



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
2 December 2002

Original: English

Committee on the Peaceful

Uses of Outer Space

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

Fortieth session

Vienna, 17-28 February 2003

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Statement by the Chairman.
3. General exchange of views and introduction to reports submitted on national activities.
4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications.
5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
6. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment.
7. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.
8. Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within and among entities of the United Nations system.
9. Implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system.
10. Space debris.
11. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of 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.



12. Mobilization of financial resources to develop capacity in space science and technology applications.
13. The use of space technology for the medical sciences and public health.
14. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
15. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Annotations*

2. Statement by the Chairman

Following the adoption of the agenda, the Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that have taken place since its thirty-ninth session. After the Chairman's statement, the Subcommittee will organize its schedule of work.

3. General exchange of views and introduction to reports submitted on national activities

The annual written reports submitted by Member States on their space activities will be made available to the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/788). It was suggested, as a general guideline, that statements under this agenda item should be roughly 5-10 minutes in length (see A/AC.105/786, para. 16).

4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications

In paragraph 19 of its resolution 57/116 of 11 December 2002, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole to consider the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

The views of the Subcommittee regarding the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, including activities for the period 2001-2003, are set out in the report on its thirty-ninth session (A/AC.105/786, paras. 28-40). The views of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space are set out in the report on its forty-fifth session.¹ In paragraph 22 of its resolution 57/116, the General Assembly endorsed the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2003, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications (see A/AC.105/773, sects. II-IV).

The Subcommittee will have before it the report of the Expert covering the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications during 2002 and 2003, as well as a listing of States contributing to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (A/AC.105/790).

The Subcommittee will also have before it the following reports on training courses, symposia and workshops held in 2002 under the auspices of the Programme:

* The annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Subcommittee.

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/57/20)*, paras. 49-67.

(a) Report on the United Nations/India Workshop on Satellite-Aided Search and Rescue, held in Bangalore, India, from 18 to 22 March 2002 (A/AC.105/783);

(b) Report on the Third United Nations/United States of America Workshop on the Use and Applications of Global Satellite Navigation Systems, held in Santiago from 1 to 5 April 2002 (A/AC.105/795);

(c) Report on the Twelfth United Nations/Sweden International Training Course on Remote Sensing Education for Educators, held in Stockholm and Kiruna, Sweden, from 2 May to 8 June 2002 (A/AC.105/796);

(d) Report on the United Nations Regional Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Disaster Management for Africa, held in Addis Ababa from 1 to 5 July 2002 (A/AC.105/794);

(e) Report on the Fourth United Nations/United States of America Workshop on the Use and Applications of Global Navigation Satellite Systems, for the benefit of Africa and Western Asia, held in Lusaka from 15 to 19 July 2002 (A/AC.105/785);

(f) Report on the United Nations/South Africa/European Space Agency Workshop on Space Technology Provides Solutions for Sustainable Development, organized in support of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and held in Stellenbosch, South Africa, from 21 to 23 August 2002 (A/AC.105/797);

(g) Report on the Third United Nations/Austria/European Space Agency Symposium on Enhancing the Participation of Youth in Space Activities, held in Graz, Austria, from 9 to 12 September 2002 (A/AC.105/793);

(h) Report on the Eleventh United Nations/European Space Agency Workshop on Basic Space Science, held in Córdoba, Argentina, from 9 to 13 September 2002 (A/AC.105/784);

(i) Report on the United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on Space Solutions for Global Problems: Building Partnership with All Stakeholders in Human Security and Development, held in Houston, United States of America, from 10 to 12 October 2002, during the Second World Space Congress (A/AC.105/798);

(j) Report on the Third United Nations/International Academy of Astronautics Workshop on Small Satellites at the Service of Developing Countries: Beyond Technology Transfer, held in Houston, United States of America, on 12 October 2002, during the Second World Space Congress (A/AC.105/799);

(k) Report of the United Nations/United States of America International Meeting of Experts on the Use of Global Navigation Satellite Systems, held in Vienna from 11 to 15 November 2002 (A/AC.105/801).

