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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 8

Space debris

Draft report of the Working Group on Space Debris

1. In accordance with paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 60/99 of 8 December 2005, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-third session, reconvened the Working Group on Space Debris to consider the draft space debris mitigation guidelines (A/AC.105/2005/CRP.18) arising from the intersessional meeting of the Working Group held in June 2005. The Working Group held three meetings, on 27 and 28 February and on 1 March 2006.
2. Claudio Portelli (Italy) was elected Chairman of the Working Group on Space Debris at the 648th meeting of the Subcommittee, on 27 February 2006.
3. The Working Group noted that its intersessional meeting held in June 2005 had resulted in the development of the draft space debris mitigation guidelines contained in A/AC.105/2005/CRP.18.
4. The Working Group further noted that informal consultations had been held from 23 to 27 February, during the forty-third session of the Subcommittee, in order to consider and further revise the draft space debris mitigation guidelines, resulting in the revised text contained in A/AC.105/C.1/2006/CRP.19.
5. On 28 February, the Working Group approved the revised draft space debris mitigation guidelines, as amended, and agreed that the revised draft guidelines should be submitted to the Subcommittee for its consideration. The text of the revised draft space debris mitigation guidelines is contained in document A/AC.105/C.1/L.284.
6. The Working Group agreed that it should recommend to the Subcommittee that the revised draft space debris mitigation guidelines (A/AC.105/C.1/L.284) be circulated at the national level to secure concurrence for approval of the guidelines by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session, in 2007.



7. The Working Group agreed that it had successfully met the requirements of the workplan adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-second session (A/AC.105/848, annex II, para. 6) through the delivery of the draft space debris mitigation guidelines to the Subcommittee.
 8. The Working Group noted that the Subcommittee could reconvene the Working Group at any time to consider comments resulting from the referral of the guidelines to the national level, as described in paragraph 6 above, and any further developments, particularly the relationship between the revised draft space debris mitigation guidelines and nuclear power sources in outer space.
 9. In that respect, it was also noted that discussions on the matter were ongoing and included the recent presentation on nuclear power sources and space debris made by the Working Group at the Joint United Nations/International Atomic Energy Agency Technical Workshop on the Objectives, Scope and General Attributes of a Potential Technical Safety Standard for Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, held in Vienna from 20 to 22 February 2006.
 10. At its third meeting, on [...] March 2006, the Working Group adopted the present report.
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