COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Thirty-seventh session
Agenda Item 4

**New and innovative sources of funding to implement
the recommendations of UNISPACE III**

Note by the Secretariat

Request by the General Assembly

The General Assembly, in paragraph 10 of its resolution 54/68 of 6 December 1999, agreed that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its secretariat should identify new and innovative funding sources for implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE III in order to supplement the resources to be provided through the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

Possibilities for consideration by the Working Group of the Whole

1.   Regarding the participation of developing countries in implementing or benefiting from the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, many of the recommendations can be implemented fully or in part through indigenous capacity building. The possibilities identified below address primarily this broad area and are being provided by the secretariat as input for the discussions of the Working Group of the Whole in addressing the above request by the General Assembly. Other possibilities might be presented depending on the recommendations of the Working Group.

2.   The Vienna Declaration calls for the Trust Fund of the Programme, to be used for implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE III, in particular the activities of the regional centres for space science and technology education. In addition to the resources provided through the Trust Fund, support could be provided to the regional centres and to the Network of Space

Science and Technology Education and Research Institutions of central-eastern and south-eastern Europe by existing government development aid programmes, industry, space agencies, universities, and specialized space-related institutions including the agencies of the United Nations system, through practices which are followed in various contexts and which include:

Support that could be provided by industry

a) Donating computer equipment, basic software licences and data for use for training and education purposes; image processing and GIS software for training, education and pilot project implementation purposes; other equipment and material used for education and training in remote sensing, satellite meteorology, satellite communications, space sciences; and receivers of satellite positioning signals for various applications;

b) Discussing with the centres and Network the possibility of entering into mutually beneficial partnerships (e.g. financially supporting the institutions thus enabling them to prepare qualified users of specific space technologies);

c) Providing speakers at workshops organized by the centres and Network.

Support that could be provided by governments

a) Many government have programmes that provide development aid to developing countries. The support is provided in several categories (e.g. financial, expert assistance, education, equipment). Priorities for awarding aid are established on the basis of diverse criteria (e.g. to developing countries from particular regions or sub-regions, to protect the environment, to promote health-related education). Where such development programmes exist, the corresponding representatives in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space could recommend that within existing budgets and criteria referred to, some support be earmarked for the centres and Network;

b) Governments members of the centres or Network could discuss, within the framework of the respective governing bodies, ways and means through which they can support their centre or Network.

Support that could be provided by space agencies, universities, specialized space-related institutions:

a) Providing experts, for periods of a week to a few months, who could teach specialized parts of the education programmes at the centres or Network;

b) Defraying the cost of limited amounts of data for education, training and pilot project implementation;

c) Organizing at the centres and Network, in coordination with them, workshops on the subjects of the long-term education programmes;

d)   Providing educational material (e.g. training kits, brochures, CD-ROMs) that they have already produced;

e)   Sponsorship of individual pilot projects which are part of the education programme of the centres and Network

3.   A second broad category of support that would facilitate the participation of developing countries in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III is in the development of institutional capacity to use of space technologies in operational programmes. The United Nations Programme on Space Applications will be organizing workshops, meetings of experts and training courses leading to pilot projects that incorporate and test space technology in simulated or real operational programmes. Support could be provided through the following:

a)   Technical assistance in identifying user requirements that could be met in a more cost-effective or timely manner through the use of space technologies as well as in identifying all the necessary steps that need to be taken to introduce these technologies operationally;

b)   Limited amounts of optical and radar data for pilot projects with an Earth observation component (e.g. environmental assessment and monitoring, management of natural resources, disaster management);

c)   Free access for small amounts of transmission time through communications satellites for pilot projects with a communications component (e.g. tele-medicine, tele-education, disaster management);

d)   Establishment of programmes for the exchange of "visiting" personnel between institutions that use space technologies on an operational basis and institutions that are implementing their use; such programmes could lead to cooperation agreements between participating institutions with mutual benefits.