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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF
OUTER SPACE

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

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Vienna, 21 February-4 March 2005

Agenda item 5

**Implementation of the recommendations
of the Third United Nations Conference
on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of
Outer space (UNISPACE III)**

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF UNISPACE III

The Way Ahead

In its resolution 59/2, adopted without a vote on 20 October 2004, the General Assembly endorsed the Plan of Action as proposed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in its report to the General Assembly on the review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/59/174).

The present document contains a summary of the actions proposed in the Plan of Action of the Committee and a summary of the recommendations of the General Assembly in its resolution 59/2 with regard to the further implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF UNISPACE III

Summary of actions contained in the Plan of Action of the Committee to further implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III

PLAN OF ACTION

(Chapter VI, Section B of document A/59/174, pages 57-77)

Actions	Primary Actors	Indicated Time for Completion	Specific Actions/Details
1. THE USE OF SPACE TO SUPPORT OVERARCHING GLOBAL AGENDAS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT			
(a) Establishing a closer link with the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development			
Paragraph 232 Synchronize work of COPUOS with CSD by: (a) examining contribution made by space science and technology and their applications to issues selected by Commission as a thematic cluster; (b) providing substantive inputs for consideration by the Commission during the policy year <i>See also operative paragraph 7 of General Assembly Resolution 59/2</i> COPUOS could develop inputs on basis of specific actions proposed by action teams.	COPUOS	Inputs to be provided for policy year of each thematic cluster, namely 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016	
Paragraph 233 Identify actions in the WSSD Plan of Implementation and establish follow-up programmes to be carried out jointly with multilateral, bilateral development programmes and relevant user institutions, in particular in developing countries.	Space Agencies and Space-related entities	Unspecified	
(b) Applying the results of space research to promote sustainable development			
Paragraph 237 Consider (a) developing and committing to a sustainable development agenda that can benefit from space technology, at a level commensurate with its capability and resources; and (b) undertaking measures towards the systematic collection, accurate analysis and proper management of space-acquired and in situ data as a starting point towards sustainable development.	Each Country	Unspecified	
Paragraph 238 Take advantage of capacities of international entities active in	Member States	Unspecified	See also paras. 299-310.

Actions	Primary Actors	Indicated Time for Completion	Specific Actions/Details
environment to provide the intellectual leadership needed for building a strong scientific and technical foundation for the discussion of sustainable development issues. Such international entities include the Office for Outer Space Affairs, UNEP, FAO, UNESCO and WMO, as well as non-governmental organizations such as COSPAR, the International Astronautical Federation and ISPRS			
(c) Developing a comprehensive, worldwide environmental monitoring strategy			
<p>Paragraph 243 Coordinate implementation of the work plan of Action Team on the Environmental Monitoring Strategy at the global level.</p> <p>Invite WMO, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, CEOS and other members of IGOS-P, as well as the entities involved in implementing GMES initiative and the ad hoc Group on Earth Observations to implement the work plan.</p>	<p>COPUOS with OOSA</p> <p>COPUOS (through OOSA)</p>	Unspecified	The work plan consists of the following four technical components: (i) networking and knowledge-sharing; (ii) capacity-building of national and regional organizations; (iii) regional systems for collection and distribution of information; and (iv) space technology applications for environmental monitoring. Each of these components will consist of a set of outputs, which will be delivered through specific activities.
<p>Paragraph 244 Establish first geo-information centre.</p>	Member States that chaired the Action Team (Iran, Russian Federation and Syria)	Unspecified	
(d) Improving the management of the Earth's natural resources			
<p>Paragraph 247 Articulate, through pilot and demonstration projects, the exact information needs of all stakeholders involved at all levels.</p> <p>Take advantage of existing capacity-building opportunities and the wealth of Earth observation data, interpretation and analysis tools that are available for specialized training to develop the necessary human resources</p>	All States using or planning to use Earth observations on an operational basis in the management of natural resources	Unspecified	See also paras. 299-310.
<p>Paragraph 248 To promote operational use of Earth observations and its role in managing natural resources:</p> <p>(a) Maintain and disseminate a compilation of best practices in use of Earth observation data in natural resource management, building on compilation developed by Action Team on Management of Natural Resources and additional information from members of the Committee; and</p>	OOSA	Unspecified	

