Protection, COSPAR, and East Carolina University, North Carolina, USA.</p> | 17:20 | <p><i>We lost Pluto? Future steps in preserving planets, satellites and small solar systems bodies</i>
Speaker: John Rummel, Chair, Panel on Planetary Protection.</p> |
| 15:20 | <p><i>Mars lives? A planet worth protecting, either way</i>
Speaker: Charles Cockell, The Open University, United Kingdom.</p> | 17:40 | <p>Discussion and summary of the symposium</p> |
| 15:50 | <p><i>The international Mars exploration program and current planetary protection measures</i>
Speaker: Gerhard Kminek, European Space Agency, The Netherlands.</p> | | |
| 16:20 | <p><i>Outer planet satellites as potential crucibles for life: extraterrestrial and terrestrial</i>
Speaker: Kevin Hand, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California, USA.</p> | | |
| 16:50 | <p><i>Planetary protection beyond the living world: the role of COSPAR in future exploration missions and in preserving and promoting science</i>
Speaker: Pascale Ehrenfreund, Chair, Panel on Exploration, COSPAR, and George Washington University, USA.</p> | | |