



# General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space  
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee  
Fifty-ninth session  
Vienna, 7–18 February 2022**

## **Draft report**

### **Annex III**

#### **Draft report of the Working Group on Space and Global Health**

1. In accordance with paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution [76/76](#), the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fifty-ninth session, reconvened its Working Group on Space and Global Health.
2. From 9 to 16 February 2022, the Working Group held four meetings, with Antoine Geissbühler (Switzerland) as Chair.
3. The Working Group had before it the documents listed in paragraph [...] of the report of the Subcommittee on its fifty-ninth session.
4. The Working Group noted that, in addition to the meetings that the Working Group had held with the benefit of interpretation services during the current session of the Subcommittee, the Chair and interested delegations had held scheduled informal consultations on 8 and 11 February 2022.
5. The Working Group recalled the following activities for 2022 under its multi-year workplan for the period 2019–2022, adopted by the Subcommittee at its fifty-sixth session, in 2019 ([A/AC.105/1202](#), annex III, appendix I, para. 9):
  - (a) Review and finalize the report of the Working Group to the Subcommittee, and review and finalize a draft resolution, to be considered for endorsement by the Committee with a view to its adoption by the General Assembly;
  - (b) Determine whether the workplan should be extended to cover potential future work. If the workplan is not extended, discontinue the Working Group.
6. The Working Group noted that the following two intersessional meetings were held to advance the work on the platform and to prepare the activities scheduled for the final year of the workplan of the Working Group:
  - (a) The first intersessional meeting, which took the form of a workshop on knowledge management and sharing, was held in an online format on 15 June 2021 and had the following objectives: to share existing practices and experiences in collaborative knowledge management in the domain of space and health, and to



present and discuss a set of usage scenarios to be implemented on the globally accessible space and global health platform;

(b) The second intersessional meeting, held on 1 December 2021, had the following objectives: to present and discuss the draft resolution on space and global health, to present the progress on the design of the globally accessible platform, and to discuss more specifically the proposed mechanism for facilitating the matching of stakeholders with similar interests.

7. At its 3rd meeting, on 11 February, the Working Group agreed on the following proposed actions to be taken by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee:

(a) Make “Space and global health” a permanent item on the agenda of the Subcommittee from 2023 onwards;

(b) Welcome the establishment of a dedicated, cooperative, globally accessible and multifaceted Space and Global Health Platform based in Geneva, to promote effective collaboration on space and global health issues among Member States and United Nations system entities, in particular the World Health Organization and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as well as international organizations and relevant actors, as proposed in conference room paper A/AC.105/C.1/2022/CRP.12;

(c) Welcome the establishment of a Space and Global Health Network led by a steering committee and chaired by a coordinator (see A/AC.105/C.1/2022/CRP.12), and decide to appoint Antoine Geissbühler as Coordinator;

(d) Invite the Space and Global Health Network to provide annual reports to the Subcommittee through its Coordinator;

(e) Decide that the work of the Space and Global Health Network should be facilitated by the Office for Outer Space Affairs within existing resources, in particular for scheduling meetings on the margins of the sessions of the Committee and its Subcommittees and publishing unedited, untranslated documents.

8. The Working Group considered the draft resolution on space and global health, contained in document [A/AC.105/C.1/L.402](#). On the basis of its deliberations held at informal and formal meetings of the Working Group during the session, as reflected in the revised version of the draft resolution, contained in A/AC.105/C.1/2022/CRP.21, the Working Group agreed to the amended text and the format of the draft resolution, as contained in the appendix to the present report of the Working Group, for endorsement by the Subcommittee and to be subsequently made available in a document in the six official languages of the United Nations for endorsement by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its sixty-fifth session, in 2022, with a view to its adoption by the General Assembly.

9. The Working Group considered its draft report on the work conducted under its multi-year workplan, as contained in document [A/AC.105/C.1/L.403](#), prepared by the Chair of the Working Group. The Working Group agreed to its final report, as a whole, to be entitled “Report of the Working Group on Space and Global Health on the work conducted under its multi-year workplan”, to be issued in the six official languages of the United Nations as document A/AC.105/C.1/121, for endorsement by the Subcommittee and submission to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its sixty-fifth session, in 2022.

