

Div. C/ Commission C2 WG

Communicating Climate Change Through Astronomy

CHAIR

Canas, Lina

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Blumenthal, Kelly (Junior Member)

Canas, Lina

Dalgleish, Hannah (Junior Member)

Milli, Julien

Pommier, Mamta

Rector, Travis

Waller, William

WORKING GROUP ASSOCIATES

Filipecki Martins, Suzana

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by Lina Canas, Chair

0. Description

The study of astronomy provides all citizens with a unique perspective and view of the Universe that highlights the fragility of Earth's biosphere. Additionally, through comparative studies of planetary atmospheres, astronomers can model and measure the impact of greenhouse gasses and their consequences on climate and climate change on planets.[1]

Following the IAU call on the international astronomy community to develop and implement specific actions to help achieve the aims of the 2016 Paris Agreement [2] on climate change, the OAO and Commission C2 want to strongly encourage and support teaching and communicating about the Earth's climate and the consequences of human activity, and we want to urge our national and individual members to address climate change in connection with their scientific, educational, outreach, and other societal activities.

With this C2 Working Group, we want to identify and bring together under Commission C2 the IAU members that wish to contribute with their expertise on climate change awareness by helping to identify resources for astronomers/communicators, that are willing to give talks to the general public (via Meet the IAU Astronomers! programme) and create presentations and give training to fellow astronomers.

[\[1\] IAU Statement on Climate Change](#)

[\[2\] Paris Agreement](#)

1. Activities of IAU Commission C2 During 2022-2023

The Communicating Climate Change through Astronomy WG proposal was accepted and the WG is now formally created.

The WG activities will formally start in September 2023.

In 2022, the focus of the WG was to (1) identify and increase membership in the working group from the IAU membership as a whole; (2) identify and gather sample resources to kickstart the first meet-ups of the WG and (3) establishing a network of collaboration outside the IAU with other advocate institutions.

In close collaboration with the IAU Office for Astronomy Outreach, the working group will collaborate on a series of trainings based in the science of science communication and strategic science communication specifically designed for Communicating Climate Change. These will also provide training on the foundations of effective communication through relationship-building and strategic thinking and will follow the format of other CAPtrainings initiated by the OAO in 2022.