Actions	Primary Actors	Indicated Time for Completion	Specific Actions/Details
(b) Organize specialized training courses on operational use of Earth observations, in cooperation with regional centres			
2. DEVELOPING COORDINATED, GLOBAL SPACE CAPABILITIES			
(a) Maximizing the benefits of existing space capabilities for disaster management			
<p>Paragraph 256 Conduct study on possibility of creating an international entity to provide for coordination and means of optimizing effectiveness of space-based services for use in disaster management by fully utilizing existing and planned space- and ground-based assets and infrastructure and covering all phases of disaster management. <i>See also operative paragraph 9 of General Assembly Resolution 59/2</i></p>	<p>Ad hoc expert group, with experts to be provided by interested member States and relevant international organizations, including United Nations system entities in disaster management (para.257)</p> <p>OOSA to coordinate organization of work involved in preparing study; member States to provide support for study through voluntary contributions (para 257)</p>	<p>By 48th session of COPUOS (for COPUOS to consider whether to proceed with implementation plan to be proposed in study)</p>	<p>The study should (a) define the key functions of a possible disaster management international space coordination entity; (b) describe the benefits that it would provide to the disaster management community; (c) define the scope and nature of the entity (for example, intergovernmental or non-governmental); and (d) propose an implementation plan that would include details of the estimated cost of the establishment and operation of such an entity and possible sources of funding (that is, voluntary or assessed contributions), as well as the intended use of the funds. The study should also examine the options of providing sustainable resources for applying space technology in support of disaster management and for building the capacity of civil protection authorities to use space technology. Final report submitted by Action Team provides basis for conducting such a study.</p>

Actions	Primary Actors	Indicated Time for Completion	Specific Actions/Details
<p><i>Paragraph 258</i> Make cash or in-kind voluntary contributions for preparation of study <i>See also operative paragraph 10 of General Assembly Resolution 59/2</i></p>	Interested Member States to communicate to OOSA	Before end of 2004 so that the Office could include such contributions in its cost plan for use of Trust Fund resources in 2005	Work on study could commence as soon as sufficient voluntary contributions received. OOSA to communicate to member States date of commencement of work and provide information on organization of work, including list of experts, some of whom may work on a full-time basis at facilities provided by Office or by interested United Nations entity (para. 259)
<p><i>Paragraph 260</i> Report to S&T on status of preparation of study, indicate whether study could be completed in time for submission to Committee at 48th session and level of voluntary contributions received.</p> <p>Submit to S&T for review and approval, draft terms of reference for ad hoc expert group and propose how study might be reviewed by COPUOS and its subsidiary bodies for a decision to be made by COPUOS.</p> <p>Provide further guidance on preparation of study on basis of OOSA report.</p>	OOSA OOSA Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	During 42 nd session of S&T	
<p><i>Paragraph 261</i> Develop case history of benefits of using space technologies for disaster management and establish sample product catalogue.</p> <p>Also study possibility of establishing pages, with use of voluntary contributions, on web site of OOSA for improved access to Earth observation data archives.</p>	Ad hoc expert group Ad hoc expert group, with OOSA	Unspecified	
<p><i>Paragraph 262</i> Consider (a) allocating a portion of disaster-management-related budget or funds to using space technology for disaster management; and (b) identifying single points of contact to focus their internal disaster management efforts and to provide liaison with external efforts with respect to use of space technology for disaster management.</p>	Governments and international organizations	Unspecified	

