

FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY

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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF
OUTER SPACE

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

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Agenda item 6

**Implementation of the recommendations of
the Third United Nations Conference on the exploration
and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

**Draft Report on the Implementation of the recommendations of the
Third United Nations Conference on the exploration and Peaceful Uses
of Outer Space (UNISPACE III): Comments received from members
states of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and entities
of the UN system**

The present document compiles comments and proposals for amendment received from members States of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and entities of the UN system concerning Chapters I to III of the Draft Report on the Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), as contained in documents A/AC.105/C.1/L.272 and Add.1 and Add.2.

* Re-issued for technical reasons.

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM MEMBER STATES AND ENTITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO SPECIFIC PARAGRAPHS:

Document A/AC.105/C.1/L.272

Chapter I, paragraph 3:

Consideration should be given to revising the last sentence as the current text may be construed to reflect negatively on the work of United Nations prior to UNISPACE III.

Document A/AC.105/C.1/L.272/Add.1

Chapter III, Section A, subsection 2:

Paragraph 16:

Add the following sentence at the end of the paragraph:

“The Action Team on Capacity-Building also convened an open forum in October 2002 in Houston, Texas, United States of America.”

Paragraph 26:

The second sentence should be amended to read as follows:

“...Global Navigation Satellite Systems and the Action Team on Capacity-Building proposed...”

Paragraph 32:

(and paragraphs 18 and 19 of Document A/AC.105/C.1/L.272/Add.2)

The establishment of a special voluntary UN fund for the purpose of implementing recommendations of UNISPACE-III was a major recommendation of the Vienna Declaration (paragraph (f)(ii)). Reference to the implementation of this recommendation were found in three different paragraphs of the draft report to the Committee, namely paragraph 32 in document A/AC.105/C.1/L.272/Add.1 and paragraphs 18 and 19 of document A/AC.105/C.1/L.272/Add.2. However, the actual funds contributed by different Member States, or indirect contributions, such as support for the Regional Centres, has not been brought out in quantitative terms. As the funding for the implementation of UNISPACE III recommendations is an important point, which is also highlighted by most of the Action Teams, it is proposed that the information contained on funding in the above-mentioned paragraphs be consolidated and reflected separately under the title “Funding”, in order to draw the attention of all Member States to this question.

Chapter III, Section B:

Paragraph 41:

(and paragraph 36 of Document A/AC.105/C.1/L.272/Add.2)

1. Paragraph 41 makes reference to the second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and Pacific (ESCAP). Paragraph 36 of document A/AC.105/C.1/L.272/Add.2 mentions the activities of ESCAP. As the second Ministerial Conference is one of the initiatives of ESCAP, it is proposed that it would be proper to bring together the activities of ESCAP in one place. In the Asia Pacific region, ESCAP harmonizes various regional initiatives under UN umbrella. Nevertheless, the importance given to it is much less compared to the importance given to APMCSTA (see for example paragraph 42 of document A/AC.105/C.1/L.272/Add.1). The proper balancing of various initiatives in the Asia Pacific region may be necessary.

2. The following information, received from ESCAP, could be taken into account with regard to paragraph 41 (A/AC.105/C.1/L.272/Add.1) and paragraph 36 (A/AC.105/C.1/L.272/Add.2):

“Immediately after the UNISPACE III, ESCAP organized the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific in New Delhi from 18 to 20 November 1999. The Ministerial Conference interpreted the recommendations of UNISPACE III into regional actions by producing two important milestones to enhance collaboration for regional space applications and development: (a) the Delhi Declaration on Space Technology Applications in Asia and the Pacific for Improved Quality of Life in the New Millennium and (b) the Strategy and Action Plan on Space Technology Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

“At its fifty-sixth session, the ESCAP Commission endorsed, in Resolution 56/3 of 7 June 2000, the outcomes of the Ministerial Conference and launched the second phase of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP II).

“The second phase of RESAP has been incorporated in the medium-term plans and biennial work programs of ESCAP. Under the revitalization undertaking in 2002, the ESCAP secretariat established the information, communications and space technology sub-programme, and space technology applications, being accorded high importance, have been incorporated in the newly-established sub-programme, which aims to create an enabling environment for the development, transfer and application of information, communications and space technologies, and contribute to enhance the capacity of ESCAP to respond more effectively and efficiently to the needs of its members and associate members in the context of globalization and the changing regional economic and social environment. The Space Technology Applications Section was strengthened with 4 professional staff members and an expert on NRL basis.

“RESAP II works towards an action-oriented, results-driven programme with focuses on minimum essential requirements of the countries in the Asia-Pacific region, by promoting regional cooperative mechanisms and operational utilization of space technology applications for prioritized fields of environment and natural resources management, natural disaster management and poverty alleviation, with the objective to bridge the digital divide in fields relevant to space-based information and communication

technology development and applications. The modality of the Programme has shifted from emphasizing training and awareness rising towards promoting the establishment of regional cooperative mechanisms to support operational applications of space technology.

