



Vision & Goals for Asteroids2029 and the International Year of Asteroid Awareness and Planetary Defence 2029

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About the International Year of Asteroid Awareness and Planetary Defence 2029 and Asteroids2029

The International Year of Asteroid Awareness and Planetary Defence 2029 was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2024 with Resolution [79/86](#) in order to take advantage of the unique occasion of the close approach of asteroid (99942) Apophis with the Earth in 2029. Asteroids2029 is a global peer-led initiative to amplify the scope and reach of the UN-declared International Year. The initiative is composed of experts from and supported by a broad network of organisations spanning aerospace, science and education, bringing together institutions, scientists, educators, communicators, and citizens to promote asteroid awareness, planetary defence and international collaboration in safeguarding our shared planet.

Asteroids are time capsules from the dawn of the Solar System — scientifically priceless, hazardous when they strike Earth, and possibly vital to humanity's future in space. They are the leftover building blocks of our Solar System, relics from the time when planets were forming more than 4.5 billion years ago. Studying them gives scientists a direct look into the ingredients and conditions that shaped Earth and its neighbours. Many asteroids contain primitive materials like metals, carbon compounds, and water-bearing minerals that tell the story of how life's essential elements were distributed through space.

On 13 April 2029, an asteroid called Apophis will pass so close to Earth that the asteroid will be visible to the naked eye under dark conditions, and pass just below the altitude of the geostationary satellites. The ~350-m-sized asteroid will not hit Earth; however, this event — the first of its kind in recorded history — presents a unique opportunity for a worldwide campaign to raise awareness about asteroids, the potential risks they can pose, the collaborative international efforts to mitigate asteroid impact risks, and elevate global preparedness in case of a future potential impact. Space agencies from around the globe plan to send several robotic spacecraft to greet Apophis before, during, and after the asteroid's close encounter with the Earth to learn more about Apophis and other asteroids.

Asteroids2029 will catalyse a worldwide campaign to raise awareness regarding asteroids and to highlight collaborative efforts being undertaken by the [United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space](#) (COPUOS), the International Asteroid Warning Network ([IAWN](#)), the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group ([SMPAG](#)), facilitated by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs ([UNOOSA](#)), and space agencies and observatories around the world to mitigate the potential risk posed by possible impacts on the Earth by asteroids.

Vision Statement for Asteroids2029

Asteroids2029 aspires to unite people around the world in a shared understanding of asteroids and their relevance for understanding the formation of our Solar System, raise awareness of planetary defence as a collective responsibility, and highlight the power of international cooperation in protecting our planet. Through education, engagement, and collaboration across cultures, disciplines, and nations, Asteroids2029 aims to empower worldwide communities to recognise that safeguarding Earth from asteroid impact risks is a global endeavour — one that connects science, society, and our shared future.

Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives of Asteroids2029 can be summarized in three pillars: asteroid awareness, planetary defence and international collaboration.

1. Increase worldwide public awareness and understanding of asteroids, using Apophis' unique Earth close encounter as a catalyst.

- a. Inspire broad global awareness of the nature and characteristics of asteroids and comets through local, regional, national and international activities.
- b. Use the close approach of asteroid Apophis as a shared global moment to connect people with the science of near-Earth objects.
- c. Share information about the ground- and space-based telescopes finding and characterizing asteroids, as well as *in-situ* spacecraft missions to asteroids.
- d. Bring asteroid science into public spaces — museums, science centres, libraries, and community venues — to reach people beyond traditional STEM audiences.
- e. Promote meaningful public participation in asteroid discovery and observation, including widespread access to sky-observing opportunities.
- f. Honor and include Indigenous and traditional sky knowledge to foster dialogue between global cultural heritage and modern planetary science.
- g. Engage children and young people globally with asteroids to stimulate a long-term increase in student enrolment in the fields of science and technology and an appreciation for lifelong learning.
- h. Reach a broad range of global audiences and connect 1 billion people through coordinated international storytelling and media efforts using as many ways of communicating as possible.

2. Raise public understanding on a global scale about the risks asteroid impacts can pose to Earth and what is being done to mitigate those risks across the globe.

- a. Strengthen public literacy about planetary defence, including how impact risks are assessed and the scientific process that leads to new understandings of impact risks and how to mitigate them.
- b. Improve global understanding of asteroid impact hazards through clear, transparent, and accessible communication, and through local, regional, national

- and international activities.
- c. Increase the awareness of the international community's past, present, and future efforts related to planetary defence.
- d. Provide interactive tools and narratives that help people explore asteroid impact risks and mitigation strategies in an understandable and engaging way.
- e. Integrate planetary defence more fully into disaster management and risk reduction frameworks.
- f. Encourage the development of technical solutions towards asteroid impact mitigation.

3. Expand ongoing efforts and showcase best practices for international collaboration for asteroid awareness and planetary defence.

- a. Increase awareness of the ongoing international collaborations at the United Nations related to asteroids and planetary defence, including the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), the International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN), and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG).
- b. Strengthen and expand participation of governments, space agencies, and other stakeholders in existing global networks for asteroid risk preparedness and response.
- c. Inform a broad range of global audiences about the work space agencies and observatories are doing with asteroids and share news and information about ground- and space-based observatories.
- d. Promote capacity-building activities to empower astronomers and planetary defence communities in emerging and developing countries by engaging them in international collaborations.
- e. Connect amateur astronomers, educators, planetary defenders, scientists, and communication professionals through local, regional, national and international activities.
- f. Engage global communities, governments, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations to collaboratively elevate global preparedness for asteroid impact risks.

Evaluation

The extent to which Asteroids2029 achieves its vision, goals, and objectives will be evaluated by qualitative and quantitative analysis of data collected after the completion of activities at the national, regional and global level, following established procedures for the evaluation of international years¹. Per Resolution [79/8](#), the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat will inform the General Assembly at its eighty-fifth session regarding the implementation of Resolution [79/8](#), including an evaluation of the International Year. See the [Asteroids2029 Evaluation Plan](#) for further information.

¹ <https://docs.un.org/en/E/RES/1980/67>