

Distinguished delegates, distinguished Chair

As it is the first time that the Space and Global Health Network is taking the floor in this session, I would like to congratulate you for your appointment and your able leadership during the session.

The Space and Global Health Network aim is to promote effective collaboration on space and global health issues among Member States and United Nations system entities, in particular the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as well as international organizations and relevant actors.

The SGH Network is hosted and supported in its activities by the Geneva Digital Health Hub, based at the University of Geneva in Switzerland.

On behalf of the coordinator of the Space and Global Health Network, I am glad to report the 2023 activities and to present the activity plan for this year including the discussions that happened on the margins of the sixty-first session of the Subcommittee.

More than 50 participants attended the Space and Global Health Network meetings, including participants from both the space and the health sector and international organizations.

Participants acknowledged the successful 2023 activities of the Network which included the Official Signing Ceremony of the Space and Global Health Network in the margin of the Sixty-sixth session of COPUOS and the UN/WHO International Conference on Space and Global Health which took place in Geneva in November 2023.

The main goal was to start the preparation of a medium/long term plan of work and advance on the implementation of the recommendations of the General Assembly Resolution 77/120 and of the United Nations/World Health Organization International Conference on Space and Global Health (A/AC.105/1306).

The overarching objective of the 2024 activity plan is to raise awareness on the Space and Global Health Network mission and activities and to engage with new stakeholders sharing similar interest to to promote better collaboration between Space and Global Health.

The discussions were articulated around 3 main areas:

1. Design of a curriculum on space and global health.
2. Identification and description of space-based essential health variables (S-EHVs).
3. Organizational and technical Interoperability in the field of space and global health.

Regarding the first area, additional efforts to identify existing materials and gaps are needed in order to create novel material for a curriculum on Space and Global Health. Participants discussed several use cases to drive capacity-building and awareness-raising efforts.

Second, it was discussed that the identification and description of space-based essential health variables (S-EHVs) could serve as a basis for requirements for new satellites. The work on those variables was found relevant for the creation of the curriculum and coordination efforts will be needed.

Third, participants recognized the need to advance further in terms of organizational and technical interoperability. Two pathways were identified to advance on this topic, first on the need to identify data frameworks, data types, sources and standards and second one to leverage existing work within the United Nations in the field of interoperability.

Importantly, discussion happened on the methods of work and the potential creation of dedicated task forces devoted to those topics, noting the overlaps and synergies between them. The Space and Global Health Network will identify experts to join the dedicated task forces to work on the aforementioned objectives through calls for interest and other means.

The Space Global Health Network agreed to have their next meeting on the sideline of the sixty-seventh session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Other meetings will take place in conjunction with the upcoming events of the activity plan.

Finally, I invite delegations to disseminate the information concerning the activities of the Space and Global Network and to identify relevant institutions or experts to join the Network to support its overall mission.

Thank you for your kind attention and I wish you fruitful work for the rest of the session.