10. The Working Group noted with appreciation the presentations on the recommender system for the globally accessible platform on space and global health, delivered in the context of the informal consultations by the representative of the University of Geneva, and the presentation entitled “Open educational resources in space and global health”, also delivered in the context of the informal consultations, by the representatives of the University of Koblenz-Landau and Saarland University, and noted that a workshop on open educational resources would be held on 27 April 2022.

11. The Working Group noted with appreciation that the contents of the web page of the Office for Outer Space Affairs dedicated to the work of the Working Group ([www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/copuos/stsc/gh/index.html](http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/copuos/stsc/gh/index.html)) had been continuously updated.
12. At its 4th meeting, on [...] February, the Working Group adopted the present report.

## Appendix

### Draft resolution on space and global health

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 51/122 of 13 December 1996, 54/68 of 6 December 1999, 59/2 of 20 October 2004, 66/71 of 9 December 2011, 69/85 of 5 December 2014, 70/1 of 25 September 2015, 71/90 of 6 December 2016, 73/91 of 7 December 2018 and 76/3 of 25 October 2021,

*Recalling also* the recommendations contained in the resolution entitled “The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development”, adopted by the third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,<sup>1</sup> in which participating States called for action to improve public health services by expanding and coordinating space-based services for telemedicine and for controlling infectious diseases,

*Recalling further* the fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50) and its thematic priority 5, on strengthened space cooperation for global health,

*Acknowledging* the importance of the contribution of space science and technology and their applications to efforts towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>2</sup> in particular Sustainable Development Goal 3, on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages, and conscious that the work done in the space health sector can contribute to sustainable development, especially with programmes aimed at enhancing the quality of life in various ways, including improving human health,

*Emphasizing* that overarching objective 2 of the “Space2030” Agenda,<sup>3</sup> to harness the potential of space to solve everyday challenges and leverage space-related innovation to improve the quality of life, could be attained by strengthening space-related cooperation in support of global health, by improving the use and application of space medicine, science and technology, innovations in the global health domain, cooperation and the sharing of information, including developing mechanisms to maintain the confidentiality of personal data and tools to improve research advancement and the timeliness and effectiveness of public health and health-care interventions, and by enhancing capacity-building in space medicine, science and technology,

*Convinced* of the importance, and recognizing the existing contributions, of space science, space technology and space applications to enhance space life sciences and digital health technologies, such as telehealth, telemedicine<sup>4</sup> and tele-epidemiology, for the prevention and control of diseases and global health issues, the promotion of human health, environmental health, animal health and food sourcing and supply, and the advancement of medical research and health practices, including the provision of health-care services to individuals and communities irrespective of geographical location as a means of promoting equitable, affordable and universal access to health for all,

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<sup>1</sup> *Report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 19–30 July 1999* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.I.3), chap. I, resolution 1.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>3</sup> Resolution 76/3.

<sup>4</sup> The term “telemedicine” is used broadly to refer to the use of telecommunications, satellite communications and information technology to provide clinical health care from a distance and includes many active and relevant subfields, such as tele-cardiology, tele-radiology, tele-ophthalmology, tele-oncology, tele-pharmacy, tele-surgery, tele-dermatology and other developing fields.

*Noting with concern* that among the gaps in the areas of telemedicine and telehealth are the limited uptake of digital technologies in public health systems and health care, as well as the lack of harmonized data-sharing standards among the various manufacturers of medical equipment,

*Noting with satisfaction* the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its subsidiary bodies and the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat in the area of space and global health, including in the framework of action team 6, on public health, established to implement the recommendations of the third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as well as the action team 6 follow-up initiative, the Expert Group on Space and Global Health, UNISPACE+50 thematic priority 5, on strengthened space cooperation for global health, and the Working Group on Space and Global Health of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee, and welcoming its report on the work conducted under its multi-year work plan,<sup>5</sup>

*Deeply concerned* about the devastating global effects of emerging infectious diseases and other emergencies with an impact on health, including the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, to the detriment of human life, society and development, and urging the international community to embrace a One Health approach by strengthening the role of space-based solutions, in particular telehealth, in monitoring, preparedness and response activities,

1. *Encourages* United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, Governments and the private sector to pursue effective coordination in all key space activities relevant to global health;

2. *Encourages* formalized cooperation between health authorities and space authorities at the domestic level, and welcomes existing cross-sectoral networks that foster the exchange of ideas between the space and health sectors;

3. *Encourages* Member States to establish a policy-enabled environment and governance mechanisms, with due consideration of legal and ethical issues, for removing barriers to the effective use of space-based technologies, including telemedicine solutions and other emerging technologies;

4. *Also encourages* Member States to promote open data-sharing policies and participatory approaches to developing and improving access to all geospatial information relevant to global health, including remote sensing and Earth observation data, whenever possible;

5. *Further encourages* Member States to enable organizational and technical interoperability and promote research and innovation activities to facilitate the development and implementation of space-based science and technology in the health sector;

6. *Urges* United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations to support the wider development of, equitable access to and application of space solutions for global health, public health, including epidemics and pandemics, emergencies that may have an impact on health, and the individual health needs of Member States, and encourages the implementation of a broader range of space solutions for sustainable development, including public-private partnerships;

7. *Encourages* Member States and participating entities to advance their efforts related to the geotagging of all assets relevant to health systems, including health information systems, and to make them available to further the attainment of health goals;

8. *Encourages* Member States to recognize the relevance of access to the space environment and space analogues<sup>6</sup> for health and life sciences research and

<sup>5</sup> A/AC.105/C.1/121.

<sup>6</sup> Space analogues include parabolic flights, bed rest studies and expeditions to Antarctica and other isolated, confined and extreme environments that simulate the space environment on Earth.

development, especially in the area of astronaut health for social and economic benefits on Earth;

9. *Also encourages* Member States to actively promote international cooperation in the field of space medicine on the basis of equal opportunities for all interested participants and in the interests of the further exploration of outer space by humankind, and to actively promote the creation of a scientific and technological base for further development and application in the interests of global health;

10. *Further encourages* Member States to conduct appropriate drills and exercises to benchmark their operational preparedness and response capacities and capabilities for the appropriate use of space technologies in responding to global health events;

11. *Welcomes* the establishment of a dedicated, cooperative, globally accessible, multifaceted platform based in Geneva to promote effective collaboration on space and global health issues among Member States, United Nations entities, other international organizations and relevant actors;

12. *Emphasizes* that all key activities, reference documents and plans relevant to space for global health carried out or prepared by United Nations entities should be monitored and compiled on an annual basis, including those of the World Health Organization, other international organizations and States members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as well as, to the extent possible, non-governmental organizations and other non-governmental actors, and also emphasizes that the resulting annual compilation of activities should serve as a reference to identify and discuss gaps and opportunities and should be shared broadly in an effort to raise awareness and promote cooperation among relevant actors in this domain;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of analysing and assessing the roles and interests of current actors in the domain of space and global health, with the aim of promoting synergy, complementarity, cooperation and coordination among all actors;

14. *Emphasizes* the need to enhance, in an equitable and sustainable manner, intersectoral coordination and cooperation for effective international, regional, national and subnational capacity-building activities relevant to the application of space science and technology in the field of global health;

15. *Encourages* Member States to engage learning institutions and other capacity-building mechanisms in motivating young health professionals, at an early stage, to acquire space-related skills and abilities;

16. *Agrees* to promote capacity-building events, to be organized by United Nations entities and other relevant actors, with the objective of further promoting awareness of and engagement with regard to the important contribution of space science and technology among actors applying One Health approaches, with a view to increasing the number of organizations and other actors in the health domain that are actively engaged in using space science and technology;

17. *Requests* the Office for Outer Space Affairs to strengthen, within existing resources, capacity-building and networking in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, through regional technical cooperation projects, and to support field projects for strengthening collaboration between the space and global health sectors as an efficient strategy for making better use of space science and technology for access to global health for beneficiary States and taking better advantage of opportunities offered by bilateral or multilateral collaboration;

18. *Encourages* Member States to foster linkages between academia, national experts, telecommunications regulatory authorities and science and technology authorities with a view to improving access to and the use of digital technologies and information systems in health care.