

Ми всі українці
We are all Ukrainians

07/03/2022

We, scientists, engineers, citizens, men and women involved in the scientific space sector are all deeply concerned by the military aggression of Russia launched on Ukraine on February 24.

Today, this senseless war launched by Russia is attacking Ukraine's infrastructure, industry, culture. Universities, houses, factories, nuclear power plants, public buildings are bombed. The UNO condemned this barbaric aggression on March 2 in the General Assembly by a historic vote of 143 countries against 5 and 35 abstentions. The scientific community reacted with messages from national institutions and academies of science in many countries to exclude Russia from any form of institutional scientific collaboration as long as the aggression continues.

The scientific assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) will be held in July 2022 in Athens. COSPAR is since its creation in 1960 a privileged meeting place for space agencies to build their scientific exploration programs in all relevant fields. During the cold war, it was the place of exchanges between Western and Soviet agencies that allowed to found strong links between scientists of all countries. The general assembly of COSPAR includes, in addition to scientific communications in space research, a meeting of the COSPAR Council which is an institutional body of international consultation.

Today the war engaged by Russia is an unprecedented act in the history of COSPAR against the democracies of the world, and it is the duty of our community to react by taking exceptional measures.

The signatories call on the President of COSPAR to take the following measures in order to safeguard the spirit of the COSPAR statutes, which have been violated by the barbarity of a war started by Russia, which has thereby placed itself on the fringes of the nations. They demand:

- 1) that COSPAR take an unambiguous position by designating the Russian aggressor as responsible for a criminal war, which places Russia in default of the COSPAR statutes.
- 2) to suspend any official Russia's participation in the COSPAR Council meetings scheduled for July 16 and 24 in Athens, as well as any invitation to Russia's **institutions** for this meeting.
- 3) to organize a public debate on Ukraine and support for it during the General Assembly, for example instead of the banquet planned for the COSPAR Council on July 21.

Letter proposed to the signature of all the men and women of good will of the world space sector written by Pierre Drossart (Institute of Astrophysics of Paris) and Philippe Zarka (Observatoire de Paris)

To join the signatories, enter a comment on the page :

<https://sites.lesia.obspm.fr/pierre-drossart/support-to-ukraine-at-cospar-2022/>