



EXTRACTS

**from Reports of the International Committee on Global
Navigation Satellite Systems and its Providers' Forum**

Background

At the fourth meeting of the Providers' Forum held in 2009 in conjunction with the fourth meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, it was agreed that the Providers' Forum would develop a document consolidating decisions and conclusions reflected in the reports of past meetings of the ICG and the Providers' Forum.

The ICG, established under the umbrella of the United Nations in 2005, is meeting annually to promote the enhancement of and universal access to space-based positioning, navigation and timing systems and their compatibility and interoperability.

The Providers' Forum, comprising the United States, the Russian Federation, the European Union, China, India, and Japan, was established in the second meeting of the ICG in 2007 in India. The Providers' Forum adopted its Terms of Reference and a work plan at the third meeting of the ICG in 2008 in the United States.

In compliance with the work plan of ICG, as adopted in the first meeting of the ICG organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in Vienna in 2006, the ICG organizes its work through four working groups focusing on (a) compatibility and interoperability; (b) enhancement of performance of GNSS services; (c) information dissemination and capacity building; and (d) reference frames, timing and applications.

To support the work of the ICG, the Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA) of the Secretariat of the United Nations was designated as the Executive Secretariat of the ICG.

The following conclusions and decisions are extracted from the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) documentation in the A/AC.105/ series on the meetings of the ICG that have been held since 2006. Documents are available in all official languages of the United Nations and can be downloaded from the ICG information portal at www.unoosa.org or directly at: <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/icg/icg.html>

The Terms of Reference of ICG and Providers' Forum, the Workplan of the Providers' Forum and the List of States Members of the United Nations and governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations participating in ICG are contained in annexes I through IV attached to this document. A template for sharing information between service providers and the list of the meetings of the ICG are contained in annexes V and VI. The list of the ICG publications – information material is contained in annex VII. The statement of the Providers' Forum concerning the ICG is contained in annex VIII. The summary of discussions concerning the “Future of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems” is contained in annex IX, and the Mission Statement and Vision Statement of the ICG are contained in annexes X and XI respectively.

1. Extracts from conclusions of the Providers' Forum meetings

1.1. Service provision from current and planned global navigation satellite systems

2007: [A/AC.105/901, chapter IV, para. 38]

Information exchanged at the Providers' Forum revealed that all current and future providers were committed to their plans to deploy and/or modernize their respective global and regional satellite navigation systems having the following important characteristics:

- a) Service to users was provided or would be provided from all systems in radiofrequency spectrum bands internationally allocated for radio-navigation satellite services (RNSS) in L-band (960-1300 MHz and 1559-1610 MHz). Two systems would also broadcast a navigation signal in S-band (2491.005 ± 8.25 MHz). The band 5000-5030 MHz could be used in the future by one or more systems;
- b) All systems were broadcasting or would broadcast an open service using one or more signals provided to users free of direct user charges;
- c) Many systems also broadcast authorized services specifically designed to meet the needs of authorized users in support of governmental functions.

2007: [A/AC.105/901, chapter IV, para. 39]

Participants in the Providers' Forum also agreed that:

- a) Transparency in the provision of open services was desirable and required the open publication and dissemination of signal and system characteristics, in due time, required to allow manufacturers to design and develop global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) receivers on a non-discriminatory basis;
- b) Discussions should emphasize that cooperation regarding global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) infrastructure (space and ground control/monitoring segments) for open services was desirable in order to permit open, free commercial competition in receiver and applications markets;
- c) System providers should strive to monitor the performance of their open signals and provide timely updates to users regarding critical performance characteristics such as timing accuracy, positioning accuracy and service availability;
- d) The protection of RNSS spectrum was vital to GNSS service provision. Therefore, adequate spectrum protection through domestic and international regulation should be pursued. In addition, steps to detect and mitigate interference to GNSS worldwide should be pursued;
- e) Physical separation of operational satellite constellations and end-of-life disposal orbits should also be examined;
- f) The concept of service guarantees should also be examined.

1.2. Promotion of compatibility and interoperability¹

2010: [A/AC.105/982, chapter IV, para. 32, section A.1, item 2]

The current definition of interoperability appears not to need any further modification based on a survey conducted by Working Group A. Based on the results of a compatibility workshop held on 7 June 2010, it was also noted that the current definition of compatibility does not require modification either.

1.3. Open service information dissemination

2010: [A/AC.105/982, chapter IV, para. 32, section A.2, item 5]

In the framework of the US-funded GNSS Evolutionary Architecture Study the use of dual frequency and advanced receiver autonomous integrity monitoring was recommended in order to get benefits for aviation. Some important performance parameters were being investigated for possible inclusion in future performance standards. It was also recommended that other service providers consider including those parameters in developing their performance standards, once the definitions had been finalized.

It was proposed that other system providers should consider using the GPS Standard Positioning Service Performance Standard as a template for developing their own performance standard.

2012: [A/AC.105/1035, chapter IV, para. 33, section A.2, item 1]

The representatives of the European Union and the United States of America made a presentation on their joint efforts in the area of using multiple GNSS constellations for advanced receiver autonomous integrity monitoring (ARAIM) and requested from the Providers service commitments to expand the use of multiple constellations.

The United States requested that the Providers' Forum members complete the templates developed to document the space service volume characteristics of the Provider systems.

2013: [A/AC.105/1059, chapter IV, para. 38, section A.2, items 2 - 3]

The United States presented an update to the GNSS space service volume concept. The United States continued to encourage the development of an interoperable space service volume to enable improved capabilities. The presentation highlighted some of the advantages of creating an interoperable global space service volume, including improvements to space weather predictions and lunar navigation. A template had already been distributed through Working Group B for assistance in that effort.

The European Union provided an update on the Galileo in-orbit validation, which is the validation before system deployment. It reported two successful in-orbit validation satellite launches and highlighted that they were well on their way to achieving full

¹ The definitions of compatibility and interoperability are listed under 3.5

operational capability. The in-orbit validation campaign had been initiated in May 2013 and completed in November 2013, with very good performance results.

2014: [A/AC.105/1083, chapter IV, para. 38, section A.1, item 1]

The United States encouraged GNSS and radio-navigation satellite services partners to complete the space service volume templates, develop specifications and publish constellation data.

2014: [A/AC.105/1083, chapter IV, para. 38, section A.1, item 2]

The United States presented background information on Medium-Earth Orbit Search and Rescue (MEOSAR) as an application for the International Satellite System for Search and Rescue (COSPAS-SARSAT).

2014: [A/AC.105/1083, chapter IV, para. 38, section A.1, item 5]

The European Union intends to publish the Galileo characteristics related to the interoperable GNSS space service volume in early 2015.

2014: [A/AC.105/1083, chapter IV, para. 38, section A.1, item 6]

It was noted that the United States national space policy encouraged market access, and that bilateral discussions had been held with Japan and the European Union on that topic. The United States would prefer to see technology-neutral performance-based standards, which would allow manufacturers and users to identify the optimal means for meeting requirements.

1.4. Service performance monitoring

2010: [A/AC.105/982, chapter IV, para. 32, section A.3, item 7]

It was suggested that a workshop on interference detection and mitigation be organized or multi-disciplinary ICG task force be established to make progress on the topic.

2012: [A/AC.105/1035, chapter IV, para. 33, section A.2, item 3]

China provided information on the status and progress of the International GNSS Monitoring Assessment System (iGMAS). It was noted that iGMAS would support various multi-GNSS monitoring activities such as cooperating with the International Global Navigation Satellite System Service Multi-GNSS Experiment (M-GEX) by sharing stations, data and geodetic receivers. China requested that more countries and organizations participate in future iGMAS activities.

2013: [A/AC.105/1059, chapter IV, para. 38, section A.3, item 4]

The United States made a presentation on GNSS civil performance monitoring, explaining that such monitoring provided benefits to both providers and users and supported the ICG principle of transparency. The Civil Monitoring Performance Specification addressed current civil GPS signals by specifying metrics that address performance measures based on the GPS performance standard.

2014: [A/AC.105/1083, chapter IV, para. 38, section A.2, item 7]

China noted two recommendations that had been proposed to Working Groups A, B and D: the first was for the establishment of an information portal for international GNSS monitoring and assessment, and the second was for the international GNSS monitoring and assessment task force to hold a workshop in 2015.

1.5. Report on a multi GNSS demonstration project

2010: [A/AC.105/982, chapter IV, para. 32, section B.1, item 8]

It was proposed that ICG become more involved in the multi-GNSS demonstration project by frequently producing reports and inviting the co-chairs of Working Group A² and Working Group D³ to be members of the steering committee of the project.

2011: [A/AC.105/1000, chapter IV, para. 36, section B.1, item 9]

The representative of Japan presented a report on the progress of the multi-GNSS demonstration project. It was noted that the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) received 11 applications as a result of a call for hosting JAXA receivers. Six organizations were now investigating participation in the network with their own receivers. It was also noted that a new call for joint experiments would be issued in the middle of September 2011.

2012: [A/AC.105/1035, chapter IV, paragraph 33, section B.1, item 5]

The representative of Japan reported that there were currently 17 participating organizations and 8 joint experiments.

2013: [A/AC.105/1059, chapter IV, para. 38, section B.1, item 6]

The secretariat of Multi-GNSS Asia provided an update on the activities taking place. The three main activities were (a) the establishment of a multi-GNSS monitoring network, (b) working groups to conduct experiments and (c) the Asia-Oceania Regional Workshop on GNSS.

2014: [A/AC.105/1083, chapter IV, para. 38, section A.3, item 8]

The Secretariat of Multi-GNSS Asia informed that two experiments had been endorsed by the Multi-GNSS Asia steering committee, and the formation of a new working group on capacity-building had been proposed.

2015: [A/AC.105/1104, chapter IV, para. 38, section A.1, item 1]

Japan, as the secretariat of Multi-GNSS Asia, noted that 89 multi-GNSS monitoring network stations were currently in operation. It also explained that 24 proposals had been endorsed by Multi-GNSS Asia and were in progress.

1.6. Spectrum protection: interference detection and mitigation

² Working Group A on Compatibility and Interoperability is co-led by the United States of America and the Russian Federation

³ Working Group D on Reference Frames, Timing and Applications is co-led by the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), and International GNSS Service (IGS)

2011: [A/AC.105/1000, chapter IV, para. 36, section A.3, items 3, 5 – 7]

The representative of the United States provided information on the status of the United States domestic regulatory process related to conditional Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approval for LightSquared (LSQ) operations in the bands directly below and slightly above the radio-navigation satellite services (RNSS) L-1 allocation. FCC final approval was contingent upon determination that use of global positioning systems and global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) services were not adversely impacted by the planned LSQ operations. The FCC process was ongoing, and no determination had been made at that time. Testing of LSQ equipment was conducted for the purpose of evaluating the impacts of those operations on GPS use. It was further noted that the matter of ancillary mobile-satellite service operations adjacent to the RNSS band might be considered by the World Radiocommunication Conference to be held in 2012 and might be addressed through the ITU working party process. The Providers' Forum noted that ITU referred to those operations as "complimentary ground component".

The representative of the European Union noted that similar operations had been studied in Europe and found to be disruptive to other mobile satellite service operations and had thus been discarded as an implementation option.

The representative of Japan noted that input had been provided to FCC, stating the concerns of Japan regarding the operation. It was also noted that the official position of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity was to oppose any action favourable to the complementary ground component that might be considered at the World Radiocommunication Conference to be held in 2012.

The representative of China noted that with the establishment of new systems and the increase of new frequency bands and applications of new services, more and more space systems would face spectrum protection issues of that kind. It was envisioned that this might lead to additional overlapping of frequency bands and more interference between systems. Since GNSS was a service-oriented system aimed at serving all humankind, this issue warranted significant attention throughout the world. The BeiDou system, as a member of the GNSS systems, would like to join with others in the discussion of the issue of spectrum protection.

2013: [A/AC.105/1059, chapter IV, para. 38, section A.4, item 5]

The United States was currently working on a GPS adjacent-band capability assessment to draft new GPS spectrum interference standards. The purpose was to determine GPS spectrum-protection criteria to inform future proposals for non-space commercial uses of the adjacent bands. The United States wanted to be proactive in protecting GPS from interference. The United States also reported on efforts taking place in the ITU Joint Task Group 4-5-6-7 in preparation for the World Radiocommunication Conference. The Task Group was evaluating additional spectrum allocations for mobile broadband services, and the United States was working to protect GNSS spectrum bands from outside interference as a result of any changes to spectrum allocations. It was noted that the next Joint Task Group meeting would be held in Geneva from 20 to 28 February 2014, and the United States encouraged other entities to participate actively in activities

leading to the final recommendations to the World Radiocommunication Conference, where the spectrum allocation changes would be finalized.

1.7. ICG information centres

2011: [A/AC.105/1000, chapter IV, para. 36, section B.2, item 10]

The Providers' Forum took note of the establishment of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) information centres at the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, which were utilized as hubs for training and dissemination of information on global applications of GNSS. The Providers' Forum also noted that China offered to make available an information centre at the Beihang University in Beijing.

2013: [A/AC.105/1059, chapter IV, para. 38, section B.2, item 7]

The executive secretariat of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems reported that the United Nations-affiliated regional centres on space science and technology education would implement the postgraduate course on GNSS from November 2013 to December 2014, using the *Global Navigation Satellite Systems Education Curriculum (ST/SPACE/59)*. The improvement of the ICG information portal would continue to be discussed in Working Group C, on information dissemination and capacity-building.

2014: [A/AC.105/1083, chapter IV, para. 38, section A.4, item 10]

The first nine-month postgraduate course on GNSS had been completed at the African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology – in French language held in Rabat.

2014: [A/AC.105/1083, chapter IV, para. 38, section A.4, item 11]

The ICG information portal was being redesigned by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and would include the addition of a webpage for ICG members, associate members and observers.

2015: [A/AC.105/1104, chapter IV, para. 38, section A.2, item 4]

The ICG information portal (www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/icg/icg.html) was being redesigned by the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

1.8. Future structure of ICG

2011: [A/AC.105/1000, chapter IV, para. 36, section B.6, item 18]

The Providers' Forum agreed that, as proposed by the co-chair, an agenda item entitled "Future role and work of ICG and its Providers' Forum" should be considered at the next meeting of the Providers' Forum and that specific proposals might be made at that time.

2013: [A/AC.105/1059, chapter IV, para. 36, section B.3, items 8 - 9]

The discussion was based upon previous Providers' Forum meetings. The co-chairs reviewed two related papers: the summary of discussions concerning the future of ICG and the paper on the meeting with the associate members and

observers that took place at the Seventh Meeting of ICG. The summary of discussions will be presented to ICG for adoption.

The co-chairs made a presentation on the way forward to increase user contributions to ICG. Several questions were identified regarding users and their relationship to ICG. The Providers' Forum agreed that the establishment of a users' forum would be premature, but noted that further discussion on ways to bring user input into ICG should continue.

1.9. Statement of the Providers' Forum

2012: [A/AC.105/1035, chapter IV, para. 33, Section B.5, item 11]

The Providers agreed upon a statement highlighting key achievements of ICG and the Providers' Forum, to be annexed to the ICG report (see Annex VII).

1.10. Selection of the co-chairs of the Providers' Forum

2013: [A/AC.105/1059, chapter IV, para. 38, Section B.4, items 11 - 12]

The Russian Federation made a presentation proposing ideas to consider for the selection of future co-chairs. It also suggested updating the Providers' Forum terms of reference (see Annex II).

China made a presentation on the selection of co-chairs. The proposal would allow each provider to co-chair on a two-year rotational basis, and established a schedule for the next several years. The providers agreed to the schedule through 2017 and in the coming months would confirm the remaining schedule through 2019.

1.11. Other matters

2014: [A/AC.105/1083, chapter IV, para. 38, section B, item 14]

The United States proposed debris mitigation in middle-Earth orbit and GNSS market access as topics for discussion by the providers. The providers agreed to consider that proposal at their next meeting, based on further information to be provided by the United States.

2014: [A/AC.105/1083, chapter IV, para. 38, section B, item 15]

The providers agreed to add to the agenda of the Providers' Forum an item on review of progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the ICG Working Groups.

2015: [A/AC.105/1104, chapter IV, para. 38, section B.1, item 6 - 8]

Orbital debris: The United States presented guidelines on orbital debris, which included the United States Government Orbital Debris Mitigation Standard Practices, Department of Defense Instruction 3100.12, Air Force Instruction 91-217 and the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines, which defined three disposal options and were applicable to United States government missions.

It was noted that that the United States had conducted a study on the GPS-IIF satellites and determined that the collision probability over 500 years for each of the 12 GPS-IIF satellites was less than 0.001. The United States was also in the process of

conducting a study looking at the effects on the future medium-Earth orbit debris environment of two different strategies: delaying eccentricity growth, which was the current GPS practice; and accelerating eccentricity growth, a briefing on the results of which would be provided to IADC.

It was also noted that both the Italian Space Agency and the European Space Agency were doing work in that area and conducting additional studies, and it was suggested that the topic be further discussed at future Providers' Forum meetings.

Global navigation satellite system space service volume: The United States presented an update to the GNSS space service volume concept. The objective from the United States perspective was to expand the GPS space service volume into a multi-GNSS space service volume; further improvements could be obtained by increasing the availability of satellite signals in the space service volume, in most cases by utilizing the side lobes. There was great interest in ensuring the consistency of definitions so that they were common across all providers, which would help to create a unified analysis.

The presentation explained that space service volume specifications were crucial for providing navigation solutions in low-Earth orbit, medium-Earth orbit and highly elliptical orbit. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States had issued a request for information for spaceborne receivers in order to better understand receiver technology currently available. Public input was welcome until the end of December 2015.

International GNSS monitoring and assessment project status and updates: China presented an update on its international GNSS monitoring and assessment project, explaining that the objectives were to establish a global tracking network and to monitor operational status and key indicators for all GNSS. The project had been operational on a trial basis since July 2014, providing users with raw observation data, basic products and monitoring and assessment information. The schedule included three stages until the end of 2020. There were currently eight completed monitor stations within China, as well as four international stations outside China. Three data centres and eight analysis centres had also been completed, and the operations and control centre was located in Beijing.

United States space weather strategy: The United States gave a presentation describing aspects of the United States national space weather strategy, which had been released to the public on 29 October 2015. The strategy had been developed to address societal and economic impacts in the event of a severe space weather event. The Space Weather Operations Research and Mitigation task force, consisting of 20 United States government departments and agencies, had responsibility for carrying out the six high-level goals outlined in the strategy. The United States noted that goal 6 called for increased international cooperation on space weather. Following the presentation, the European Union commented that they were looking at space situational awareness, which included both debris mitigation and space weather, and that they might report on the issue at a future Providers' Forum meeting.

2. Extracts from the Joint Statements adopted at the ICG meetings, including the ICG recommendations and decisions

2.1. ICG Information Centres

2008: [A/AC.105/928, chapter III, para. 23, item 5]

The regional centres⁴ on space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations would act as ICG information centres.

2.2. Report on Current and Planned Global and Regional Navigation Satellite Systems and Satellite-based Augmentation Systems

2010: [A/AC.105/982, chapter III, para. 30, item 5]

ICG noted the achievements of the ICG Providers' Forum, as reflected in the publication entitled "Current and Planned Global and Regional Navigation Satellite Systems and Satellite-based Augmentation Systems" (ST/SPACE/50⁵).

2.3. 10 years of achievement of the United Nations on Global Navigation Satellite Systems

2012: [A/AC.105/1035, chapter II, para. 23]

ICG noted the achievements of providers and users of positioning, navigation and timing services in promoting GNSS, as reflected in the publication "10 years of achievement of the United Nations on Global Navigation Satellite Systems" (ST/SPACE/55⁶).

2.4. Members, Associate Members and Observers of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems

2012: [A/AC.105/1035, chapter II, para. 26]

Members, associate members and observers of ICG had held a meeting during the Seventh Meeting. It was noted that continued discussions were needed regarding the effective functioning of ICG and its current format in order to maximize the benefit for all GNSS users.

2013: [A/AC.105/1059, chapter II, para. 31]

ICG heard statements by the representatives of the Arab Institute of Navigation (AIN) and the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) on their organizations' plans for implementing GNSS applications and granted the organizations the status of observer.

2014: [A/AC.105/1083, chapter III, para. 37, item 2]

The Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) was recognized by ICG as a new observer.

