

**UN GA 75 DIALOGUE – ASTRONOMY: A UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL TOOL
FOR FURTHERING THE SDGS AND STIMULATING A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE¹**
*Organised under auspices of AERAP ScienceDigital@UNGA75 by the
International Astronomical Union European Regional Office of Astronomy for Development²*
28 September 2020 14.00 – 16.00 CEST Programme

14.00 – 14.05 *Welcome. Purpose of Dialogue*

14.05 – 14.15 *Keynote address (Prerecorded)*

[Naledi Pandor](#) Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa and Honorary Professor of Astronomy for Development at Leiden University, the Netherlands

14.15 – 14.25 *Messages*

[Barry Andrews](#) MEP European Parliamentary Delegation for Relations with South Africa (Prerecorded)

[Declan Kirrane](#), Coordinator, EU Africa Radio Astronomy Platform

14.25 – 14.30 *First 2 children's videos*

14.30 – 14.40 *Astronomy for Development*

[Kevin Govender](#) Director, International Astronomical Union Office of Astronomy for Development, Cape Town, South Africa

14.40– 14.50 *The Pale Blue Dot Project*

[Michelle Willebrands](#) Project, Manager, International Astronomical Union European Regional Office of Astronomy for Development, Leiden University, The Netherlands

14.50 – 14.55 *Second 2 children's videos*

14.55 – 15.05 *Educational Materials for Pale Blue Dot*

[Cecilia Scorza](#) Coordinator for public outreach and school contacts, Faculty of Physics, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany

15.05 – 15.15 *Early Childhood Education and Economics of Human Development*

[Orla Doyle](#) Associate Professor of Economics, University College Dublin, Ireland

15.15 – 15.25 *Astronomy education for global citizenship in Indonesia*

[Premana Premadi](#) Professor of Astrophysics from ITB and supervisor of Bosscha Observatory, Institute of Technology, Bandung, Indonesia

15.25 – 15.30 *Third 2 children's videos*

15.30 – 15.40 *UNESCO Global Citizen Education Programme and Astronomy*

[Lydia Ruprecht](#) Global Citizenship Education Team Leader, UNESCO

15.40 – 16.00 *Discussion moderated by*

[Pedro Russo](#) Professor of Astronomy and Society, Leiden University, The Netherlands

16.00 – 16.05 *Closing words*

[Ewine van Dishoeck](#) President, International Astronomical Union and Professor of Molecular Astrophysics, Leiden University, The Netherlands

Chair [George Miley](#) Emeritus Professor of Astronomy, Leiden University, The Netherlands

¹ Funded with partial support of Grant 483.20.005 from NWO, the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research

² Partnership between the European Astronomical Society and Leiden University

RATIONALE

Astronomy is an effective tool for international development because it combines fundamental science and cutting-edge technology with culture and inspiration. Using astronomy to advance the SDGs is the pioneering mission of the International Astronomical Union's Office of Astronomy for Development in Cape Town (OAD) and its network of 11 regional offices throughout the world. The IAU European Regional Office of Astronomy for Development in partnership with the OAD is holding an online official UN GA75 Dialogue on 28 September 2020, as part of the United Nations 75th anniversary celebrations.

The Dialogue will focus on the unique contribution of the inspirational power of astronomy to advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Particular attention will be paid to how stimulating a cosmic perspective from a young age can contribute to a child's global consciousness and foster universal solidarity. Such an approach to education is particularly important in the light of the several global threats that face our planet, including pandemics, ethnic conflicts, nuclear war and racism. During the Dialogue, we hope to include short, inspirational videos featuring children from many countries speaking about how they view the world and what the stars and the iconic "pale blue dot" means to them. The Dialogue will conclude with a discussion about further actions of how the cosmic perspective can be incorporated into national educational curricula.

Highlights will be a prerecorded keynote address by Naledi Pandor, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa and a message by Barry Andrews MEP, European Parliamentary Delegation for Relations with South Africa.