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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

Forty-sixth session

Vienna, 9-20 February 2009

Agenda item 14

**Draft provisional agenda for the forty-seventh 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**

Proposal by France for a new agenda item

Note by the Secretariat

The annex to the present document contains a proposal by France for a new agenda item.



Annex

Proposal by France for a new item to be addressed on the agenda of UN COPUOS

As announced by French Ambassador François-Xavier Deniau during the general debate under agenda item 4, on February 10, France proposes that during its 52nd plenary session in June 2009, the UN COPUOS considers a new agenda item under a multi-year workplan.

The long-term sustainability of outer space activities is increasingly a matter of concern for spacefaring nations and commercial satellite operators. The growing number of actors in outer space activities, both government and private, the effect of space weather on spacecraft, the proliferation of space debris and the development of private human space flight, all call into question the ability to continue operating in a safe space environment. To promote sustainable operations, complete accurate and timely information on objects orbiting the Earth, on the natural space environment and on threats coming from space is needed by all spacefaring parties. This requires international monitoring, communication and coordination.

An informal working group was formed in 2008 at the initiative of France, with representatives from Member States, international organizations and non-governmental entities. On the basis of the work undertaken by this informal working group, an outline document is in preparation that examines the issues affecting “Long-Term Sustainability of Space Activities” and introduces some ideas on possible recommendations and mechanisms that would contribute to keeping outer space safe and secure for the long term.

To expand upon this outline, we propose a new item to be included on the agenda of the next session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. This new item will be considered under a three-year workplan as follows:

2010: Establish a dedicated working group to discuss present and future challenges for space operations and to examine potential measures that could enhance the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. The working group would consider the work of the informal consultations as the basis for discussion and subsequent development of recommendations to the Subcommittee.

2011: Continue exchange of views within the working group and hear from Member States and interested private sector space actors regarding potential measures to enhance the long-term sustainability of space activities. Start preparing a document on “Best Practices for Long-Term Sustainability of Space Activities” based on conclusions of years 1 and 2.

2012: Finalize the “Best Practices” document for presentation to COPUOS.