⁴ The regional centres are located in Morocco and Nigeria for Africa, in Brazil and Mexico for Latin America and the Caribbean, and in India for Asia and the Pacific. Information on the regional centres is available at: <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/SAP/centres/index.html>

⁵ See the report at http://www.unoosa.org/pdf/publications/icg_ebook.pdf

⁶ See the report at: http://www.unoosa.org/pdf/icg/2011/11-85461_ICG-ST-55_eBook.pdf

2.5. Working Group A on compatibility and interoperability

2010: [A/AC.105/982, chapter III, para. 30, item 6]

Working Group A called on interested members to focus on proposals for addressing interference detection and mitigation, and to draft a plan for consideration by ICG.

2011: [A/AC.105/1000, chapter III, para. 32, item 5]

Working Group A on compatibility and interoperability addressed all four areas of its current workplan through an intersessional meeting held in June 2011 at the United Nations Office at Vienna and the two days of presentations and discussions conducted during the Sixth Meeting of ICG. Interference detection and mitigation, and open service provision and performance monitoring by multi-GNSS networks were the major areas of focus, leading to three of the working group's four recommendations. The session on multi-GNSS monitoring and the session on interoperability were held jointly with Working Groups B and D, resulting in constructive dialogue with those working groups and an agreed plan of practical steps, including the establishment of a subgroup to collectively investigate international GNSS monitoring and assessment.

2012: [A/AC.105/1035, chapter III, para. 31, item 6]

Working Group A on compatibility and interoperability had addressed all four areas of its current workplan at an intersessional meeting held on 23-27 July 2012, in conjunction with the International Global Navigation Satellite System Service workshop held in Olsztyn, Poland, in 2012, and additional presentations and discussions had been conducted during the Seventh Meeting of ICG. The compatibility and international GNSS monitoring and assessment subgroups of Working Group A also provided, at the intersessional meeting, reports that formed the basis for recommendations on spectrum protection and open service performance monitoring. Working Group A organized and completed the first ICG interference detection and mitigation workshop, held in Vienna on 7 and 8 June 2012, and reported on the conclusions at the Seventh Meeting of ICG, including a recommendation to conduct additional workshops.

2013: [A/AC.105/1059, chapter III, para. 36, item 7]

Working Group A, on compatibility and interoperability, addressed all four areas of its current workplan during its intersessional meeting held in Vienna from 11 to 13 June 2013 and during the Eighth Meeting of ICG. The compatibility and international GNSS monitoring and assessment subgroups of Working Group A provided reports at the intersessional meeting that formed the basis for recommendations on spectrum protection, open service performance and the monitoring of open services. Recommendations were also presented to ICG related to interoperability and interference detection and mitigation. In addition to the intersessional meeting, Working Group A organized and completed the second ICG interference detection and mitigation workshop and the first interoperability workshop, held in Honolulu, United States, from 19 to 22 April 2013, and reported the conclusions to the working group. The next interference detection and mitigation workshop will take place on 20 May 2014, immediately preceding the China Satellite Navigation Conference, to be held in Nanjing, China, from 21 to 23

May 2014. Two regional interoperability workshops involving users and manufacturers from China and the Russian Federation, as well as members of the interoperability task force, will be held, one in Moscow in conjunction with the Moscow Satellite Navigation Forum, on 23 and 24 April 2014, and the other in Nanjing in conjunction with the China Satellite Navigation Conference. A meeting of the International GNSS Monitoring and Assessment subgroup is planned for 22 to 26 June 2014 in Pasadena, United States in conjunction with the twentieth anniversary International Global Navigation Satellite System Service workshop, and the 2014 intersessional meeting is tentatively scheduled for 16 to 18 July at ITU, in Geneva.

2014: [A/AC.105/1083, chapter III, para. 37, items 6, 7 and 8]

Beginning at its intersessional meeting held in Geneva and hosted by ITU, and continuing during the ninth meeting of ICG, Working Group A, on compatibility and interoperability, addressed all four areas of its current workplan. The compatibility and performance standard subgroup reported on the status of ongoing work in those areas and updated its recommendation on compatibility between international mobile telecommunications and the radio determination satellite service and radio navigation satellite services spectrum. In addition to the intersessional meeting, the newly formed interference detection task force organized and completed the third ICG interference detection and mitigation workshop at ITU. That event and the subsequent deliberations led to three recommendations on interference detection and mitigation capabilities and the conduct of the United Nations workshops on spectrum protection and interference detection and mitigation to be organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs on a regional basis.

The international GNSS monitoring and assessment task force also presented two recommendations to the Working Group, based on three meetings that had been held in 2014, including a proposal to hold an international GNSS monitoring and assessment workshop in Xi'an, China, immediately preceding the sixth China Satellite Navigation Conference, to be held in 2015.

Finally, the interoperability task force reported on three workshops held in China, Japan and the Russian Federation, where inputs from industry and users on the subject of multi-GNSS interoperability had continued to be collected and analysed. The task force will continue its work in 2015, to include an interoperability workshop in Europe, leading to potential recommendations for consideration by the Working Group and the Committee at the tenth meeting of ICG.

2015: [A/AC.105/11104, chapter III, para. 36, items 6 and 7]

The compatibility and performance standard subgroup decided to continue addressing the need for worldwide GNSS spectrum protection through a recommendation to providers and user community member States to promote the implementation of protection measures for GNSS operations in their nations and/or regions as well as other parts of the world. Deliberations within the Working Group had led to a recommendation to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to establish a multi-year agenda item focused on national efforts to protect the radio navigation satellite services spectrum and pursue GNSS interference detection and mitigation in member States.

The international GNSS monitoring and assessment task force conducted several meetings in 2015. The task force intended to initiate a joint trial project with IGS that would demonstrate a global GNSS monitoring and assessment capability after the completion of several preliminary items. The task force, under a restructuring and revised workplan completed by the group, would become the interoperability and service standards subgroup, with the international GNSS monitoring and assessment task force continuing under its auspices, as well as the ongoing work on open service performance standards. The existing compatibility and performance standards subgroup, which had been renamed the compatibility and spectrum subgroup, would also have responsibility for the interference detection and mitigation task force. The approved new workplan included a new area of possible work focused on system-of-systems operations, pending the assignment of tasks by the Providers' Forum. The new structure compromised the work of the Working Group, which had been renamed Working Group on Systems, Signals and Services.

2.6. Working Group B on enhancement of the performance of GNSS services⁷

2010: [A/AC.105/982, chapter III, para. 30, item 7]

A new item on techniques for radio-frequency interference mitigation and detection in the GNSS bands was added to the workplan⁸.

2011: [A/AC.105/1000, chapter III, para. 32, item 6]

Working Group B on enhancement of the performance of GNSS services discussed, among other things, the dissemination of disaster information. It was noted that satellite navigation systems might provide essential contributions, but the service concept still needed further elaboration. Therefore, a new item on monitoring and examining techniques supporting disaster management via satellite navigation was added to the Working Group's workplan. In addition the existing actions in the current workplan were confirmed and were reflected by the Working Group members in their presentations, and good progress was shown in various areas, including indoor positioning, signal authentication, precise positioning, transportation, maritime and space applications. Since more and more application-related issues were introduced and discussed within Working Group B, it was agreed to form a dedicated subgroup on applications.

2012: [A/AC.105/1035, chapter III, para. 31, item 7]

Working Group B on enhancement of the performance of GNSS services discussed the benefits of an interoperable GNSS space service volume. All Working Group participants believed that a fully interoperable GNSS space service volume would result in significant benefits for future space users as it would allow for a performance that no single system could provide on its own. Concepts for ensuring the integrity of signal coverage in maritime areas by exploiting the arising multiplicity of new satellite navigation signals were discussed, and the significance

⁷ Working Group B is co-led by India and the European Space Agency

⁸ The revised workplan of the Working Group B is available at:
<http://www.unoosa.org/pdf/icg/2010/ICG5/wgB/icg-wgb2010.pdf>

of multipath-resistant navigation signals for good ranging performance was confirmed. The value of multi-GNSS application demonstrations was noted.

2013: [A/AC.105/1059, chapter III, para. 36, item 8]

Working Group B, on the enhancement of GNSS service performance, made significant progress in establishing an interoperable GNSS space service volume during the Eighth Meeting of ICG through significant advance work, presentations at the Meeting and additional robust contributions from the administrations of China and the Russian Federation. The Working Group further discussed the benefits of an interoperable GNSS space service volume. All Working Group B participants believed that a fully interoperable GNSS space service volume would result in significant benefits for future space users, as it would allow performance that no single system could provide on its own. The Working Group will continue to work within ICG towards an interoperable GNSS space service volume.

2014: [A/AC.105/1083, chapter III, para. 37, items 9, 10 and 11]

Working Group B, on the enhancement of GNSS service performance, made progress in establishing an interoperable GNSS space service volume. Space service volume-relevant characteristics were presented by Global Positioning System, Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS), BeiDou navigation satellite system and Quazi-Zenith Satellite System. Galileo aims to release its space service volume-related characteristics in the first quarter of 2015. Members of Working Group B will develop a booklet on interoperable GNSS space service volume and will continue to work towards an interoperable GNSS space service volume. The Working Group members acknowledged the benefits of signals broadcast from satellites in non-nominal orbit or from satellites not part of the operational constellation for a wide range of users, including space service volume users.

Alongside the issue of space service volume, the Working Group continued to work according to its workplan. Good-quality ionospheric error compensation models were identified in order to provide single frequency users with better accuracy. Results obtained from one of those, the NeQuick Galileo model, which had demonstrated good performance, were discussed. Following the recommendation of the eighth meeting of ICG, the discussion continued on the Time To First Fix estimation methodology, leading to the identification of additional figures of merit. Interference mitigation techniques at the antenna level and at the digital signal processing level were discussed and the importance of investigating interference mitigation techniques at the user level was confirmed.

The application subgroup of Working Group B held dedicated meetings and continued monitoring application needs. The findings were being summarized in a report. The way forward to the tenth meeting of ICG for the Working Group and its application subgroup was defined.

2015: [A/AC.105/11104, chapter III, para. 36, items 8 - 11]

The Working Group on enhancement of GNSS service performance made important progress in establishing an interoperable GNSS space service volume. All service providers recognized the importance of GNSS for space missions. Characteristics to establish an interoperable GNSS space service volume were given by all six providers. ICG appreciated the efforts made by all service providers to establish these

characteristics. Members of the Working Group would continue to develop a booklet on interoperable GNSS space service volume for presentation at the next Providers' Forum and conduct the necessary simulations as a joint effort.

