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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

Draft report of the Working Group of the Whole

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 60/99 of 8 December 2005, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-third session, reconvened the Working Group of the Whole. The Working Group of the Whole held [...] meetings, from 21 February to [...] March 2006. It considered the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) and the draft provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2007. At its [...] meeting, on [...] March, the Working Group of the Whole adopted the present report.

2. Muhammad Nasim Shah (Pakistan) was elected Chairman of the Working Group of the Whole at the [...] meeting of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, on 21 February. The Working Group of the Whole had before it, inter alia, a list of issues that it should consider (A/AC.105/C.1/2006/CRP.11).

II. United Nations Programme on Space Applications

3. The Working Group of the Whole also had before it the report of the Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/861). It was noted that the Expert had supplemented her report by a statement.

4. The Working Group of the Whole noted the workshops, seminars, symposiums, training courses and long-term fellowships for in-depth training, as well as technical advisory services, that had been proposed to the Subcommittee in the report of the Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/861, annex II).



III. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

5. The Working Group of the Whole had before it the following papers:

(a) Contribution of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the thematic cluster 2006-2007: input from member States (A/AC.105/C.1/2006/CRP.7);

(b) Contribution of the Committee to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the thematic cluster 2006-2007: discussion paper submitted to the Commission by the major group representing the scientific and technological communities (A/AC.105/C.1/2006/CRP.8);

(c) Draft text for the contribution of the Committee to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the thematic cluster 2006-2007 (A/AC.105/C.1/2006/CRP.9);

(d) Promoting greater participation of young people in space science and engineering (A/AC.105/C.1/2006/CRP.10);

(e) Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III: summary of the actions focused on by the Working Group of the Whole and status of their implementation (A/AC.105/C.1/2006/CRP.14/Rev.1);

(f) Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III: report of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects (A/AC.105/C.1/2006/CRP.22).

6. The Working Group of the Whole noted that the Committee had agreed at its forty-eighth session to establish a closer link between its work relating to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III and the work being carried out by the Commission on Sustainable Development and that the Subcommittee should, at its current session, review and finalize a concise document on the contribution that space science and technology and their applications could make to the issues of the thematic cluster of the Commission for the period 2006-2007.

7. The Working Group of the Whole expressed its appreciation to those member States that had provided input for the draft text contained in A/AC.105/C.1/2006/CRP.9.

8. The Working Group revised the draft text for the Committee's contribution to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and recommended to the Subcommittee that the revised text (A/AC.105/C.1/2006/CRP.9/Rev.1), be transmitted, in accordance with the agreement reached by the Committee at its forty-eighth session, to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourteenth session, to be held from 1 to 12 May 2006.

9. The Working Group of the Whole noted that, by establishing a closer link between the Committee and the Commission, the synergies involving the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III and the overarching development agenda set by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in

Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, would be strengthened.

10. The Working Group of the Whole noted with appreciation that, pursuant to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 59/2 of 20 October 2004, the action teams on an environmental monitoring strategy (recommendation 1), knowledge-sharing (recommendation 9), sustainable development (recommendation 11) and near-Earth objects (recommendation 14) had continued their work on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

11. The Working Group of the Whole noted with satisfaction that the Action Team on an Environmental Monitoring Strategy (recommendation 1), together with [the Action Team on Knowledge-Sharing (recommendation 9),] the Action Team on Sustainable Development (recommendation 11) and the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects (recommendation 14), had met during the forty-third session of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee had taken note with satisfaction of the report of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects on the progress made in its work.

12. The Working Group of the Whole noted with satisfaction that the Action Team on Public Health (recommendation 6) had held a meeting during the forty-third session of the Subcommittee and that agreement had been reached on the way forward for the Action Team. The Working Group of the whole also noted with satisfaction that the World Health Organization had agreed to co-chair the Action Team, if deemed appropriate by the Action Team.

13. The Working Group of the Whole noted with appreciation that, as a consequence of the work of the Action Team on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (recommendation 10) and as reflected in paragraph [...] of the report of the Subcommittee on its forty-third session [A/AC.105/C.1/L.286/Add.1], the International Committee on GNSS, as recommended by the Action Team, had been established.

14. The Working Group of the Whole noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat would continue to assist and support, within existing capabilities and resources, the action teams that had indicated their intention to continue their work.

15. The Working Group of the Whole requested the Secretariat to prepare for the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee a document that would contain a brief summary of the status of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III and that the document should be prepared on the basis of information received from Member States of the United Nations, entities of the United Nations system and other organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee, as well as other information gathered by the Office.

16. The Working Group of the Whole welcomed the reports by member States of the Committee and organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee on their activities relating to the promotion of space science and engineering among young people. The Working Group agreed that member States of the Committee, entities of the United Nations system and other organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee should continue to report to the Working Group of the Whole on their efforts to promote education and opportunities for greater participation of youth in space science and technology.

IV. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

17. The Working Group of the Whole noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/99, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would submit to the Committee its proposal on the draft provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2007.

18. The Working Group of the Whole noted that, pursuant to a request from the Legal Subcommittee, the Committee at its forty-eighth session had invited the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to consider the possibility of preparing a report on the technical characteristics of aerospace objects in the light of the current level of technological advancement and possible developments in the foreseeable future.

19. The Working Group of the Whole agreed to request the Legal Subcommittee, through its Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, to clarify its invitation and to indicate the exact nature and purpose of such a report, which might include a definition of the character of aerospace objects to be considered and the technical attributes to be taken into account.

20. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that, upon receipt of the information from the Legal Subcommittee, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee might again be invited to consider the possibility of preparing such a report.

21. The Working Group of the Whole recommended the following draft provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in 2007:

1. General exchange of views and introduction to reports submitted on national activities.
2. United Nations Programme on Space Applications.
3. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
4. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment.
5. Items to be considered under workplans:
 - (a) Space debris;
(Work for 2007 as reflected in the multi-year workplan in paragraph 6 of annex II to the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/848))
 - (b) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space;
(Work for 2007 as reflected in the multi-year workplan in paragraph 8 of annex III to the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/848))

- (c) Near-Earth objects;
(Work for 2007 as reflected in the multi-year workplan in paragraph 20 of annex I of the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/848))
 - (d) Space-system-based disaster management support;
(Work for 2007 as reflected in paragraph 15 of annex II to the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/823))
 - (e) International Heliophysical Year 2007.
(Work for 2007 as reflected in the multi-year workplan in paragraph 22 of annex I to the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/848))
6. Single issue/item for discussion: Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries.
 7. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, including identification of subjects to be dealt with as single issues/items for discussion or under multi-year workplans.
 8. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.
22. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session reconvene the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space and establish a working group on near-Earth objects to consider, in accordance with the workplan adopted, that item for one year.
 23. The Working Group of the Whole also recommended that it be reconvened during the forty-fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
 24. The Working Group of the Whole recalled the agreement to continue the practice of alternating each year the organization of a symposium by the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) with a symposium to strengthen the partnership with industry. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that, in 2007, the symposium by COSPAR and IAF would be organized and the industry symposium would be suspended.
 25. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that the next symposium organized by COSPAR and IAF, to be held during the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, in 2007, should be on the theme "Use of the equatorial orbit for space applications: challenges and opportunities". The Working Group of the Whole agreed that that symposium should be held during the first week of the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee.