

COSPAR The Mission

The Mission of COSPAR is to assemble a worldwide community of scientists who are dedicated to international cooperation in space research and who through COSPAR will:

- Share the results of their research and build bonds and encourage collaborations with scientists from around the world, and by doing so enhance their own career development.
- Participate in exerting influence on the conduct of space research, communicating to the public the exciting results from space research, and extending the benefits of space research to society.
- Engage with and benefit from the interaction with science-based global industry who are interested in the application of scientific discovery to real world challenges and opportunities.
- Support engagement with the UN Office of Outer Space Affairs on projects of mutual interest such as planetary protection, space weather, and space debris.
- Support efforts to enable space programs under development to reach their full potential, thereby spreading the benefits of space research to all nations.
- Support the developed space programs through opportunities for direct interactions with space agency leaders, essential guidance on planetary protection requirements, and advice on future missions.



Scientists from all nations are encouraged to join with COSPAR in pursuit of our Mission, adhering to our Principles, and engaging with us in the important task of striving to maintain space as a peaceful domain where cooperation is encouraged, competition is discouraged, and conflict is avoided.

COSPAR has a Plan to achieve our Mission, described on the reverse page. Please join with us so that together we can pursue the exploration and use of space in peace for enlightenment from scientific knowledge and for the essential benefits available for the economic and societal wellbeing of all humanity.

Len Fisk
President of COSPAR

COSPAR The Principles

The Principles that COSPAR adheres to in pursuit of its Mission are:

- COSPAR promotes scientific research in space at an international level, with emphasis on the exchange of results, information, and opinions, and provides a forum, open to all scientists.
- COSPAR endeavors to ensure that a vibrant international space research effort can be conducted without impediment from geopolitical tensions or differences.
- COSPAR requires that presentations at its meetings and publications in its journals are the result of scientific research that was conducted with the highest ethical standards.
- COSPAR discloses any financial support that might be perceived as influencing its activities or positions it might advocate.
- COSPAR promotes diversity and gender equality in all of its activities, and will not tolerate any form of discrimination or harassment.
- COSPAR encourages meaningful roles in all activities for younger scientists, who are the future of international space research.

The COSPAR Strategic Action Plan for 2019-2023

Beginning in the Fall of 2018 COSPAR undertook a thorough examination of how best to accomplish its Mission on behalf of its constituents and stakeholders. The following Strategic Action Plan, which resulted from this examination, directs a series of actions by the leaders and volunteers of COSPAR that will in fact and in perception establish COSPAR's unique importance for each of its constituents and stakeholders. The Plan, which is summarized below, contains detailed actions for each constituent and stakeholder, all of which are in compliance with the Principles of COSPAR.

Constituents & Stakeholders	Actions
<p>The Members of COSPAR, the National Scientific Institutions of 45 nations and 13 International Scientific Unions.</p>	<p>The action is to make a concerted effort to clarify, enhance and expound on the value of being a Member of COSPAR, for the status it brings and the opportunities it offers.</p>
<p>The COSPAR Associates The main constituent of COSPAR is the 10,000 scientists, the COSPAR Associates, who participate in COSPAR activities, and for whom COSPAR provides career enhancing opportunities for pursuing their research, exerting their influence and serving their communities. The COSPAR activities of most value to the COSPAR Associates are the biennial Scientific Assemblies, the COSPAR publications, and the various means by which COSPAR communicates, influences and engages.</p>	<p>The Scientific Assemblies: The Strategic Action Plan includes detailed actions for increasing the attractiveness of Scientific Assemblies, streamlining the programs, supporting gender equality, and in particular, supporting the participation of younger Associates.</p> <p>Publications: The main COSPAR journals are <i>Advances in Space Research</i> and <i>Life Science in Space Research</i>. The actions are to achieve even greater importance for these journals, while adjusting if need be to ongoing changes in the publication industry.</p> <p>Communications: The action is to initiate an electronic version of <i>Space Research Today</i>, <i>eSRT</i>, the periodic publications by which COSPAR communicates with COSPAR Associates. <i>eSRT</i> will appear monthly and be distributed to all COSPAR Associates, in order to build a cohesive, well-informed COSPAR community.</p> <p>Influence: The action is to develop a comprehensive strategy whereby COSPAR can exert influence by engaging with space agency leaders, taking positions, making statements and issuing reports that influence space agencies or the planning processes that determine the programs of space agencies.</p> <p>Engagement: The action is to engage with the social sciences and humanities to fulfill COSPAR's responsibilities to bring the benefits of space to society, including formation of a new Panel on Space for the Benefit of Society.</p>
<p>The COSPAR Associated Supporters, the public and private organizations wishing to support COSPAR Activities.</p>	<p>The action is to reconstitute the COSPAR Associated Supporter program to encourage strategic engagement with science-based global industry, and to recognize and obtain meaningful support from those industries that benefit from this engagement, including formation of a new Panel on Innovative Solutions to address new technologies and approaches for scientific research.</p>
<p>The UN Office of Outer Space Affairs. COSPAR has had a fundamental role, during the past 60 years, in the work of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space (COPUOS), providing scientific advice for many COPUOS activities.</p>	<p>The actions are to continue the core mandate of COSPAR to maintain and promulgate a Planetary Protection Policy that guides compliance with Article IX of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 and to increase our activities with UNOOSA on space weather and space debris.</p>
<p>Nations with developing space programs. COSPAR is the only international scientific organization that considers its mandate to encourage and where possible enable developing space programs to reach their full potential.</p>	<p>The actions are to continue the important Capacity Building Workshop (CBW) and companion Fellowship programs and to set up a network of the more than 1,000 Alumni of the CBWs.</p>
<p>Nations with developed space programs.</p>	<p>Many of COSPAR's activities are in direct support of the developed space programs, and the Strategic Action Plan, fully executed, will significantly enhance this support.</p>