The Working Group reviewed the progress made in analysing the benefits of the NeQuick Galileo ionospheric model for single frequency users based on the assessment made by different service providers. Promising results had been obtained with the model. Space users in low-Earth orbit could also benefit from it.

The members of the Working Group acknowledged the benefits of ranging signals broadcast from Galileo satellites in eccentric, non-nominal medium-Earth orbit for position, velocity and time applications and scientific demonstrations. Information was provided regarding progress made on the use of the Global Navigation Satellite System for geodetic applications showing similar performance to other GNSS. It was noted that high-precision applications benefited from satellite-based augmentation system geosynchronous satellite (GEO) ranging if sufficient quality ephemeris data for the GEO satellite was provided. The group confirmed that wide band signals would minimize multipath error and could significantly improve accuracy for users.

The application subgroup continued its work and presented an application catalogue. The findings of the group will be summarized in a report for the Eleventh Meeting of ICG in 2016. The Working Group reviewed and updated its workplan. The updated workplan continued to address future integrity solutions, the monitoring of application developer needs and atmospheric correction models. In addition, new areas of work related to space service volume and space weather and remote sensing communities were introduced. China was appointed as the third co-chair of the Working Group to support the follow-up of the updated workplan.

2.7. Working Group C on information dissemination and capacity building⁹

2010: [A/AC.105/982, chapter III, para. 30, item 8]

Working Group C reiterated the importance of deploying instruments for the International Space Weather Initiative, and applying GNSS in support of sustainable development.

Working Group C also called for the support to be provided in developing a GNSS curriculum.

2011: [A/AC.105/1000, chapter III, para. 32, item 7]

Working Group C on information dissemination and capacity-building addressed further aspects of its workplan, including training for capacity-building in developing countries; promoting the use of GNSS technologies as tools for scientific applications; the International Space Weather Initiative; and regional workshops on applications of GNSS. A new item on education and training programmes on GNSS was added to its workplan.

2011: [A/AC.105/1000, chapter III, para. 31, item 8]

⁹ Working Group C is led by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

Working Group C on information dissemination and capacity-building addressed education and training programmes related to GNSS for purposes of building capacity in developing countries through the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, and centres of excellence, such as the international centre for GNSS science, technology and education at the Beihang University of China. It was noted that those centres, acting as information centres for ICG, might grow into a network of centres and provide a major springboard for the transfer and enhancement of skills and knowledge in GNSS research and applications. A new item on information dissemination, including materials for publication on the web, was introduced in the Working Group's workplan.

2013: [A/AC.105/1059, chapter III, para. 36, item 9]

Working Group C, on information dissemination and capacity-building, focused on the available capacity-building opportunities and the status of operations of the United Nations-affiliated regional centres for space science and technology education and centres of excellence, such as the Russian Education Centre led by the Federal Space Agency of the Russian Federation, the Beihang University of China and the Geospatial and Space Technology Consortium for Innovative Social Services of Japan. In that context, Working Group C noted that providing additional new GNSS education opportunities at different levels would be the best way to cover the different needs in the GNSS field in order to maximize the benefits of the use of GNSS to support sustainable development, particularly in developing nations. The Working Group recommended that new technical knowledge generated by ICG should be effectively communicated to the public, the GNSS-related scientific research community and industry at large, through the ICG information portal and through the use of existing electronic infrastructure and brochures. The Working Group noted that EIAST would also provide capacity-building and contribute to information dissemination on the use of GNSS and its applications.

2014: [A/AC.105/1083, chapter III, para. 37, items 12 and 13]

Recognizing the present status of GNSS and the prospects for the continued development of a wide variety of applications critical to science, commerce and infrastructure, Working Group C, on information dissemination and capacity-building, recommended that more workshops and training courses should continue to be held on specific areas of interest to end users. The Working Group encouraged knowledge transfer via e-learning systems using existing web-based distance learning programmes, as well as communication and outreach to the wider community through the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, which also acted as information centres for ICG.

To improve cooperation between the existing and/or developing user information centres of the providers, Working Group C recommended that all the provider and GNSS user information centres consider the development and adoption of a process for referring enquiries to each other, where appropriate.

2015: [A/AC.105/11104, chapter III, para. 36, items 12 and 13]

Noting the benefits of increased cooperation and support among providers' service centres and the United Nations-affiliated regional centres for space science and

technology education, the Working Group on Information Dissemination and Capacity-building proposed the expansion of knowledge-sharing by means of engaging in faculty and student exchange programmes and providing textbooks and teaching materials.

In addition, the Working Group recommended that the ICG members consider the value of national and regional positioning, navigation and timing advisory committees and share their findings at future ICG meetings, when available. It also recommended that providers and GNSS user information centres continue to develop and adopt a process for referring enquiries to each other, where appropriate.

2.8. Working Group D on reference frames, timing and applications

2010: [A/AC.105/982, chapter III, para. 30, item 9]

The agreement was reached by system providers to liaise with relevant international bodies to ensure that receiver output formats for future GNSS signals would be unambiguously defined.

2011: [A/AC.105/1000, chapter III, para. 32, item 8]

Working group D on reference frames, timing and applications completed development of templates describing the geodetic and timing references for the navigation satellite systems currently represented in ICG. The Working Group also proposed that the templates be published on the ICG information portal. ICG also welcomed progress in work by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures towards production of “Rapid Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)” as a more immediately accessible time reference that could be used to better harmonize the UTC broadcast by each GNSS. The Working Group recommended that interested system providers supply data from their respective monitor stations for inclusion in regular processing with the International GNSS Service (IGS) network of reference stations. Such inclusion is aimed at improving the alignment of the various GNSS reference frames with each other and with the International Terrestrial Reference Frame. An important new development was the endorsement by ICG of the IGS Multi-GNSS Experiment, which follows on from the previous endorsement by ICG of the multi-GNSS campaign in Asia and Oceania.

2011: [A/AC.105/1000, chapter II, para. 22]

Working group D on reference frames, timing and applications reiterated its recommendation that it would be important to involve an official representative of the European Union in its discussions and deliberations.

2011: [A/AC.105/1000, chapter III, para. 31, item 9]

Working Group D on reference frames, timing and applications noted significant continued progress on the geodetic and timing references for GNSS providers currently represented in ICG. Specific progress was noted in the alignment of the China Geodetic Coordinate System 2012 (CGS-2012) for BeiDou, the Japan satellite navigation Geodetic System 2010 (JGS-2010) for the Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS), the Parametry Zemli 1990 (PZ-90) geodetic datum for the Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS) of the Russian Federation and the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS-84) for global positioning systems to the latest realization of the International Terrestrial

Reference System in the form of ITRF-2008. The Working Group also made recommendations in relation to developments in the recognition of the International Terrestrial Reference System and Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). A notable development was the progress on a pilot service by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures and associated timing laboratories to produce “Rapid UTC”.

2013: [A/AC.105/1059, chapter III, para. 36, item 10]

Working Group D¹⁰, on reference frames, timing and applications, noted significant continued progress on the geodetic and timing references for the GNSS currently represented in ICG. Specific progress was noted in (a) the refinement of the alignments of GNSS-associated reference frames to the latest realization of the International Terrestrial Reference System (ITRF2008), and (b) on timing references in relation to rapid Coordinated Universal Time (UTC_r), the BIPM publication and GNSS time offsets. Working Group D had contributed and would continue to contribute significantly to the ICG international GNSS monitoring and assessment initiative. The Working Group also made five recommendations: one in relation to the assessment of the level of reference frame alignments to the International Terrestrial Reference Frame and four on timing issues related to: the work of the proposed redefinition of UTC; the official provision of UTC_r by BIPM; the BIPM publication; and the monitoring of offsets between GNSS times.

2014: [A/AC.105/1083, chapter III, para. 37, items 14, 15 and 16]

Working Group D, on reference frames, timing and applications, apprised ICG of developments within the Economic and Social Council to establish the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, and within the Working Group on Global Geodetic Reference Frame. The Committee of Experts had noted that the services derived from GNSS technology provide a framework for all geospatial activity, as a key enabler of spatial data interoperability, disaster mitigation and sustainable development. The co-chairs of Working Group D were involved in the Working Group on Global Geodetic Reference Frame, and suggested that ICG and the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management explore close cooperation.

Working Group D noted significant continued progress on the geodetic and timing references for GNSS currently represented in ICG. Specific progress was noted in the refinement of the alignments of GNSS-associated reference frames to the latest realization of the International Terrestrial Reference (ITRF) System, in the form of ITRF2008, and in timing references in relation to rapid Coordinated Universal Time, International Bureau of Weights and Measures publications and GNSS time offsets.

Working Group D had contributed and would continue to contribute to the international GNSS monitoring and assessment initiative. The Group also made two recommendations: one in relation to the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management initiative regarding a General Assembly resolution on the global geodetic reference frame, and one on the possible provision by GNSS providers of satellite data that would improve orbit modelling and accuracy.

¹⁰ See the report at: http://www.unoosa.org/pdf/icg/2013/icg-8/wg/ICG_WGD_2013_report.pdf

2015: [A/AC.105/11104, chapter III, para. 36, items 14 - 16]

The Working Group on Reference Frames, Timing and Applications apprised ICG of General Assembly resolution 69/266 on the global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development. The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management had endorsed the establishment of a working group on the global geodetic reference frame, whose task was to develop a “road map” for its realization. The co-chairs of the working group were engaged in the global geodetic reference frame working group.

The Working Group noted that significant progress had been made on the geodetic and timing references for the GNSS currently represented in ICG, with the refinement of (a) the alignments of GNSS associated reference frames to the latest realization of the International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF2008) and (b) timing references in relation to rapid Coordinated Universal Time. The Working Group reported on several developments at BIPM, including updates on its Circular T, Coordinated Universal Time and the revision of the definition of Coordinated Universal Time being discussed at World Radiocommunication Conference 2015. The Working Group informed ICG of progress in the computations of the new ITRF2014. ITRF2014 would be a significant improvement over the current ITRF2008.

The Working Group had contributed to the international GNSS monitoring assessment initiative as one of the co-chairs of the international GNSS monitoring assessment task force. Since the Ninth Meeting of ICG, the work of the task force had focused on the definition of the parameters to be monitored. Considerable progress had been made at the Tenth Meeting of ICG, with the recommendation to launch a joint ICG-IGS trial project. The Working Group had undertaken to review its workplan and define new tasks in the lead-up to the Eleventh Meeting of ICG in 2016, paying particular attention to issues related to precise/scientific applications of GNSS.

