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English only

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
**Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**  
**Fifty-second session**  
Vienna, 2-13 February 2015  
Item 8 of the provisional agenda\*  
**Space-system-based disaster management support**

**United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for  
Disaster Management and Emergency Response  
(UN-SPIDER): indicative workplan for 2015**

**I. Introduction**

1. The UN-SPIDER Programme was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution 61/110 of 14 December 2006, to provide universal access to all countries and all relevant international and regional organizations to all types of space-based information and services relevant to disaster management to support the full disaster management cycle. At its fiftieth session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that progress reports on the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) and its future workplans should be considered by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee under a regular agenda item on space-system-based disaster management support and that the agenda item should be included in the list of issues to be considered by its Working Group of the Whole.

2. The “United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER): proposed workplan for the biennium 2014-2015” (A/AC.105/C.1/2013/CRP.6) was submitted to the Fiftieth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in 2013. This indicative workplan now additionally presents an indicative list of activities to be realised in 2015 which reflects, as of 26 January 2015, the status of the coordination with Member States having

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\* A/AC.105/C.1/L.341.



requested support from the Office for Outer Space Affairs regarding disaster risk reduction or emergency response.

3. After describing the resources as known at the time of drafting this report, this report lists the advisory support actions, training activities, expert meetings, workshops or conference that are in preparation.

## **II. Resources for the implementation of the indicative workplan for 2015**

4. At the beginning of 2015, the UN-SPIDER team was composed of 12 staff members located at its Headquarters in Vienna and at its Beijing and Bonn Offices, including only 4 programme officers on regular budget posts. The programme benefits of the support of non-reimbursable loans (NRLs), junior professionals and between 4-8 interns at any point in time. "Report on activities carried out in 2014 in the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response" (A/AC.105/1078) provides the detailed description of the UN-SPIDER team.

5. The implementation of the 2015 indicative workplan is done with in-kind contributions from its network of regional support offices which will total 17 by February 2015 and is executed through important and continuous voluntary in-cash contributions from the governments of China and Germany, complementing a regular budget of the United Nations.

## **III. The actions of UN-SPIDER**

6. The programme continues its action under three different pillars: knowledge management, bridging communities and providing advisory services on the access and use of space-based information for disaster management and emergency response. In addition to the 2014 activity report cited above, the current level of effort of the programme can be appreciated through the review of: Report on the United Nations/Germany Expert Meeting on the Use of Space-based Information for Flood and Drought Risk Reduction (A/AC.105/1074); Report on the Knowledge Portal of the United Nations Platform for space-based Information for disaster management and emergency response: Recent Advances (A/AC.105/1075); Report on the United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Management — "Multi-hazard Disaster Risk Assessment" (A/AC.105/1076); and Report on Joint Activities Carried Out in 2014 by the Regional Support Offices of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) (A/AC.105/1079).

## **IV. List of 2015 activities (indicative)**

7. The list indicates the title and dates (tentative in certain cases) of each activity. It also provides, where relevant, a short description and highlights the partners providing in-kind contributions. This plan being indicative, some activities may not

take place in 2015 or others may be added if opportunities arise in the course of the year. It is important to appreciate that the full range of activities of the UN-SPIDER team also includes actions related to the development of the Knowledge Portal and more outreach actions than those listed in this indicative plan.

#### **A. Technical advisory missions (TAM)**

8. *Honduras*, 13 to 17 July 2015.
9. *Lao People's Democratic Republic*, 20 to 24 July 2015.
10. *Cambodia*, 13 to 17 October.
11. *United Arab Emirates*, autumn 2015.
12. *Nepal*, autumn 2015. This advisory mission is part of a joint project with the Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium (NRRC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

#### **B. Follow-up technical advisory support (TAS)**

13. *Bangladesh*, 7 to 10 April. Training on "Space based information for damage and loss estimation", in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the National Disaster Reduction Centre of China (NDRCC) and Swiss Re.
14. *Kenya*, 13 to 17 April 2015. Training workshop for government and local United Nations staff.
15. *Indonesia/Jakarta or China/Hanjhou*, 12 to 15 May 2015. Regional training on the use of Earth observations for disaster management and emergency response for ASEAN countries in collaboration with ESCAP and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA).
16. *Bhutan*, 22 to 26 June 2015. In collaboration with UNDP and the Department of Disaster Management, Royal Government of Bhutan.
17. *Latin America and the Caribbean* (venue tbc), 19 to 23 October 2015. Expert Meeting on access to information and knowledge for disaster risk reduction and emergency response.
18. *Sudan*, between March and September 2015. Pilot project "Drought monitoring in Sudan". Continuation of 2014 activity (in collaboration with NDRCC and Sudan Remote Sensing Authority).

#### **C. Workshops and conferences**

19. *Austria*, 5 and 6 February 2015. Sixth Meeting of the UN-SPIDER Network of Regional Support Office.

20. *Japan*, 14 to 18 March 2015. World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR).
21. *Germany*, 26 to 28 May 2015. United Nations/Germany International Conference: Earth observations: Global solutions for the challenges of sustainable development in societies at risk.
22. *China*, 14 to 17 September 2015. United Nations/China International Conference on space-based technologies for disaster.

#### **D. Other trainings**

23. *Austria*, 4 February 2015. International Charter Space and Major Disaster training of Project Managers (for Regional Support Offices of UN-SPIDER).
24. *Algeria*, dates tbc. French West Africa training on preparation and mitigation to hazards, hosted by the Algerian Regional Support Office of UN-SPIDER.
25. *China*, 18 to 22 September. Course in space-based applications for Disaster Risk Reduction.
26. *Asia or Africa* (country(ies) tbc), autumn 2015. Training on the advanced use of the UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal.
27. *Germany*, September or November 2015 (tbc). Simulation exercise on the use of Earth observation data and products for flood monitoring and response.
28. *United States of America*, 12 to 23 October 2015. Technical visit, symposium and training on best practices for disaster emergency response. In partnership with Delta State University and the Geospatial Information and Technology Association (GITA).
29. *India*, 10 to 14 April 2015. Training of Bhutanese Officials on Response and Recovery Preparedness at the United Nations Affiliated Centre for Space Science Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP).

#### **E. Outreach and coordination**

30. To further promote the access and use of space-based information for disaster management and emergency response and to develop new partnerships and alliances, UN-SPIDER is mobilising funds to ensure a participation to a series of key events in 2015. This includes, inter alia: Africa Regional High Level Conference on geographic information data and statistics; the International Working Group on Standard for Emergency Mapping (IWG-SEM, which UN-SPIDER may chair in 2015); 36th Symposium on Remote Sensing of Environment (ISRSE); the Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Americas and of Asia; Sentinel Asia Joint Project team meeting; Asia Pacific Regional Space Forum (APRSAF); Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC); 15th Plenary of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) and UNGGIM Session; Eye on Earth Summit; CEOS Plenary.
31. In preparation to the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) to be held in Japan in March 2015, and following up on the office's

coordination efforts during the preparatory process in 2014, UN-SPIDER will continue to lead the efforts of the partnership of Earth observations actors preparing for concrete commitments in support of the framework for action to be agreed upon at WCDRR.

32. The team will also seek to increase the coordination with other entities such as the Group on Earth Observation (GEO), the European Commission Copernicus programme, among others.

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