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22 February 2006

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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF  
OUTER SPACE  
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee  
Forty-third session  
Vienna, 20 February-3 March 2006  
**Agenda item 12**  
**Space-system-based disaster management support**

**PRESENTATION OF THE AD HOC EXPERT GROUP 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**

At its forty-eighth session, in June 2005, and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/2, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space reviewed the progress made in the work of the ad hoc expert group that was studying 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.

The Committee requested the ad hoc expert group to finalize the draft study, taking into consideration the comments provided by representatives of member States of the Committee and the objectives and work carried out by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with planned or ongoing activities in the use of space technology for disaster management. The Committee agreed that, once completed, the draft study should be distributed to all member States of the Committee by the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their review.

The Committee further agreed that the study could be considered informally in connection with the Working Group of the Whole of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly when it considered the item on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The study, including the comments received, would then be submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-third session, in 2006, for its review and recommendation to the Committee. That study is contained in document A/AC.105/C.1/L.285.

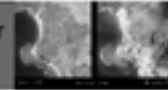
The ad hoc expert group held meetings on 21 and 22 February 2006, on the margins of the forty-third session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. The ad hoc group agreed that the representative of Romania, on behalf of the group, would make a presentation to the Subcommittee highlighting the main aspects of the study and responding to some of the issues and concerns raised by member States during the forty-eighth session of the Committee, particularly with regard to the governance model of the proposed entity and its functional relationship with existing relevant initiatives. That presentation is contained in the present conference room paper.

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Ad Hoc Expert Group on the Possibility of Creating a Disaster  
Management International Space Coordination Entity



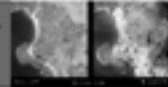
"Study on the possibility of creating an international entity to  
provide for coordination and the means of realistically optimizing  
the effectiveness of space-based services for use in disaster  
management" - A/AC.105/C.1/L.285

## Presentation to S&T at its 43<sup>rd</sup> Session

Gheorghe Stancalie  
National Meteorological Administration  
Romania

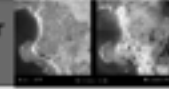


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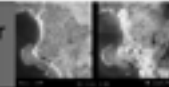
### Main Topics of this Presentation

- Background
- Focus and functions of the proposed entity
- Added value of the proposed entity
- Functional relationships with existing relevant initiatives
- Governance and implementation model
- Funding and commitments
- Recommendations and next steps



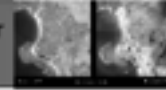
### Background

- UNISPACE III Recommendations (1999)
  - \* recommending the implementation of an integrated operational global system.....to manage natural disaster mitigation.....through earth observation, communications and other space-related services, making maximum use of existing capabilities and filling gaps in worldwide coverage. \*
- Action Team 7 Recommendations (2001)
  - \* establish an international space coordination entity for disaster management, nominally identified as 'Disaster Management International Space Coordination Organization (DMISCO). \*
- General Assembly Endorsement (59<sup>th</sup> session, 2004)
  - \* a study should be conducted 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 and that the study should be prepared by ad-hoc expert group. \*



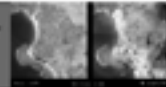
### Background (cont.)

- The submitted report (A/AC.105/C.1/L.285) presents the study carried out by a group of experts, drawn from both the space and user community, from 26 Member States and five specialized agencies of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations. The work of the ad hoc expert group was supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs.
- The report builds upon all the previous work carried out, particularly the work carried out by Action Team 7 (A/AC.105/C.1/L.273)
- The draft report was presented to COPUOS at its 48<sup>th</sup> session. The Committee agreed that, once completed, the draft study should be distributed to all member States of the Committee by the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their review, and also agreed that the study could be considered informally in connection with the Working Group of the Whole of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly, during its sixtieth session. The finalised study has taken into consideration the comments received and is being submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-third session, for its review and recommendation to the Committee at its 49<sup>th</sup> session.



### Focus of the Proposed Entity

- (a) "one-stop shop" and a platform for fostering alliances
- (b) it should be user-driven
- (c) bridge the gap between the disaster management and space communities, creating a forum where both can meet
- (d) contribute to making optimal use of the existing available resources
- (e) it should interact with other relevant initiatives and organisations
- (f) focus on existing gaps that are limiting the use of space technology
- (g) it should have informational, coordination and operational functions

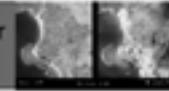


### Functions of the Proposed Entity

- **Informational Functions**
  - a web-based information service, including information on relevant archived data, case studies and best practices
- **Coordination Functions**
  - bridging gaps between the end user and space communities
  - bring together and contribute to optimize access and use of existing initiatives
  - establishment of and work with communities of practice
  - facilitation of capacity-building
- **Operational Functions**
  - Implementation of activities and projects identified in conjunction with national focal points, together with relevant partners
  - support to the implementation of international programmes or initiatives