2.9. Principle of Transparency for Open Service

2009: [A/AC.105/948, chapter II, para. 21]

The ICG endorsed the recommendation that, consistent with the principle of transparency, every GNSS provider should publish documentation containing signal and system information, the policies of provision and the minimum levels of performance offered by its open service.

2.10. Tenth Meeting of the ICG in 2015

2013: [A/AC.105/1059, chapter II, para. 23]

In preparation for its Tenth Meeting, to be held in 2015, ICG recommended that a list of accomplishments within ICG be prepared, which would include the excerpts document and inputs from the working groups and ICG members, associate members and observers.

2.11. Joint Meeting with the Providers and ICG members, associate members and observers

2013: [A/AC.105/1059, chapter II, para. 24]

ICG agreed that a joint meeting with the providers and ICG members, associate members and observers should be introduced as a regular item on the agenda of the ICG annual meetings in order to report on the status of the recommendations and to exchange views on the providers' response to input from the user communities. ICG noted that that item could serve as a way to gain insight into users' needs and requirements, and to get information on how services are performing. It was also noted that the ICG outreach activities would increase the visibility of ICG.

2.12. Interaction with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO)

2013: [A/AC.105/1059, chapter II, para. 25]

ICG agreed that, taking into account the roles and functions of GNSS service providers and intergovernmental bodies, such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), an effort should be made to encourage their participation in the ICG meetings.

2.13. Future role and work of ICG and its Providers' Forum

2013: [A/AC.105/1059, chapter II, para. 26]

ICG took note with appreciation of the paper summarizing discussions concerning the future of ICG, which had been submitted by the co-chairs of the Providers' Forum. Its purpose was to provide a number of possible options and modalities that could strengthen the effectiveness of ICG in the future. It was agreed that that summary would serve as a basis for assessing the progress made by ICG. (see Annex VIII).

2.14. Mission Statement of the ICG

2013: [A/AC.105/1059, chapter II, para. 36, item 5]

ICG considered the future scope of its work and organizational structure, and ways and means to enhance user input and the visibility of ICG, and other proposals to increase the effective implementation of its recommendations. In this regard, ICG adopted a mission statement, contained in annex IX.

2.15. Vision Statement of the ICG

2014: [A/AC.105/1083, chapter III, para. 37, item 17]

ICG adopted a Vision Statement, which is contained in annex X of the present document.

2.16. Continuation of the United Nations experts' meetings on GNSS and its applications

2014: [A/AC.105/1083, chapter II, para. 24]

ICG noted that the continuation of the United Nations experts' meetings on GNSS and its applications in the future would ensure that a forum for ongoing dialogue and feedback was possible between users and system providers in order to enhance positioning, navigation and timing services worldwide.

2.17. 10th anniversary booklet

2014: [A/AC.105/1083, chapter II, para. 27]

In preparation for its tenth meeting, to be held in 2015, ICG noted that the 10th anniversary booklet would include key information about ICG membership, presenting the role of members and the benefits of participation in ICG.

2.18. Joint Working Group session

2015: [A/AC.105/11104, chapter III, para. 22 - 25]

ICG noted that the joint working group session had discussed the implementation status of recommendations made at previous meetings related to: (a) the international GNSS monitoring assessment; (b) the template for GNSS space service volume; and (c) the working groups' workplans and potential revisions thereto.

The working groups discussed cross-cutting issues relating to the international GNSS monitoring assessment, highlighting the work performed by the task force. It was noted that utilizing existing resources such as IGS and the providers' monitoring and assessment systems, which might include signal quality monitoring, could maximize benefits in the early stages of the international GNSS monitoring assessment road map.

In the course of the discussion on matters related to GNSS space service volume, the advantages of an interoperable GNSS space service volume for the space user community were highlighted. It was noted that GNSS service providers had already provided their space service volume characterizations to be included into the space service volume booklet.

The view was expressed that, in order to develop unified GNSS space service volume analysis, ICG should develop standard definitions of minimum number of satellites and constellation geometry.

2.19. Economic benefits of utilizing GNSS

2015: [A/AC.105/11104, chapter III, para. 29]

ICG noted that the Working Group on Information Dissemination and Capacity-building would elaborate on various studies on the economic benefits of utilizing GNSS for the purpose of dissemination to current and future GNSS users.

3. Extracts from the workplan of the Providers' Forum¹¹

2010/2009: [A/AC.105/928, Annex IV, ICG/PF/WP/DEC2008, A/AC.105/948, chapter IV, para. 26, section B.3, items 11 and 12, Annex II, ICG/PF/WP/SEP2009 as amended]

3.1. Promotion of compatibility and interoperability

[ICG/PF/WP/SEP2009, item 1]

The Providers' Forum agreed to refine the principles of compatibility and interoperability and their definition.

¹¹ See the Workplan of the Providers' Forum (ICG/PF/WP/SEP2009) as amended at the Fourth Meeting of the Providers' Forum held in conjunction with the Fourth Meeting of the ICG, Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, 14 – 18 September 2009 at <http://www.unoosa.org/pdf/icg/2009/icg-4/ICG.PF.WP.SEP2009.pdf>

[ICG/PF/WP/SEP2009, item 2]

The providers will actively support the actions of the Working Group A of ICG on compatibility and interoperability, which is focused on defining these principles. This may require sponsoring and participating in workshops and meetings designed to solicit input from users of GNSS. It may also require elaboration of an approach for quantitative evaluation.

[ICG/PF/WP/SEP2009, item 3]

The providers will draft individual reports on their respective planned or operating systems and the policies and procedures that govern their service provision, consistent with the template for information sharing¹²:

- a) The reports will be consolidated and maintained by the ICG Executive Secretariat on behalf of the providers and updates will be provided at least annually in preparation for each major meeting of ICG;
- b) The reports will emphasize each provider's current and planned efforts to ensure compatibility and interoperability among the global, regional and augmentation system components of the global system of navigation satellite systems.

3.2. Open service information dissemination

[ICG/PF/WP/SEP2009, item 4]

Consistent with the principle of transparency in the provision of open services, each individual provider will strive to publish and disseminate all signal and system information necessary to allow manufacturers to design and develop GNSS receivers on a non-discriminatory basis.

[ICG/PF/WP/SEP2009, item 5]

Based on individual publication of open service signal information, the Providers' Forum will consider templates for sharing and disseminating information as developed by the ICG Working Group on compatibility and interoperability.

3.3. Service performance monitoring

[ICG/PF/WP/SEP2009, item 6]

Providers will consider the development and discussion of proposals to widely monitor the performance of their open signals and provide timely updates to users regarding critical performance characteristics such as timing accuracy, positioning accuracy and service availability.

[ICG/PF/WP/SEP2009, item 7]

The discussions should focus on potential cooperation in the development of the necessary ground infrastructure to monitor signal and service performance for open services, recognizing that the actual implementation of this infrastructure is subject to the

¹² Template for sharing information between service providers is contained in annex IV attached to this document

budgetary limitations of each system provider and the completion of provider-to-provider agreements as necessary and appropriate.

3.4. Spectrum protection: interference detection and mitigation

[ICG/PF/WP/SEP2009, item 8]

The Providers' Forum will pursue the protection of radio-navigation satellite services (RNSS) spectrum through appropriate domestic and international regulation. When necessary and appropriate, providers will share their views on RNSS spectrum issues and related agenda items under consideration by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and its working parties.

[ICG/PF/WP/SEP2009, item 9]

In addition, the Providers' Forum will pursue the development of a strategy to detect and mitigate interference in GNSS worldwide by supporting the efforts of the ICG Working Group on compatibility and interoperability in this regard. This could lead to concrete proposals for detecting interference.

3.5. Providers' Forum principles of compatibility and interoperability and their further definition

[ICG/PF/WP/SEP2009, appendix]

Interoperability refers to the ability of global and regional navigation satellite systems and augmentations and the services they provide to be used together to provide better capabilities at the user level than would be achieved by relying solely on the open signals of one system:

- i) Interoperability allows navigation with signals from different systems with minimal additional receiver cost or complexity;
- ii) Multiple constellations broadcasting interoperable open signals will result in improved observed geometry, increasing end-user accuracy everywhere and improving service availability in environments where satellite visibility is often obscured;
- iii) Geodetic reference frames realization and system time steerage standards should adhere to existing international standards to the maximum extent practical;
- iv) Any additional solutions to improve interoperability should be encouraged.

Compatibility refers to the ability of global and regional navigation satellite systems and augmentations to be used separately or together without causing unacceptable interference and/or other harm to an individual system and/or service:

- (i) ITU provides a framework for discussions on radiofrequency compatibility. Radiofrequency compatibility should involve thorough consideration of detailed technical factors, including effects on receiver noise floor and cross-correlation between interfering and desired signals;
- (ii) Compatibility should also respect spectral separation between each system's authorized service signals and other systems' signals. Recognizing that some signal overlap may be unavoidable, discussions among providers

concerned will establish the framework for determining a mutually acceptable solution;

(iii) Any additional solutions to improve compatibility should be encouraged.

Annex I

Terms of Reference¹³

of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems

Background

1. Global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) have evolved from an early period of limited programmes to a point where a number of systems and their augmentations are operating or planned. In the future, a number of international and national programmes will operate simultaneously and support a broad range of interdisciplinary and international activities. Discussions taking place at national, regional and international levels have underscored the value of GNSS for a variety of applications. The emergence of new GNSS and regional augmentations has focused attention on the need for the coordination of programme plans among current and future operators in order to enhance the utility of GNSS services.
2. The representatives of GNSS core system providers, GNSS augmentation providers and the international organizations primarily associated with the use of GNSS and representatives of international projects in developing countries,

Aware of the overlap of GNSS mission objectives and of the interdisciplinary applications of GNSS services,

Recognizing the advantages of ongoing communication and cooperation among operators and users of GNSS and their augmentations,

Recognizing the need to protect the investment of the current user base of GNSS services through the continuation of existing services,

Aware that the complexity and cost of user equipment should be reduced whenever possible,

Convinced that GNSS providers should pursue greater compatibility and interoperability among all current and future systems in terms of spectrum, signal structures, time and geodetic reference standards to the maximum extent possible,

Desiring to promote the international growth and potential benefits of GNSS,

Noting that General Assembly resolution 59/2 (paragraph 11) invites GNSS and augmentation providers to consider establishing an international committee on GNSS in order to maximize the benefits of the use and applications of GNSS to support sustainable development,

Have agreed to establish on the basis of these non-binding terms of reference, the ICG for the purpose of promoting the use and application of GNSS on a global basis.

