

## The IAU today and tomorrow (No 1726)

🕒 11:00 - 11:30 🗨️ Plenary talk 🔗 Plenary 6

[Ewine Van Dishoeck](#)<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Leiden University

In 2019, the International Astronomical Union (IAU), the organization of all professional astronomers worldwide, commemorates its foundation a century ago. This is an opportunity to celebrate more broadly the progress in astronomy over the past hundred years and what our field has brought to society, but also to look ahead and reflect critically on IAU's role for decades to come. Looking back, scientific and technological progress in astronomy has been beyond anything imagined at the time the IAU was constituted in 1919. What will the next hundred years bring? How do we engage with other sciences, now that our field is becoming more multidisciplinary? How do we convince governments and agencies to continue funding our field, in particular the ever more powerful telescopes? And how do we inspire and involve people worldwide, from young to old, in our exciting adventure through space? This talk will present some highlights of the past century as well as a forward look how the IAU is positioned to carry out its

mission: to promote and safeguard astronomy in all its aspects (including research, communication, education and development) through international cooperation