### Ad Hoc Expert Group on the Possibility of Creating a Disaster Management International Space Coordination Entity

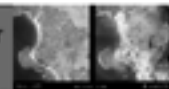


#### Added Value of the Proposed Entity

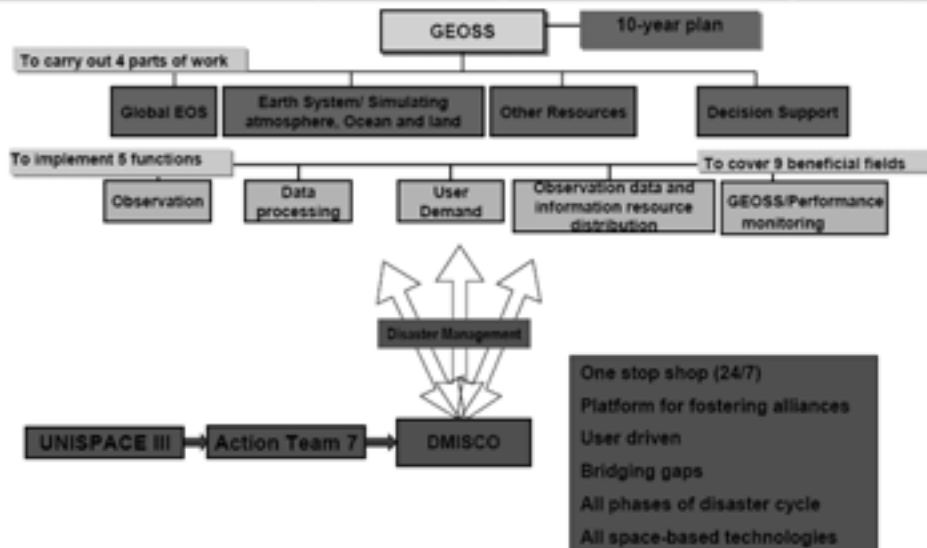
- Establishment of a web-based information service and a 24/7 access service to obtain information on how to access and use space technology for emergency response and risk reduction.
- Work directly with national focal points in promoting the use of space technology for risk reduction and disaster management.
- Contribute to understanding user requirements and defining best practices, working through established communities of practice
- With regard to relevant initiatives, such as the International Charter and GEOSS, DMISCO will support their proposed mandates, providing direct access to the end user and helping those initiatives understand the needs of the user.
- Under the UN umbrella



### Ad Hoc Expert Group on the Possibility of Creating a Disaster Management International Space Coordination Entity

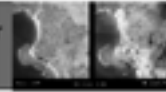


#### Functional relationships with existing relevant initiatives (e.g. GEOSS)





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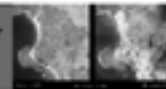


### Functional relationships with existing relevant initiatives

- This diagram presents one of the gap analysis exercises carried out by the ad hoc expert group when analysing relationships with on-going initiatives. In the case of GEOSS the experts concluded that both initiatives are complementary, and that possible overlaps are minimum and could be harmonised.
- DMISCO will help guide users to existing data and information and show them how to access and use it. That is, DMISCO will create disaster management communities of practice that would be better prepared to use the data to be made available through GEOSS and other initiatives such as the International Charter "Space and Major Disasters".
- Additionally, the experts stressed the need for coordination and interaction with the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to meet the commitments of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015.



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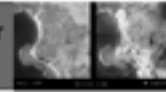


### Governance and Implementation Model

- The proposed entity should be implemented as a United Nations programme under the leadership of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, located within the Office and/or hosted by Member States that offer to provide facilities and partial operational support.
- Based on the initial list of functions and organizational scope identified, the implementation of the proposed entity will require an annual operational budget of approximately \$1.3 million, which would cover personnel (staff of 10), facilities (operation and maintenance) and operational costs.



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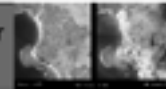


**Funding and Commitments**

- The report discusses possible opportunities for securing the needed funds including the possibility of a Member State offering to host the entity, and providing the facilities and part of the staff.
- The experts would like to invite the delegates of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at the current session, to express possible commitments.
- Additionally, the experts recommend that the Office send a correspondence to all Member States asking them to officially communicate the possible commitments to be provided to DMISCO.
- All providers of support would then be invited to meet before the next session of COPUOS to harmonise their commitments into one viable proposal for the implementation of DMISCO, to be presented to the Committee at its 49<sup>th</sup> session.



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**Recommendation and Next Steps**

- GEOSS has been invited to provide comments on the proposed DMISCO and to forward them to UNOOSA who in turn will forward them to the ad hoc expert group for consideration.
- The ad hoc expert group should meet on the margins of the 49<sup>th</sup> session of COPUOS to prepare its report to the Committee, taking into consideration the comments received from GEOSS, including a proposed implementation plan based on the commitments secured, and proposing a final name for the proposed entity.
- The Committee, after its review and recommendation, should submit the final report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.