¹³ The Section B, Participants (Members, Associate Members and Observers), item 4 was modified (highlighted in Bold Italic) as proposed and adopted at the ninth meeting of the ICG.

A. Objectives

3. The objectives of the ICG are to:
 - a) Benefit users of GNSS services through consultations among members of the ICG;
 - b) Encourage coordination among providers of GNSS core systems and augmentations in order to ensure greater compatibility and interoperability;
 - c) Encourage and promote the introduction and utilization of satellite positioning, navigation and timing services, particularly in the developing countries through assistance with the integration of GNSS services into their infrastructures;
 - d) Assist both the members of the ICG and the international user community by, inter alia, serving as the focal point for international information exchange related to GNSS activities, respecting the roles and functions of GNSS service providers and intergovernmental bodies such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO);
 - e) Better address future user needs in the GNSS development plans and applications; and
 - f) Report periodically on its activities to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

These objectives will be accomplished by an indicative workplan of the ICG.

B. Participants (Members, Associate Members and Observers)

4. The International Committee will be open to States Members of the United Nations, international organizations or international entities that are responsible for GNSS and their augmentations operating under governmental authority or involved in implementing or promoting GNSS services and applications. There will be three categories of participants in the Committee: Members, Associate Members and Observers.

a) Members:

Current and future core system providers, including China (Compass/BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (CNSS)), the European Union (European Satellite Navigation System (Galileo)), the Russian Federation (Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS)) and the United States of America (Global Positioning System (GPS));

States Members of the United Nations with an active programme in implementing or promoting a wide range of GNSS services and applications (Italy, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates);

Current and future space-based regional or augmentation system providers including, for example, the European Space Agency (European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service ((EGNOS)), India (GPS and Geostationary

(GEO) Augmented Navigation System (GAGAN) and Indian Regional Navigation System (INRSS)), Japan (Multi-functional Transport Satellite (MTSAT) Satellite-based Augmentation System (MSAS) and Quasi-Zenith Satellite Space Based Augmentation System (QZSS)), Nigeria (Nigerian Communication Satellite Space Based Augmentation System (NigComsat-1 SBAS)), the Russian Federation (Wide-area System of Differential Corrections and Monitoring (SDCM) and the United States (Wide-area Augmentation System (WAAS));

b) Associate Members:

International and regional organizations and associations dealing with GNSS services and applications, including the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the Civil GPS Service Interface Committee (CGSIC), the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), the International Association of Geodesy Reference Frame Sub-Commission for Europe (EUREF), the International Cartographic Association (ICA), the International GNSS Service (IGS, formerly International GPS Service), the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), the International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service (IERS), the Fédération internationale des géomètres (FIG), the European Position Determination System (EUPOS) and the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI);

c) Observers:

The Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), the Bureau international des poids et mesures (BIPM), the International Association of Institutes of Navigation (IAIN), the Union radio-scientifique internationale (URSI), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Interagency Operations Advisory Group (IOAG), the Arab Institute of Navigation (AIN) and the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI).

5. The ICG will make decisions by consensus of the Members. Associate Members and Observers will provide advice, monitor the work of the ICG participate in working groups established in accordance with paragraph 8 below, participate in activities identified in the workplan of the ICG and report back to their own organizations. Members and Associate Members may host meetings of the ICG and chair and participate in working groups and host or provide support to the executive secretariat that supports the ICG. The admission of new Members, Associate Members and Observers will be with the consensus of the Members of the ICG.

C. Procedures of work, structure and organization

6. The structure of the ICG consists of a chairperson, a plenary session of the Committee, an executive secretariat and working groups. The chair will rotate on an annual basis among the Members and Associate Members.
7. The ICG will convene at least once every year in plenary session. Meetings of the ICG will be organized by the designated host. Each Member, Associate Member

and Observer should designate its principal and its point of contact. Any change to the principals and/or points of contact should be communicated to the chairperson of the ICG through the executive secretariat. Interim planning meetings may be required and can be organized as needed by the executive secretariat.

8. The ICG may establish, as mutually agreed and on an ad hoc basis, working groups to investigate specific areas of interest, cooperation and coordination and to report at subsequent plenary sessions. The chairpersons of such groups shall report at each plenary session on accomplishments and future plans. Continuation of each working group requires confirmation at each plenary session by the Members.
9. All recommendations of the ICG or its working groups will be decided on the basis of consensus of its Members, do not create legal obligations, and will be acted upon at the discretion of each Member, Associate Member and Observer. Recommendations should not be disseminated outside the ICG or its participants until careful deliberations have been conducted in plenary, and full consensus is reached.
10. The ICG may revise these terms of reference on the basis of proposals made by Members or Associate Members and adopted by consensus of the Members.
11. The ICG may revise the workplan on the basis of proposals made by Members, Associate Members and Observers and adopted by consensus of the Members.
12. Members, Associate Members and Observers will fund their own participation in the activities of the ICG, including the working groups. Requirements for financial support to the executive secretariat (in-kind or direct funding) will be determined by the Members and Associate Members of the ICG.

Annex II

Terms of Reference¹⁴ of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems Providers' Forum

A. Background

1. International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) was established on a voluntary basis as an informal body to promote cooperation, on matters of mutual interest related to civil satellite-based positioning, navigation, timing and value-added services, as well as the compatibility and interoperability of global navigation satellite systems, while increasing their use to support sustainable development, particularly in developing countries.
2. In response to a recommended action in the ICG workplan, providers of global and regional navigation satellite systems and satellite-based augmentation systems proposed establishing a Providers' Forum to enhance compatibility and interoperability among current and future systems. The first Providers' Forum meeting, co-chaired by the United States of America and India, was held on September 2007, immediately preceding the second meeting of the ICG. China, India, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States, as well as the European Union, were present at the meeting.

B. Objectives

3. The objectives of the Providers' Forum are to:
 - a) Promote compatibility and interoperability among current and future global and regional space-based systems by exchanging detailed information about planned or operating systems and the policies and procedures that govern their service provision, consistent with the template for information sharing among providers that was circulated prior to the first meeting;
 - b) Act as a mechanism to continue discussions on important issues addressed by the ICG that require focused inputs from system providers.
4. Providers' Forum is not a policymaking body, but provides a means to promote discussion among system providers based on agreed guidelines for provision of open services, including transparency, cooperation, performance monitoring and spectrum protection; and agreed principles for ensuring compatibility and interoperability among systems.

C. Membership

¹⁴ The Section D, Procedures of work, structure and organization, was modified (highlighted in Bold Italic) as proposed and adopted at the eleventh meeting of the Providers' Forum held in conjunction with the eighth meeting of the ICG

5. The Providers' Forum will be open to States Members of the United Nations that are or will be global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) providers. Current members and their respective systems are as follows:
 - a) *China*: Compass/BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (CNSS);
 - b) *India*: Global Positioning System and Geostationary (GEO) Augmented Navigation System (GAGAN) and Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS);
 - c) *Japan*: Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS) and Multi-functional Transport Satellite (MTSAT) Satellite-based Augmentation System (MSAS);
 - d) *Russian Federation*: Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS) and Wide-area System of Differential Corrections and Monitoring (SDCM);
 - e) *United States*: Global Positioning System (GPS) and Wide-area Augmentation System (WAAS);
 - f) *European Union*: European Satellite Navigation System (Galileo) and European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS).
 6. Additional Member States who become GNSS service providers will be invited to join the Providers' Forum upon consensus of the current members.
- D. Procedures of work, structure and organization
7. On the basis of consensus, the Chairs of the Providers Forum will rotate among its members, with each Chair serving a two year overlapping term. Through 2017, chairs will be provided by the following members:
 - a) 2014 – China and the European Union
 - b) 2015 – The European Union and the United States
 - c) 2016 – The United States and the Russian Federation
 - d) 2017 – The Russian Federation and Japan
 8. The Providers' Forum will convene once every year in conjunction with the ICG annual meeting and more often if needed. Actions and recommendations developed by working groups of ICG that could impact the compatibility and interoperability, system development and operations, and/or service provision policies and procedures of providers of GNSS will be of particular interest to the Providers' Forum. Therefore, the results of Providers' Forum deliberations and consensus decisions on these and other issues will be reported to ICG as appropriate and when possible, at the next scheduled plenary session of ICG immediately following a Providers' Forum meeting.
 9. The meetings of the Providers' Forum will be organized by the chair and designated host, with support from the Executive Secretariat. Each member should designate its principal and additional points of contact.
 10. Any recommendations resulting from Providers' Forum meetings will be decided on the basis of consensus of its members.
 11. Members will fund their own participation in the activities of the Providers' Forum. Financial support (in-kind or direct funding) to the Executive Secretariat

that is above and beyond the annual budget of the Office for Outer Space Affairs or existing funds provided for ICG secretariat services will be provided by members on a voluntary basis.

12. The Providers' Forum may revise these terms of reference on the basis of proposals made by members and adopted by consensus.

Workplan of the Providers' Forum

In order to accomplish the objectives of the Providers' Forum as described in the terms of reference, the members of the Providers' Forum have agreed to pursue the following actions.

Promotion of compatibility and interoperability

1. The principles of compatibility and interoperability and their definition were adopted at the first meeting of the Providers' Forum, held in Bangalore, India, in 2007 (A/AC.105/901). At the third meeting of the Providers' Forum, held in Pasadena, California, United States of America, in 2008, these principles and their definition were updated (see appendix). The Providers' Forum will continue to refine these principles of compatibility and interoperability and their definition.
2. The providers will actively support the actions of the Working Group of the International Committee on Global Navigation Systems (ICG) on compatibility and interoperability, which is focused on defining these principles. This may require sponsoring and participating in workshops and meetings designed to solicit input from users of global navigation satellite systems (GNSS). It may also require elaboration of an approach for quantitative evaluation.
3. The providers will draft individual reports on their respective planned or operating systems and the policies and procedures that govern their service provision, consistent with the template for information sharing:
 - (a) The reports will be consolidated and maintained by the ICG Executive Secretariat on behalf of the providers and updates will be provided at least annually in preparation for each major meeting of ICG;
 - (b) The reports will emphasize each provider's current and planned efforts to ensure compatibility and interoperability among the global, regional and augmentation system components of the global system of navigation satellite systems.