“Member countries have been participating actively in the Programme and benefited there from.

“The ESCAP secretariat has provided continued support to the regional cooperative network and serviced the annual meetings of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee (ICC) on RESAP and the four regional working groups on remote sensing, GIS and satellite-based positioning; meteorological satellite applications and natural hazards monitoring; satellite communications applications; and space science and technology Applications. The RESAP network has been strengthened. Two new members joined the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee as National Focal Point. A number of additional National Contact Points, from government, industry and academia, were appointed to the regional working groups.

“Capacity-building and human resources development are key considerations in all activities under the RESAP-II. In cooperation with China, India and Indonesia, ESCAP offered fellowships for training courses on space technology applications to developing countries, in particular to least developed countries and countries with economies in transition. Since 2000, 40 specialists from 15 countries were trained through the long-term fellowships in remote sensing and GIS, satellite meteorology and satellite communication organized by India; 45 specialists from 15 member countries were trained through the medium-term programmes organized by RESAP in cooperation with Indonesia; and 39 specialists from 16 member countries were trained through the short-term programmes organized in cooperation with China and India. All these training courses were conducted on technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) basis. The ESCAP secretariat also provided advisory services in remote sensing and GIS applications in Myanmar and East Timor.

“Considering the importance of policy and institutional issues in operational applications of space technology, particularly to developing countries, the ESCAP secretariat has completed the study on policy frameworks for integrating space technology applications for sustainable development into the information superhighway, the study on policy framework for operational applications of space technology for poverty alleviation; and is conducting a policy study on regional cooperative mechanisms for using space technology to support disaster management in the Asia-Pacific region.

“The ESCAP secretariat has continued to implement regional technical cooperation projects to promote operational applications of space technology in fields of disaster management, integrated land and water resources management, crop monitoring and assessment, soil erosion risk assessment. New projects relevant to the contribution of satellite communications will be given more emphasis in the forthcoming years.

“Recognizing the uneven development of space technology applications among the countries of the region, ESCAP secretariat has been promoting institutionalization of regional cooperative mechanisms to facilitate equitable sharing of the benefits of space technology development and applications by all countries in the region. Towards this, with an increasing number of space-capable countries in and from outside the Asia-Pacific region having expressed their intentions to support disaster management, the

ESCAP secretariat is working towards developing regional cooperative mechanisms in various fields of space technology applications for disaster management to foster international sharing of resources to help overcome national gaps in capabilities to plan for, and respond to natural disaster. To achieve this, cooperative mechanisms could be developed in areas where mature conditions permit to do so. In this process, the cooperation among relevant United Nations entities is crucial.

“As recommended by the second Ministerial Conference, the preparation for the third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific has been initiated. The third Ministerial Conference will consider concrete steps towards institutionalization of mechanisms for regional space applications and development.”

Paragraph 44:

The first sentence should be amended to read as follows:

“..., such as the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) hosted by Japan in cooperation with each co-host country.”

Add the following sentence at the end of the paragraph:

“As a result of the 10th APRSAF meeting held in Thailand in January 2004, some recommendations were agreed on, which include the strengthening of cooperation in fields such as disaster and environmental monitoring, space communication and space education.”

Document A/AC.105/C.1/L.272/Add.2

Chapter III, Section C, subsection 2:

Paragraph 16:

The priority theme (e) as indicated should be amended to reflect its full title. Editorial changes to the priority themes should be avoided in order to prevent a shift in emphasis.

Accordingly the priority theme (e) should be amended to read as follows:

“...and (e) education and capacity building, including research areas in basic Space Sciences.”

Paragraphs 18 and 19:

Please see the comments under paragraph 32 of document A/AC.105/C.1/L.272/Add.1, reflected above.

Chapter III, Section C, subsection 3:

Paragraph 32, second and third sentences:

Amend the text to include the following:

“...standard for land-cover mapping and is now being considered as an ISO standard. The Africover programme has a concrete follow-up in a similar project, AsiaCover, involving seven countries in the Asia region and under the Global Land Cover Network (GLCN) initiative, promoted by FAO and UNEP. The FAO Advanced Real-Time Environmental ...and rainfall patterns in support of the FAO Global Information...”.

Paragraph 35:

Add the following at the end of the first sentence:

“...countries affected by disasters, using increasing space-derived information. The proposed WMO ...”

Paragraph 36:

Please see the comments under paragraph 41 of document A/AC.105/C.1/L.272/Add.1, reflected above.

Paragraph 38:

Amend the third and fourth sentences as follows:

“... the United Nations system. In this context, FAO is thus developing its GeoNetwork, a comprehensive international standard-based spatial information infrastructure jointly with the World Food Programme (WFP), UNEP and other partners. GeoNetwork aims to improve dynamic access to and integrated use of spatial information among FAO Divisions services, Member Countries, United Nations agencies, the CGIAR Centres and other stakeholders in support ...”

Paragraph 46:

Add the following sentence at the end of the paragraph:

“At the Evian G8 summit held in June 2003, the Action Plan on ‘Science and Technology for Sustainable Development’ was adopted, and it was agreed to develop the Implementation Plan for the next ten years in recognition that it was important for each country to cooperate and to advance earth observation. Following the above summit, the First Earth Observation Summit was held in the United States in July 2003. There it was agreed that the Framework Document of the 10-year Implementation Plan would be developed in the Second Earth Observation Summit, to be held in Japan in the first quarter of 2004, and that the Implementation Plan would finally be drawn up at the Third Earth Observation Summit, to be held in Europe in the fourth quarter of 2004”.

Chapter III, Section C, subsection 3:

The following information, received from the World Health Organization (WHO), could be taken into account with regard Chapter III, Section C, subsection 3:

“WHO’s Onchocerciasis Control Programme in West Africa is one of the most successful uses of satellite technology in public health. Onchocerciasis (river blindness) has virtually been eliminated from seven OCP countries through hydrological monitoring to support targeted spraying that killed off the larvae, which are the main vector of the disease. The hydrological monitoring network in 1996 consisted of 150 water-gauges including 79 equipped with hydrological beacons. These beacons made use of automatic devices in rivers and tele-transmitted the data (water level and discharge rates) via satellite to the operational centres in real time (ARGOS system).

“This system was linked to a discharge forecasting software (PERLE) that relied on the tele-transmitted data, and made it possible to improve considerably the efficacy of the larviciding thus allowing for the most cost-effective selection of larvicides taking into account their carry, purchase and transportation cost as well as the potential for resistance developing. There are practically no longer new onchocercal infections occurring throughout the surrounding Extension areas. Perhaps the most gratifying achievement is that nine million children born within the Original OCP area since programme operations started have been spared the risk of onchocercal blindness. Furthermore, 30 million people are protected from infection by the disease, 100 000 have been prevented from going blind and 1.25 million have lost their onchocercal infection.

“Honduras’ Ministry of Health alongside with the Pan American Health Organization, is trying to identify low accessibility areas to primary health care (PHC) using Digital elevation Model (DEM) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in order to relocate, reorganize and maximize human, physical and financial resources for the most disadvantaged populations. Scenarios of critical low accessibility areas and unmet basic needs are part of this study’s purposes. Geo-spatial analysis was used to assess an accessibility index (AI), calculating and adding up z scores of all distances and slopes among villages, roads and Health centres. Slopes were measured processing the Honduras Digital Elevation Model (DEM) from USGS into a Triangulated Irregular Network (TIN) for all the Honduran territory; subsequently, they were assigned to roads and trajectories from villages to the Health center (CESAMO).

“Key indicators include distances and slopes to nearest PHC facility, distances to, and slopes of adjacent paved roads, as well as villages surrounding gradients. Among results it was observed that, 9% of Honduran population resides in critical accessibility areas; where there are just 38 rural health centres with nurses (CESAR) to provide basic health care to more than 500,000 people; this, besides three closed health centres (CESAMO). Complete evaluation of accessibility critical areas improves the scope of health service allocation problems and other unmet needs. It strengthens decision making to focus interventions on resource re-allocation to establish alternative coverage scenarios, both, opening nearest facilities or restructuring the closest alternative rural centres to maximize impact with lower cost. Additional analysis is suggested to include transportation network and land use impact on health services distribution. Local indicators of health needs are required to have a broader equity scope.

“Use of DEM and Vegetation-Land Use remote sensing materials to evaluate the situation of chronic malnutrition in Central America. This project was developed with the purpose of identifying spatial clusters of chronic malnutrition in three countries of Central America (Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras) in order to determine the relationships among the nutritional status, predisposing and risk environmental and socioeconomic factors as access to infrastructure. With data on the prevalence of chronic malnutrition in different levels (total, moderate and severe), using data from the Height National Censuses of each country, for the age between schoolchildren of 1st degree, in Central America, spatial autocorrelation has being carried out for identification of malnutrition geographic "clusters" statistically significant, using municipalities as analytical unit. The cartographic processing includes conversion of the Digital Elevation Models (DEM by USGS) and spatial tabulation analysis of land Use Grids by CIESIN. Statistical and spatial analysis was carried out, in order to identify the association with social factors (density population, illiteracy, access to services) and environmental (vegetation and land use –agriculture-, climatic elements and topography) associated with malnutrition regional patterns.”