Actions	Primary Actors	Indicated Time for Completion	Specific Actions/Details
<p><i>Paragraph 263</i> Join and strengthen Disaster Charter</p>	<p>Member States with space agencies having remote sensing satellite capabilities</p>	<p>Unspecified</p>	<p>So that remote sensing capabilities and applications can be more effectively used in supporting disaster management activities</p>
<p>(b) Maximizing the benefits of the use and applications of global navigation satellite systems to support sustainable development</p>			
<p><i>Paragraph 267</i> Establish international committee on GNSS including appropriate international organizations to: (a) optimize compatibility and interoperability; (b) identify mechanisms for implementing measures to protect the reliability and integrity of signals at the national, regional and global levels; (c) coordinate modernization activities to meet user needs; (d) develop road maps for the introduction of GNSS services; and (e) provide training opportunities in GNSS, in particular in developing countries <i>See also operative paragraph 11 of General Assembly Resolution 59/2</i></p> <p>Facilitate exchange of information among users and providers of GNSS, without prejudice to roles and functions of GNSS service providers and intergovernmental organizations such as International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Maritime Organization and ITU.</p>	<p>GNSS and augmentation providers</p> <p>Proposed international committee on GNSS</p>	<p>Unspecified</p>	<p>See also paras. 299-310.</p>
<p><i>Paragraph 268</i> Develop and maintain a web site to include information, inter alia, on recent application developments, training opportunities and sources for obtaining assistance in integrating GNSS into national infrastructure and in protecting signal reliability and integrity at the national and regional levels</p>	<p>OOSA with GNSS and augmentation providers, or international committee on GNSS if established</p>	<p>Unspecified</p>	<p>See also paras. 299-310</p>

Actions	Primary Actors	Indicated Time for Completion	Specific Actions/Details
3. THE USE OF SPACE TO SUPPORT SPECIFIC AGENDAS TO MEET HUMAN DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL			
(a) Enhancing weather and climate forecasting by expanding international cooperation in meteorological satellite applications			
<p><i>Paragraph 273</i> Recognize the significant role of weather and climate forecasting in development and provide support, including necessary financial resources, to implement the WMO Space Programme, initiated by the fourteenth World Meteorological Congress in May 2003.</p> <p>Support implementation of WMO Space Programme Long-term Strategy, which was included in the Sixth WMO Long-term Plan, covering the period 2004-2011. <i>See also operative paragraph 12 of General Assembly Resolution 59/2</i></p> <p>Support those national and international entities that provide space systems that seek to meet the WMO requirements.</p>	Member States	Unspecified	WMO Long-term Plan aims (a) to make increasing contributions to the development of the Global Observing System of the World Weather Watch Programme and other associated observing systems of WMO; (b) to provide continuously improved data, products and services from both operational and research and development satellites; and (c) to facilitate and promote their wider availability and meaningful utilization around the world.
(b) Improving medical and public health services through the use of space technologies			
<p><i>Paragraph 276</i> Convene international conference on telemedicine for experts and government officials, as well as decision makers, including those from ministries responsible for public health.</p>	OOSA (under PSA), with WHO and other United Nations entities and international organizations and Member States	Unspecified	With voluntary contributions
<p><i>Paragraph 277</i> Invite WHO to address the issue of telemedicine at its World Health Assembly.</p>	COPUOS	Unspecified	
<p><i>Paragraph 278</i> Prepare, preferably before convening conference on telemedicine, a report on status and potential of telemedicine that would (a) examine range of telemedicine initiatives worldwide; (b) identify most promising areas for implementation; (c) examine needs for telemedicine, in particular in developing countries; and (d) make recommendations for decision makers.</p>	Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, through an enlarged Action Team on Public Health (under work plan)	For 43 rd session of S&T (February 2006)	Study should take into account results of discussions of Subcommittee during first two years of work plan and should be prepared in cooperation with WHO and any other relevant international organizations.
<p><i>Paragraph 279</i> Consider mechanisms to conduct study on feasibility of establishing a possible international cardiovascular-disease knowledge-management network or other pilot projects.</p>	Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	Study be completed by 48 th session of COPUOS (June 2005)	Study to serve as clinical decision support tool for medical authorities to assess, monitor, diagnose, prevent and treat cardiovascular disease and to assist developing countries in combating cardiovascular disease. The study

Actions	Primary Actors	Indicated Time for Completion	Specific Actions/Details
			should, among other things, identify entities to be involved in establishing network, describe benefits for medical authorities, suggest a timetable, provide cost estimates and identify sources of funding.
c) Promoting cooperation in the study of near-Earth objects as threats to society at large			
<i>Paragraph 282</i> Lead efforts towards better coordination at global level of research, detection, search and follow-up observations of NEOs and other relevant activities by identifying action to be taken at national level or through international cooperation.	COPUOS	Under work plan of the agenda item on Near Earth Objects (2005-2007)	
<i>Paragraph 283</i> Consider, and encourage member organizations of International Council for Science to consider, recommendations contained in various reports on subject of NEOs and help plan necessary multidisciplinary activity.	International Council for Science	Unspecified	
4. OVERARCHING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT			
(a) Increasing awareness of space benefits to improve the economic and social welfare of humanity			
<i>Paragraph 289</i> Include items on future agendas of COPUOS to consider its contributions to work of entities responsible for convening United Nations conferences and/or for implementing their outcomes. <i>See also operative paragraph 8 of General Assembly Resolution 59/2</i> Include new item on 48 th agenda of COPUOS to consider its contribution to work to be conducted by WSIS second phase, November 2005	OOSA (in COPUOS provisional agenda)	Starting at 49 th session of COPUOS May 2005 (during preparation of provisional agenda)	
<i>Paragraph 290</i> Invite ECA, ECLAC and ESCWA to consider integrating the use of space science and technology and their applications into their work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, taking into account the accomplishments of RESAP of ESCAP.	COPUOS	Unspecified	

Actions	Primary Actors	Indicated Time for Completion	Specific Actions/Details
<p><i>Paragraph 291</i> Promote awareness of role of space science and technology and their applications in support of achieving the internationally agreed development goals.</p> <p>Invite international and national space-related organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide COPUOS with information on their efforts in this regard.</p>	<p>International and national space-related organizations, non-governmental organizations and</p> <p>COPUOS (through OOSA)</p>	<p>Unspecified</p>	
<p><i>Paragraph 292</i> Invite UNESCO to promote awareness of human development benefits of space activities as lead agency for United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, beginning 2005</p>	<p>COPUOS (through OOSA)</p>	<p>UNESCO to inform COPUOS at 48th session on activities planned during Decade.</p>	
<p><i>Paragraph 293</i> Disseminate through home page information on efforts to increase awareness of importance of space activities.</p> <p>Continue updating information, building on compilation of results of Internet-based survey conducted by Action Team on Increasing Awareness</p>	<p>OOSA with UNESCO</p>	<p>Unspecified</p>	
<p>b) Improving knowledge-sharing by promoting universal access to space-based communication services</p>			
<p><i>Paragraph 297</i> (a) identify existing and planned space-based communication infrastructures committed to universal access; (b) identify the barriers to the implementation of space-based communication systems; (c) promote usage of space-based communication systems to assist in improving knowledge-sharing; (d) identify priority areas and target groups for knowledge-sharing; and start developing pilot programmes for implementation in near future</p>	<p>Action Team on Knowledge-sharing</p>	<p>Unspecified</p>	
<p>(c) Enhancing capacity-building in space-related activities</p>			
<p><i>Paragraph 301</i> Support initiatives of Working Group on Education, Training and Capacity-Building of CEOS, to develop an Earth observation education and training Internet web portal and provide Earth observation data free of charge or at lowest possible cost for educational purposes.</p>	<p>Member States with OOSA</p>	<p>Unspecified</p>	<p>To enhance capacity of developing countries in the development and wider use of Earth observation technologies, including satellite remote sensing and GIS</p>

Actions	Primary Actors	Indicated Time for Completion	Specific Actions/Details
<i>Paragraph 302</i> Support the activities of regional centres, including possible organization of series of capacity-building activities in States of their respective regions, by developing a database of experts from space agencies who could assist regional centres by providing specialized training, as well as making space-related education and training materials available for use by the regional centres.	Member States that have established space agencies	Unspecified	
<i>Paragraph 303</i> Assist international efforts to coordinate capacity-building activities by disseminating, through web sites, a list of international activities held around the world to strengthen capacity of developing countries, in particular those organized by developing countries seeking assistance.	OOSA and UNESCO with regional centres	Unspecified	
<i>Paragraph 304</i> Implement capacity-building activities, focusing particularly on teachers, young professionals and decision makers, to support UNESCO Space Education Programme.	Member States with OOSA	Unspecified	This would be a contribution of COPUOS and OOSA to United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005 to 2014).
<i>Paragraph 305</i> Discuss ways and means of coordinating capacity-building activities in space-related areas at policy level.	Inter-Agency entities and COPUOS	Unspecified	
<i>Paragraph 306</i> Hold workshops and symposiums on regular basis with participation of youth in order to provide opportunities at regional level for exchange of experiences in capacity-building efforts.	OOSA and relevant organizations	Unspecified	
<i>Paragraph 307</i> Develop and distribute educational booklets covering fundamentals of space science that could serve as educational tools for young people in all countries.	Space agencies	Unspecified	
<i>Paragraph 308</i> Organize a meeting of interested Member States and space agencies to identify parties willing to undertake actions in paragraphs above (301-307)	OOSA	Unspecified	
<i>Paragraph 309</i> Distribute archived satellite images, upon request, free of charge or at the lowest possible cost, for use particularly by developing countries as basic material for space research and studies.	Countries with satellite-imaging techniques and possessing archives of satellite images	Unspecified	
(d) Identifying sources of financing to support development activities with space applications			
<i>Paragraph 313</i> Implement the following:	COPOUS through Action Team on	Unspecified	

Actions	Primary Actors	Indicated Time for Completion	Specific Actions/Details
<p>(a) Organize workshops for experts in development banks and aid agencies to learn about possibilities offered by space applications;</p> <p>(b) Identify specific measures to promote inclusion of training components in projects to be funded and encourage formal commitment from Governments concerned to maintain structures developed and to retain personnel trained as a result of project;</p> <p>(c) Identify ways to promote inclusion of funds for necessary investment in specific budget and amortization of that investment in subsequent budgets, in order to allow for reimbursement of initial investment, and to provide guarantees for foreseeable internal return in projects in order to ensure their operational nature in long term.</p>	<p>Innovative Sources of Funding</p>		
<p><i>Paragraph 314</i></p> <p>(a) Consider placing a higher priority on capacity-building initiatives in fields of space science and technology; and</p> <p>(b) Use official development assistance funds to help achieve capacity-building goals.</p> <p>Make efforts to build partnerships with countries requesting assistance and directly support their capacity-building through exchanges of information and experience</p>	<p>States that receive official development assistance funds</p> <p>Countries that provide official development assistance funds</p>	<p>Unspecified</p>	<p>See also paras. 299-310</p>
<p><i>Paragraph 315</i></p> <p>Increase number of donors contributing to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications</p> <p><i>See also operative paragraph 17 of General Assembly Resolution 59/2</i></p>	<p>Member States/COPUOS</p>	<p>Unspecified</p>	<p>To increase predictability of voluntary contribution to support work of Office for Outer Space Affairs</p>

