

## **UNOOSA Space4Women Activities in 2021**

UNOOSA Space4Women is an initiative pushing toward an inclusive, diverse, and equal space sector by facilitating access to space education, careers, and benefits for women and girls, everywhere. Following weeks of preparation, UNOOSA Space4Women ran a succession of virtual events starting in early February 2021. The Office for Outer Space Affairs recently started introducing and spotlighting its programmes and projects through an open 'brown bag lunch' series, offering an opportunity to learn about the UNOOSA workstreams and activities and the UN's key role in space multilateralism. UNOOSA Space4Women showcased on February 10, where Programme Officer Markus Woltran walked the audience through the initiative's purpose and past, present, and future Space4Women activities.

The United Nations-proclaimed annual celebration of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science was a day later. UNOOSA Space4Women celebrated February 11 by hosting the yearly Expert Meeting titled "Making Space4Women in the Decade of Action." The Expert Meeting unfolded over two days. Day one was open to the general public and had 187 registrants. Following the inaugural opening of the event by UNOOSA Simonetta Di Pippo, mentors and invited attendees alike engaged and discussed a range of themes, including measures and actions to address gender equality in recruitment and retention in STEM and gender implications of rapid and emerging space technologies.

Day two was open and dedicated to the 35 Space4Women mentors only, where sessions were divided across two timeslots to accommodate mentors' global distribution over several time zones. Consultation sessions and mentor discussions covered the design of best practices for space technologies and programs that incorporate women's contributions and diverse sources of knowledge systems and the development of meaningful metrics and indicators for assessing gender equality in space and STEM.

Looking ahead in 2021, UNOOSA Space4Women activities will continue. The application process to be in the second cohort of Space4Women mentors is now coming to a close, after which the selection process will commence. Check out the recently released UNOOSA Space4Women flyer [here](#) for more information.