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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF
OUTER SPACE

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

Forty-second session

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: ACTIONS OF
POSSIBLE INTEREST TO A LARGE NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES**

The present document contains three actions included in the Plan of Action of the Committee on the review of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (as contained in document A/59/174, pages 57-77) that were identified by the Chairman of the Working Group of Whole as possibly being of interest to a large number of member States and on which the Working Group of the Whole might wish to focus its discussions under the corresponding agenda item.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF UNISPACE III: ACTIONS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO A LARGE NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES

Actions on which the Working Group of the Whole might focus its discussions

DEVELOPING COORDINATED, GLOBAL SPACE CAPABILITIES (*Section 2 of the Plan of Action*) (*Reference: document A/59/174*)

ACTION 1

*** Maximizing the benefits of existing space capabilities for disaster management (Subsection (a))**

(*Proposed actions referred to in paragraphs 256-263 of the Plan of Action and operative paragraphs 9 and 10 of General Assembly resolution 59/2*)

- i) **Conduct a study on the possibility of creating such an international entity to provide for coordination and the means of optimizing the 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**

Primary Actors

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. OOSA would coordinate the organization of work involved in preparing the study.

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.

The final report submitted by the Action Team on Disaster Management provides the basis for conducting such a study.

The experts should aim at completing the study by the forty-eighth session of the COPUOS so that it can consider whether to proceed with the implementation plan to be proposed in the study.

The General Assembly encouraged Member States to make cash or in-kind voluntary contributions to the preparation of the study. Interested member States should communicate to the Office for Outer Space Affairs their intention to make such voluntary contributions, including contributions to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, for the purpose of preparing the study. Interested member States were urged to transfer cash contributions before the end of 2004, so that Office for Outer Space Affairs could include those contributions in its cost plan for use of Trust Fund resources in 2005.

The study could commence as soon as sufficient voluntary contributions had been received by Office for Outer Space Affairs to cover the costs associated with the preparation of the study. The Office for Outer Space Affairs should communicate to member States the date of commencement of the work and provide information on the organization of work, including the list of experts, some of whom may work on a full-time basis at facilities provided by Office for Outer Space Affairs or by an interested entity of the United Nations system.

The Office for Outer Space Affairs should report, during the 42nd session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, under the agenda item entitled “Space-system-based disaster management support”, on the status of the preparation of the study and to indicate whether the study could be completed in time for submission to the Committee at its 48th session and the level of voluntary contributions received in that regard.

The Office for Outer Space Affairs should also submit to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, for its review and approval, draft terms of reference for the ad hoc expert group and propose how the study might be reviewed by COPUOS and its subsidiary bodies for a decision to be made by COPUOS. On the basis of the report by the Office, the Subcommittee may provide further guidance on the preparation of the study.

Work also being conducted by the Subcommittee under a work plan and possible follow-up to its recommendations

ii) Develop a case history of the benefits of using space technologies for disaster management and establish a sample product catalogue

Primary Actors

Ad hoc expert group

In cooperation with the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the ad hoc expert group should also study the possibility of establishing pages, with the use of voluntary contributions, on the web site of the Office for improved access to Earth observation data archives.

Work also being conducted by the Subcommittee under a work plan and possible follow-up to its recommendations

iii) 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 internal disaster management efforts and to provide liaison with external efforts with respect to the use of space technology for disaster management

Primary Actors

Governments and international organizations

Work being conducted by the Subcommittee under a work plan and possible follow-up to its recommendations

iv) Join and strengthen the International Charter “Space and Major Disasters”

Primary Actors

Member States with space agencies or commercial entities having remote sensing satellite capabilities

So that remote sensing capabilities and applications can be more effectively used in supporting disaster management activities.

Work also being conducted by the Subcommittee under a work plan and possible follow-up to its recommendations

ACTION 2

*** Maximizing the benefits of the use and applications of global navigation satellite systems to support sustainable development (Subsection (b))**

(Proposed actions referred to in paragraphs 267-268 of the Plan of Action and operative paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 59/2)

i) Establish an international committee on GNSS

Primary Actors

GNSS and augmentation providers

The international committee on GNSS would include appropriate international organizations for the purposes of, among other things:

- (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.

The proposed international committee on GNSS should facilitate the exchange of information among users and providers of GNSS, without prejudice to roles and functions of GNSS service providers and IGOs such as ICAO, IMO and ITU.

Work being conducted by the GNSS and augmentation providers with the support of OOSA

ii) Develop and maintain web site with information 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

Primary Actors

OOSA in cooperation with GNSS and augmentation providers, or the international committee on GNSS, if and when established

Work being conducted by OOSA

OVERARCHING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT (*Section 4 of the Action Plan*)

ACTION 3

*** Enhancing capacity-building in space-related activities (Subsection (c))**

(Proposed actions referred to in paragraphs 301-309 of the Plan of Action)

- i) **Support the initiatives taken by the 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 the lowest possible cost for educational purposes**

Primary Actors

CEOS Working Group on Education Training and Capacity Building, CEOS Members and Associates, Member States, OOSA

To enhance the capacity of developing countries in the development and wider use of Earth observation technologies, including satellite remote sensing and GIS

- ii) **Support the activities of the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations**

Primary Actors

Member States, space agencies, specialized agencies of the United Nations system, commercial entities, NGOs

Support should include the possible organization of a series of capacity-building activities in the States of the respective regions of the centres

Develop a database of experts from space agencies who could assist the regional centres by providing specialized training

Make space-related education and training materials available for use by the regional centres

- iii) **Assist international efforts to coordinate capacity-building activities by disseminating, through web sites, a list of international activities held around the world to strengthen the capacity of developing countries, in particular those activities organized by developing countries.**

Primary Actors

OOSA and UNESCO, in cooperation with the regional centres

- iv) **Implement capacity-building activities, focusing particularly on teachers, young professionals and decision makers, in order to support the Space Education Programme of UNESCO**

Primary Actors

Member States and OOSA

This would be a contribution of COPUOS and OOSA to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005 to 2014).

Work also being conducted by the Committee under its agenda item "Space and Society" and possible follow-up to its recommendations

- v) **Discuss ways and means of coordinating, at the policy level, capacity-building activities in space-related areas**

Primary Actors

Inter-Agency entities of the United Nations system and members of COPUOS

Work being through the open session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on outer space activities and possible follow-up to its recommendations

- vi) **Hold workshops and symposiums on a regular basis with the participation of youth**

Primary Actors

OOSA and relevant organizations

To provide opportunities at the regional level for the exchange of experiences in capacity-building efforts.

- vii) **Develop and distribute educational booklets covering the fundamentals of space science**

Primary Actors

Space agencies

The booklets could serve as educational tools for young people in all countries

- viii) **Organize a meeting of interested Member States and space agencies to identify parties willing to undertake the actions listed in i) to vii) above**

Primary Actors

OOSA

- ix) **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**

Primary Actors

Countries with satellite imaging techniques and possessing archives of satellite images, OOSA and other United Nations entities