Summary of recommendations contained in the General Assembly resolution 59/2

Actions	Primary Actors	Indicated Time for Completion	Specific Actions/Details
<p><i>Operative Paragraph 5</i> Carry out the actions contained in the Plan of Action on a priority basis for the further implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, in particular its resolution entitled “The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development”</p>	<p>All Governments, entities of the United Nations system as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental entities conducting space-related activities</p>	<p>Unspecified</p>	
<p><i>Operative Paragraph 6</i> Implement some of the actions contained in the Plan of Action through the consideration of items of the agendas of the Committee or its subsidiary bodies and through those action teams that will continue their work as endorsed by the Committee</p>	<p>COPUOS</p>	<p>Some action items in the Plan of Action are specified. Please see above.</p>	
<p><i>Operative Paragraph 7</i> Examine the contributions that could be made by space science and technology and their applications to one or more of the issues selected by the Commission on Sustainable Development as a thematic cluster and to provide substantive inputs for consideration by the Commission <i>See also paragraph 232 of Plan of Action as contained in A/59/174</i></p>	<p>COPUOS</p>	<p>Inputs to be provided for policy year of each thematic cluster, namely 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016. (see paragraph 232 under the Plan of Action)</p>	
<p><i>Operative Paragraph 8</i> Include items in the agendas of its future sessions, starting from its forty-ninth session, in 2006, to consider its contributions to the work of those entities that are responsible for convening United Nations conferences and/or for implementing their outcomes; <i>See also paragraph 289 of Plan of Action as contained in A/59/174</i></p>	<p>COPUOS</p>	<p>Begin at 49th session of COPUOS</p>	
<p>9. Conduct study on the possibility of creating an international entity to provide for coordination and the means of realistically optimizing the effectiveness of space-based services for use in disaster management <i>See also paragraph 256 of Plan of Action as contained in A/59/174</i></p> <p>Review progress in the work of the ad hoc expert group, at its forty-eighth session, in 2005</p>	<p>Ad hoc expert group, with experts to be provided by interested Member States and relevant international organizations</p> <p>COPUOS</p>	<p>By 48th session of COPUOS (for COPUOS to consider whether to proceed with implementation plan to be proposed in study)</p>	

Actions	Primary Actors	Indicated Time for Completion	Specific Actions/Details
10. Make contributions to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for preparing the study by the ad hoc expert group <i>See also paragraph 258 of Plan of Action as contained in A/59/174</i>	Member States	Before the end of 2004	
11. Establish an international committee on GNSS as proposed in the Plan of Action <i>See also paragraph 267 of Plan of Action as contained in A/59/174</i>	Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) and augmentation providers	Unspecified	In order to maximize the benefits of the use and applications of GNSS to support sustainable development.
12. Provide support to implement the Space Programme of the World Meteorological Organization and its Long-term Strategy as proposed in the Plan of Action <i>See also paragraph 273 of Plan of Action as contained in A/59/174</i>	Member States	Unspecified	In order to expand international cooperation in meteorological satellite applications to enhance weather and climate forecasting.
13. ... (a) ... (b) ... (c) Requests the Committee to undertake further implementation of UNISPACE III recommendations with a view to enhancing the capacity of developing countries to initiate space application programmes;	COPUOS	Unspecified	
14. Cluster, to extent feasible, activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, to address a few priority themes to be selected by the Committee for each year	OOSA and COPUOS	Unspecified	
15. Review the activities that are included in the Plan of Action for implementation by the Office and submit a proposal to the Committee on how those activities could be included in its programme of work <i>See also paragraph 323 of Plan of Action as contained in A/59/174</i>	OOSA	By 48 th session of COPUOS	
16. Implement activities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs as contained in the Plan of Action and ensure that those activities are included in the programme of work for the biennium 2006–2007	OOSA and Secretary-General	By the 2006-2007 budget cycle	
17. Contribute to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications <i>See also paragraph 315 of Plan of Action as contained in A/59/174</i>	All Member States and space-related intergovernmental and non-governmental entities	Unspecified	Allow full flexibility for the Office for Outer Space Affairs to carry out the activities of the Programme in accordance with the priorities set by the Committee.
18. Continue considering in future sessions the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III until the Committee considers that concrete results are achieved.	COPUOS	Starting with 48 th session	