Open service information dissemination

4. Consistent with the principle of transparency in the provision of open services, each individual provider will strive to publish and disseminate all signal and system information necessary to allow manufacturers to design and develop GNSS receivers on a non-discriminatory basis.
5. Based on individual publication of open service signal information, the Providers' Forum will consider templates for sharing and disseminating information as developed by the ICG Working Group on compatibility and interoperability.

Service performance monitoring

6. Providers will consider the development and discussion of proposals to widely monitor the performance of their open signals and provide timely updates to users regarding critical performance characteristics such as timing accuracy, positioning accuracy and service availability.
7. These discussions should focus on potential cooperation in the development of the necessary ground infrastructure to monitor signal and service performance for open services, recognizing that the actual implementation of this infrastructure is subject to the budgetary limitations of each system provider, and the completion of provider-to-provider agreements as necessary and appropriate.

Spectrum protection: interference detection and mitigation

8. The Providers' Forum will pursue the protection of radio-navigation satellite services (RNSS) spectrum through appropriate domestic and international regulation. When necessary and appropriate, providers will share their views on RNSS spectrum issues and related agenda items under consideration by the International Telecommunication Union and its working parties.
9. In addition, the Providers' Forum will pursue the development of a strategy to detect and mitigate interference in GNSS worldwide by supporting the efforts of the ICG Working Group on compatibility and interoperability in this regard. This could lead to concrete proposals for detecting interference.
10. This workplan will be reviewed on an annual basis and revised as necessary in order to address important issues that require the attention and focus of system providers.

Providers' Forum principles of compatibility and interoperability and their further definition

Global and regional system providers agreed that at a minimum, all global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) signals and services must be compatible. To the maximum extent possible, open signals and services should also be interoperable, in order to maximize benefit to all GNSS users. For many applications, common carrier frequencies are essential to interoperability and commonality of other signal characteristics is desirable. In some cases, carrier frequency diversity may be preferable to improve performance. The Providers' Forum will continue to investigate the benefits of carrier frequency commonality and diversity, as well as of compatibility and interoperability, as these latter terms are defined below:

(a) *Interoperability* refers to the ability of global and regional navigation satellite systems and augmentations and the services they provide to be used together to provide better capabilities at the user level than would be achieved by relying solely on the open signals of one system:

(i) Interoperability allows navigation with signals from different systems with minimal additional receiver cost or complexity;

(ii) Multiple constellations broadcasting interoperable open signals will result in improved observed geometry, increasing end-user accuracy everywhere and improving service availability in environments where satellite visibility is often obscured;

(iii) Geodetic reference frames realization and system time steerage standards should adhere to existing international standards to the maximum extent practical;

(iv) Any additional solutions to improve interoperability should be encouraged.

(b) *Compatibility* refers to the ability of global and regional navigation satellite systems and augmentations to be used separately or together without causing unacceptable interference and/or other harm to an individual system and/or service:

(i) The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) provides a framework for discussions on radiofrequency compatibility. Radiofrequency compatibility should involve thorough consideration of detailed technical factors, including effects on receiver noise floor and cross-correlation between interfering and desired signals;

(ii) Compatibility should also respect spectral separation between each system's authorized service signals and other systems' signals. Recognizing that some signal overlap may be unavoidable, discussions among providers concerned will establish the framework for determining a mutually acceptable solution;

(iii) Any additional solutions to improve compatibility should be encouraged.

Annex IV

List of States Members of the United Nations and governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations participating in International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems

China
India
Italy
Japan
Malaysia
Nigeria
Russian Federation
United Arab Emirates
United States of America
European Union
Arab Institute of Navigation (AIN)
Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO)
Civil Global Positioning System Service Interface Committee (CGSIC)
Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)
European Space Agency (ESA)
European Space Policy Institute (ESPI)
Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI)
Interagency Operations Advisory Group (IOAG)
International Association of Geodesy (IAG)
International Association of Geodesy Reference Frame Sub-Commission for Europe (EUREF)
International Association of Institutes of Navigation (IAIN)
International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM)
International Cartographic Association (ICA)
International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service (IERS)
International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)
International Global Navigation Satellite System Service (IGS)
International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)
International Steering Committee of the European Position Determination System (EUPOS)

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

International Union of Radio Science (URSI)

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA)

Annex V

Template for sharing information between service providers¹⁵

- I. System description:
 - A. Space segment: technical parameters such as altitude and inclination or geosynchronous orbit (GEO) slot position. As appropriate, it could also address satellite disposal procedures and orbit information, to establish a baseline for ensuring deconfliction with other constellations;
 - B. Ground segment;
 - C. Signals: current and planned signals;
 - D. Performance: performance standards versus actual performance;
 - E. Timetable for system deployment and operation.
- II. Services provided and provision policies.
- III. Perspective on compatibility and interoperability:
 - A. Definition of compatibility and interoperability;
 - B. Efforts to ensure radiofrequency compatibility through bilateral and multilateral venues;
 - C. Efforts to pursue interoperability through bilateral and multilateral venues.
- IV. Global navigation satellite system (GNSS) spectrum protection activities:
 - A. National-level radio-navigation satellite system (RNSS) spectrum regulation/management procedures;
 - B. Views on International Telecommunication Union (ITU) RNSS spectrum issues or agenda items of the World Radiocommunication Conference, as appropriate or necessary;
 - C. RNSS interference detection and mitigation plans and procedures.
- V. Participation in the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems:
 - A. Discussion of the service providers involvement in the working groups and workplan activities of the Committee;
 - B. Views on future areas of focus and activities of the Committee as appropriate.

¹⁵ Available in all official languages of the United Nations at the ICG Information Portal: <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/SAP/gnss/icg/providersforum.html>

Annex VI

Meetings of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems

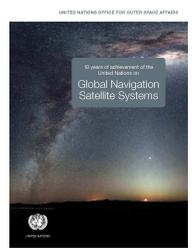
Meeting	Dates	Venue	Document Symbol ¹⁶
First Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems	1 - 2 November 2006	United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), Vienna, Austria	A/AC.105/879
Second Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems	5 - 7 September 2007	Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Bangalore, India	A.AC.105/901
Third Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems	8 - 12 December 2008	US State Department and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), Pasadena, United States of America	A/AC.105/928
Fourth Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems	14 - 18 September 2009	Federal Space Agency (ROSCOSMOS), Saint-Petersburg, Russian Federation	A/AC.105/948
Fifth Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems	18 - 22 October 2010	Italy and the European Commission, Turin, Italy	A/AC.105/982
Sixth Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems	5 - 9 September 2011	Government of Japan, Tokyo, Japan	A/AC.105/1000
Seventh Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems	5 - 9 November 2012	Government of China, Beijing, China	A/AC.105/1035
Eighth Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems	9 - 14 November 2013	Government of Dubai, Dubai, United Arab Emirates	A/AC.105/1059

¹⁶ Documents are available in all official languages of the United Nations and available from the ICG Information Portal at www.unoosa.org or directly at: <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/icg/documents/105.html>

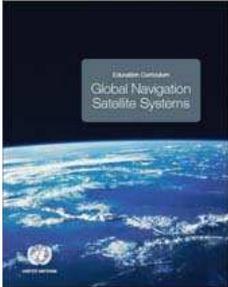
Systems			
Ninth Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems	10 – 14 November 2014	European Union, Prague, Czech Republic	A/AC.105/1083
<i>Tenth Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems</i>	<i>1 – 6 November 2015</i>	<i>Government of the United States, Boulder, Colorado, United States of America</i>	<i>A/AC.105/1104</i>

Annex VII

Publications – Information material

Year	Title/Document Symbol	Description/Languages	Cover page ¹⁷
2007	Brochure on the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG)	The International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG): a forum to discuss Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) to benefit people around the world. <i>Available in the following languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish</i>	
2010	Current and Planned Global and Regional Navigation Satellite Systems and Satellite-based Augmentations Systems (ST/SPACE/50)	Report prepared on behalf of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG), based on reports submitted by the members of the ICG Providers' Forum on planned or existing global navigation satellite systems and on relevant policies and procedures. <i>Available in the following languages: English</i>	
2011	10 Years of Achievement of the United Nations on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ST/SPACE/55)	This publication describes achievements of providers and users of positioning, navigation, and timing services, under the umbrella of the United Nations, in promoting Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) over the past 10 years. <i>Available in the following languages: English</i>	

¹⁷ The ICG publications are available from the ICG Information Portal at: www.unoosa.org or directly at: <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/icg/documents/publications.html>

2012	Education Curriculum on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) (ST/SPACE/59)	<p>The GNSS education curriculum was developed by taking into account GNSS course outlines as used at the university level in a number of developing and industrialized countries. The incorporation of elements of GNSS science and technology into university-level education curricula served a dual purpose: (a) it could enable countries to take advantage of the benefits inherent in the new technologies, which, in many cases, are spin-offs from science and technology; or (b) to introduce the concepts of high technology in a non-esoteric fashion and help create national capacities in science and technology in general.</p> <p><i>Available in the following languages: Arabic, English, French, Spanish</i></p>	
2016	International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems: The Way Forward – 10 Years of Achievement, 2005 – 2015 (ST/SPACE/67)	<p><i>The purpose of this publication is to provide the GNSS user community and manufacturers of GNSS receivers with a clear and consistent description of the global and regional navigation satellite systems and satellite-based augmentation systems that are currently operating and that will operate in the future. This publication also provides key facts about international and regional organizations and associations dealing with GNSS services and applications, including the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, and the role of those organizations and associations in ICG as associate members and observers.</i></p> <p><i>Available in the following languages: English</i></p>	

Annex VIII

Statement of the Providers' Forum concerning the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems

On 6 November 2012, at its Ninth Meeting, in Beijing, the Provider's Forum adopted the following statement:

The International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) was established in 2005 and has steadily developed into an important platform for the system providers, the user communities, observers and interested United Nations Member States to exchange views and information concerning the field of satellite navigation. ICG has taken a leading role internationally to promote collaboration in the utilization of global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) services for a range of commercial, scientific and technological applications. Specific areas of interest to ICG and its working groups include compatibility and interoperability, service performance and service performance enhancement, timing and geodetic reference frames, education and training, and global applications.

The Providers' Forum was established in 2007, at the Second Meeting of ICG. Since then, each of the global and regional system providers has hosted a meeting of ICG, achieving an important milestone in demonstrating the commitment of the Providers to the goals and objectives of ICG. This commitment serves as a foundation to enhance collaboration and to increase global awareness of GNSS.

During its series of meetings, in particular, at its Ninth Meeting, held in conjunction with the Seventh Meeting of ICG in Beijing on 4-9 November 2012, the Providers' Forum considers user recommendations, works cooperatively to enable better service, supports the protection of the radio navigation satellite services (RNSS) spectrum, considers activities that promote GNSS awareness and education, and considers proposals to enhance service performance and performance monitoring and assessment.

The Providers' Forum promotes compatibility and interoperability among current and future global and regional space-based systems by exchanging detailed information about planned or operating systems and the policies and procedures that govern their service provision. More importantly, the Providers' Forum is a mechanism to continue discussions on important issues addressed by ICG that require focused inputs from system providers.

In its Ninth Meeting, the Providers' Forum considered the future role of ICG and agreed to keep that item on its agenda.

Annex IX

Summary of discussions concerning the

“Future of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems”

At the seventh meeting of the Providers' Forum held in conjunction with the sixth meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG), in Tokyo, Japan, 5 – 9 September 2011, the topic of the future of ICG was raised and discussed. This included a discussion on: the efficiency of the working groups, the designation of working group chairs, possible establishment of a Users' Forum, the status of recommendations and conclusions made by the Providers' Forum and ICG, and the future of the ICG Secretariat. The Providers' Forum agreed to adopt a proposal by the co-chairs to add an agenda item to the next Providers' Forum meeting on the “Future role and work of ICG and its Providers' Forum”, and that specific proposals could be made at that time. Furthermore, the co-chairs proposed to include an agenda item at the United Nations International Meeting on the applications of global navigation satellite systems (GNSS), in Vienna, Austria, 12 -16 December 2011, giving experts an opportunity to exchange views on an informal basis regarding the future work of the ICG and its Providers' Forum.

During the United Nations International Meeting on GNSS held 12 -16 December 2011 in Vienna, Austria, a small group of experts met and brainstormed ideas related to the future of the ICG. At the conclusion of the meeting, a presentation was put together summarizing the discussion and different options that were raised. This summary was not exhaustive but meant to capture the essence of what was discussed and pave the way for further discussion at the eighth meeting of the Providers' Forum on 4 June 2012 in Vienna, Austria.

Discussion on the future of the ICG continued during the first planning and organizational meeting for the seventh meeting of the ICG, held on 13 February 2012 in Vienna, Austria. A presentation entitled "Key considerations on the future of the ICG" was given by the United States of America, which was based on the summary of the December 2011 informal meeting. The topics were classified into top priorities, organizational issues, and questions to be addressed. Since time was limited, the providers decided to convene the next discussion in conjunction with China's Satellite Navigation Conference 15 – 19 May 2012, in Guangzhou, China.

The informal meeting of the Providers' Forum was held on 17 May 2012 on the margins of the Third China Satellite Navigation Conference (CSNC2012) in Guangzhou, China. The discussion of the "Key considerations on the future of the ICG" was continued. To facilitate further discussion, a table was created on "Key considerations on the future of the ICG". The issues of the nature of working groups versus study groups, the designation of working group chairs, and the Users' Forum were identified and discussed.

At the eighth meeting of the Providers' Forum held on 4 June 2012 in Vienna, Austria, the future role and work of the ICG and its Providers' Forum was discussed as an agenda item. A report of the informal meeting of the Providers' Forum held in May 2012 on the margins of CSNC2012, was presented by the co-chairs of the Providers' Forum. A

summary of the other meetings was also noted and a list of issues/questions for prioritization was presented. During this meeting, the providers discussed and reviewed the issues/questions and organized them into the following three categories: (1) currently under consideration (easy to implement); (2) further consideration will be given; (3) more in-depth study to be conducted.

The following issues/questions were categorized as “under consideration and easy to implement”:

1. The ICG, as a platform for open discussions and information exchange, is a great success. It provides a better understanding of general trends in user needs, applications and GNSS development. Informally the providers and the represented users take findings into account in their plans and programs, to improve performance, compatibility and interoperability. Communication among system providers has been improved by the Providers' Forum;
2. Some ICG recommendations aimed at providers have already become principles, such as compatibility, interoperability and transparency in the provision of open services;
3. Recommendations to organizations outside the ICG should be targeted to specific actors and include specific actions;
4. Ensuring that the ICG is properly structured will require a review of:
 - Procedure for selection of chairs or co-chairs;
 - Terms of Reference of the Providers' Forum in relation to current working groups;
 - Maintenance of permanent working groups or ad hoc working groups;
 - Procedures for plenary and intersessional meetings;
 - Executive Secretariat;
5. The number of user communities represented at the ICG should be increased;
6. Compatibility efforts should be separated from interoperability efforts;
7. The number of working groups should be limited;
8. Retaining the existing working groups structure, meetings could still be organized differently to maximize problem solving;
9. Working groups could be required to develop recommendations prior to ICG meetings rather than during ICG meetings.

The questions about the establishment of a Users' Forum, which includes its role within the ICG, its structure, its membership, its terms of reference, and its methods of work, were put forward for consideration at the Providers' Forum meeting, 5 – 9 November 2012 in Beijing, China. It was noted that the main objective of the Users' Forum would be to discuss common problems, and provide feedback to the providers on what could be done to increase the efficiency of GNSS applications in the multi-GNSS environment. It was also noted that the ICG members/associate members and observers should be contacted and informed to be prepared to lead discussions about the Users' Forum and to present their views and recommendations.

The view was expressed that to ensure the working groups achieve progress and meet their milestones, a permanent chair is needed for some working groups. Also it is often useful, and perhaps inevitable, to establish a sub-group (study group and task force) under a working group to develop proposals to solve particular problems.

The eighth meeting of Providers' Forum also noted that consideration should be given to the staff capacity of the ICG Executive Secretariat, assisting with the planning and organization of the meetings of the ICG and Providers' Forum, and its working groups in the future structure of the ICG.

An agenda item on the future role of the ICG provoked a healthy discussion at the Ninth meeting of the Providers' Forum, held 5 – 9 November 2012 in Beijing, in conjunction with the seventh meeting of ICG. During this meeting, the Providers' Forum agreed to the following conclusions:

1. The function of the Office for Outer Space Affairs as the Executive Secretariat should continue for now;
2. General consensus that there would be benefit to having a Users' Forum. The details of how it would be integrated need to be discussed and considered before a final decision is made;
3. No changes to the working groups should be made at this time;
4. Discussion on selection of Providers' Forum co-chairs will occur at the next Providers' Forum meeting.

In conjunction with the seventh meeting of ICG, a meeting of the members, associate members and observers took place. During this meeting, a presentation was made by the co-chair of the Providers' Forum, summarizing the ideas discussed by the providers over the past year, concerning the future of the ICG. The intent was to obtain feedback on some of the ideas being discussed by the providers. The members, associate members and observers offered the following comments:

1. Suggestion for ICG to include an agenda item during the plenary session for providers to comment on the status of past recommendations;
2. Associate members and observers agreed to help share information on the value of ICG in the various organizations;
3. Recommendation for ICG to adopt a User's Forum (or other terminology) as a way for users to have input in the ICG:
 - a. Would consist of international non-governmental (NGO)'s (that would currently qualify as associate members);
 - b. Would support increasing awareness and adoption of GNSS, and help users address problems in fully exploiting GNSS across a broad range of users and in all nations;
 - c. Would enable users to help lobby on issues of concern to the GNSS community.

At the planning meeting for the tenth Providers' Forum meeting, held 18 February 2013 in Vienna, Austria, the participants continued discussions about a Users' Forum, noting that the process of establishing such a group should not be complicated. It was emphasized that all user groups should be well represented by the Users' Forum. It was also suggested that developing a Mission Statement for the ICG would be helpful in identifying how the Users' Forum fits in the construct of the ICG.

The tenth meeting of the Providers' Forum was held on 10 June 2013 in Vienna, Austria. At that meeting, a draft Mission Statement was introduced, and recommended for review and consideration at the eighth meeting of the ICG, 9 – 14 November 2013 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. A view was expressed that ICG was trying to consider many issues in a limited period of time (one week during the ICG annual meeting), and that not enough work was being accomplished outside of the meetings. One suggestion was offered for the ICG Executive Secretariat and/or ICG points of contact to keep track of the ICG recommendations. Another idea that was floated is for the ICG host country to send a person to Vienna, the year prior to the annual ICG meeting, to work with the Secretariat on preparation activities for the upcoming meeting.

The Users' Forum was also discussed. It was suggested that the providers focus on getting user input in order to better understand the users' needs and requirements. It was agreed that it is important to hear input from the users and associate members specifically about what they are doing to collect user requirements, and to get input from associate members on how the ICG is helping them accomplish their mission. The providers therefore agreed to change the agenda for the eighth meeting of the ICG to include a second plenary session in place of the second Providers' Forum session, to allow for this discussion.

A discussion and decision on the selection of future Providers' Forum co-chairs was postponed until the eleventh meeting of the Providers Forum, in conjunction with the eighth meeting of the ICG in Dubai, 9-14 November 2013.

At the eleventh meeting of the Providers' Forum held in Dubai, on 9, 11 and 13 November 2013, the providers agreed to co-chair the Providers' Forum meetings on a 2-year rotational basis, and established a schedule for the next several years through 2017 and will confirm the remaining schedule through 2019 in the coming months.

The ICG adopted a Mission Statement contained in the Annex to this summary.

Annex X

Mission Statement of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems

The International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG), established in 2005 under the umbrella of the United Nations, promotes voluntary cooperation on matters of mutual interest related to civil satellite-based positioning, navigation, timing and value-added services. ICG contributes to the sustainable development of the world. Among the core missions of ICG are to encourage coordination among providers of global navigation satellite systems (GNSS), regional systems and augmentations in order to ensure greater compatibility, interoperability and transparency, and to promote the introduction and utilization of those services and their future enhancements, including in developing countries, through assistance, if necessary, with the integration into their infrastructures. ICG also serves to assist GNSS users with their development plans and applications by encouraging coordination and serving as a focal point for international information exchange.

Annex XI

Vision Statement of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems

The International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems strives to encourage and facilitate compatibility, interoperability and transparency between all the satellite navigation systems, to promote and protect the use of their open service applications and thereby to benefit the global community. Our vision is to ensure the best satellite-based positioning, navigation and timing for peaceful uses for everybody, anywhere, any time.