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

In paragraph 19 of its resolution 57/116, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole to consider implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

In paragraph 26 of its resolution 57/116, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction the work conducted by the 11 action teams that the Committee had established at its forty-fourth session under the voluntary leadership of Member States to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III and agreed that Member States should provide full support to the action teams in conducting their work. The Committee, at its forty-fifth session, agreed that it was important that all action teams continue to report to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.²

The Subcommittee will have before it a report containing updated information on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III in tabular form (A/AC.105/C.1/L.262).

In paragraph 28 of its resolution 57/116, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction that the Committee had started its work to prepare a report for submission to the Assembly, in order for the Assembly, at its fifty-ninth session, to review and appraise the implementation of the outcomes of UNISPACE III and to consider further actions and initiatives. The Assembly also agreed that, in that context, a working group established by the Committee to prepare the report should be reconvened at the forty-sixth session of the Committee. In accordance with a timetable to prepare the report agreed upon by the Committee's working group, at its fortieth session the Subcommittee should compile contributions and recommendations for consideration by the working group of the Committee at the Committee's forty-sixth session. The specific actions to be taken by the Subcommittee are listed in the report of the working group of the Committee.³

6. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment

In paragraph 16 (a) of its resolution 57/116, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee consider this item at its fortieth session.

7. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

In paragraph 16 (b) of its resolution 57/116, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee at its fortieth session consider this item in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-fifth session (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, annex III, appendix). In paragraph 20 of its resolution 57/116, the Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. According to the work plan, at its fortieth session the Subcommittee should determine whether or not to take any additional steps concerning the information in the report prepared by the Working Group under the work plan and entitled "A review of international documents and national processes potentially relevant to the peaceful uses of nuclear power sources in outer space" (A/AC.105/781).

Pursuant to an agreement of the Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session (A/AC.105/786, para. 77), and based on intersessional work between the thirty-ninth and fortieth sessions of the Subcommittee, the Working Group will present to the

² Ibid., para. 44.

³ Ibid., annex I, para. 14.

Subcommittee a set of potential options on any additional steps that might be deemed appropriate with regard to space nuclear power sources, including that of drawing up a further multi-year work plan. The Working Group's proposal will be distributed as document A/AC.105/C.1/L.261 for consideration by the Subcommittee.

8. Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within and among entities of the United Nations system

In paragraph 16 (b) of its resolution 57/116, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee consider this item in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 40). According to the work plan, the Subcommittee at its fortieth session should develop specific and concrete proposals and, as appropriate, action plans for strengthening inter-agency cooperation in the use of space within the United Nations system and for increasing the use of space applications and services within the system in general and among particular United Nations entities.

The twenty-third session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities will be held in Vienna from 22 to 24 January 2003. The report of the Meeting (A/AC.105/791), as well as the report of the Secretary-General on coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system: programme of work for 2003 and 2004 and future years (A/AC.105/792), will be made available to the Subcommittee.

At its thirty-ninth session the Subcommittee invited the European Space Agency, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other bodies participating in their initiative to use remote sensing in support of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage,⁴ as well as Governments, to present their experiences to the Subcommittee at its fortieth session (A/AC.105/786, para. 87). The Subcommittee agreed that those presentations could be complemented by short reports from other United Nations entities on their use of remote sensing technologies.

9. Implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system

In paragraph 16 (b) of its resolution 57/116, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee consider this item in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 41). According to the work plan, the Subcommittee at its fortieth session should review possible global operational structures to handle natural disaster management, making maximum use of existing and planned space systems.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1037, No. 15511.

10. Space debris

In paragraph 16 (b) of its resolution 57/116, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee consider this item in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session (A/AC.105/761, para. 130). According to the work plan, the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) will present its proposals on debris mitigation, based on consensus among the IADC members, to the Subcommittee at its fortieth session (A/AC.105/C.1/L.260). Member States should review the IADC proposals on debris mitigation and discuss the means of endorsing their utilization.

Pursuant to paragraph 32 of General Assembly resolution 57/116, the Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat on national research on space debris, the safety of space objects with nuclear power sources on board and problems relating to their collision with space debris, containing information received by the Secretariat from Member States (A/AC.105/789).

11. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of 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

In paragraph 16 (c) of its resolution 57/116, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee consider this item as a single issue and item for discussion.

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session (A/AC.105/786, para. 131), the International Telecommunication Union, the International Astronomical Union and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development were invited to give presentations on the status of their work on frequency interference with radio astronomy.

12. Mobilization of financial resources to develop capacity in space science and technology applications

In paragraph 16 (c) of its resolution 57/116, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee consider this item as a single issue and item for discussion.

13. The use of space technology for the medical sciences and public health

In paragraph 16 (c) of its resolution 57/116, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee consider this item as a single issue and item for discussion.

14. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

In paragraph 17 of its resolution 57/116, the General Assembly noted that the Subcommittee at its fortieth session would submit its proposal to the Committee for a draft provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Subcommittee. In accordance with an agreement reached by the Committee at its forty-second session,

discussion under this item should include identification of subjects to be dealt with as single issues and items for discussion or under multi-year work plans, based primarily on the results of UNISPACE III.⁵ Pursuant to paragraph 19 of resolution 57/116, this item will be considered by the Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened at the fortieth session of the Subcommittee.

Symposium on applications of satellite navigation

Pursuant to paragraph 18 of resolution 57/116, a symposium on applications of satellite navigation and their benefits to developing countries will be organized by the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation and held on the afternoons of 17 and 18 February 2003.

⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 and corrigendum (A/54/20 and Corr.1), annex I, sect. A.*

Annex

Indicative schedule of work^a

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Week of 17-21 February 2003		
Monday, 17 February	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Statement by the Chairman Item 3. General exchange of views Item 7. Nuclear power sources ^b	Item 3. General exchange of views Symposium on applications of satellite navigation
Tuesday, 18 February	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications ^c	Item 3. General exchange of views Symposium on applications of satellite navigation
Wednesday, 19 February	Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications ^c Item 5. UNISPACE III ^c Item 6. Remote sensing	Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications ^c Item 5. UNISPACE III ^c Item 6. Remote sensing
Thursday, 20 February	Item 5. UNISPACE III ^c Item 6. Remote sensing Item 7. Nuclear power sources ^b	Item 5. UNISPACE III ^c Item 7. Nuclear power sources ^b Item 8. Inter-agency cooperation
Friday, 21 February	Item 5. UNISPACE III ^c Item 7. Nuclear power sources ^b Item 8. Inter-agency cooperation Item 9. Disaster management	Item 7. Nuclear power sources ^b Item 8. Inter-agency cooperation Item 9. Disaster management
Week of 24-28 February 2003		
Monday, 24 February	Item 8. Inter-agency cooperation Item 9. Disaster management Item 10. Space debris	Item 9. Disaster management Item 10. Space debris
Tuesday, 25 February	Item 10. Space debris Item 11. Geostationary orbit Item 12. Mobilization of financial resources	Item 10. Space debris Item 11. Geostationary orbit Item 12. Mobilization of financial resources

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Wednesday, 26 February	Item 10. Space debris Item 13. Medical sciences and public health	Item 13. Medical sciences and public health Item 14. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Subcommittee ^c
Thursday, 27 February	Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space ^b Item 14. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Subcommittee ^c	Adoption of the report of the Working Group of the Whole ^c Item 15. Report to the Committee
Friday, 28 February	Item 15. Report to the Committee	Item 15. Report to the Committee

^a At its thirty-eighth session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that Member States would continue to be provided with an indicative schedule of work, which would be without prejudice to the actual timing of consideration of specific agenda items (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/50/20)*, paras. 168 and 169 (b)).

^b The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, to be reconvened in accordance with paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 57/116, will meet in parallel with plenary sessions of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee will consider item 7 on Monday, 17 February, in order to reconvene the Working Group and allow the Working Group to start its deliberations. Following plenary discussions on item 7 on 20 and 21 February, the Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 27 February, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group's meetings during the fortieth session of the Subcommittee.

^c The Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 57/116, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of items 4, 5 and 14. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of items 4, 5 and 14 on Thursday, 27 February, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group of the Whole.