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Committee on the Peaceful

Uses of Outer Space

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

Forty-second session

Vienna, 21 February-4 March 2005

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. Space debris.
8. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.
9. Space-system-based telemedicine.
10. Near-Earth objects.
11. Space-system-based disaster management support.
12. 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.
13. Support to proclaim the year 2007 International Geophysical and Heliophysical Year.



14. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-third 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

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 forty-first 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.105/832). 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).

In paragraph 47 of its resolution 59/116 of 10 December 2004, the General Assembly requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in its capacity as the secretariat of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, to report to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the outcome of the discussions of the Inter-Agency Meeting. The report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on the work of its twenty-fifth session, in 2005, will be before the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/842).

4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications

In paragraph 16 of its resolution 59/116, 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 Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space regarding the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, including activities for the period 2004-2005, are set out in the report on its forty-seventh session.¹ In paragraph 19 of its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly endorsed the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2005, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications (see A/AC.105/815, 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 in 2004 and 2005, as well as a listing of States contributing to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (A/AC.105/840).

* 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-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/59/20)*, paras. 65-77.

The Subcommittee will also have before it the following reports on training courses, symposiums and workshops held in 2004 under the auspices of the Programme:

- (a) Report on the United Nations/European Space Agency/Sudan Regional Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Natural Resource Management, Environmental Monitoring and Disaster Management, held in Khartoum from 5 to 9 April 2004 (A/AC.105/828).
- (b) Report on the United Nations/Islamic Republic of Iran Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Environmental Security, Disaster Rehabilitation and Sustainable Development, held in Tehran from 8 to 12 May 2004 (A/AC.105/833).
- (c) Report on the Twelfth United Nations/European Space Agency Workshop on Basic Space Science, held in Beijing from 24 to 28 May 2004 (A/AC.105/829).
- (d) Report on the Fourteenth United Nations/Sweden International Training Course on Remote Sensing Education for Educators, held in Stockholm and Kiruna, Sweden, from 3 May to 11 June 2004 (A/AC.105/830).
- (e) Report on the United Nations/Pakistan Regional Workshop on Monitoring and Protection of the Natural Environment: Educational Needs and Experience Gained from United Nations/Sweden Training Courses on Remote Sensing Education for Educators, held in Islamabad from 30 August to 4 September 2004 (A/AC.105/831).
- (f) Report on the United Nations/Austria/European Space Agency Symposium on Water for the World: Space Solutions for Water Management, held in Graz, Austria, from 13 to 16 September 2004 (A/AC.105/844).
- (g) Report on the United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on Education and Capacity-Building in Space Technology for the Benefit of Developing Countries, with an Emphasis on Natural Disaster Management, held in Vancouver, Canada, from 2 to 3 October 2004 (A/AC.105/834).
- (h) Report on the Fifth United Nations/International Academy of Astronautics Workshop on Small Satellites in the Service of Developing Countries: a Contribution to Sustainable Development, held in Vancouver, Canada, from 1 to 2 October 2004 (A/AC.105/835).
- (i) Report on the United Nations/Saudi Arabia Regional Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Disaster Management for Western Asia, held in Riyadh from 2 to 6 October 2004 (A/AC/105/836).
- (j) Report on the United Nations International Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Disaster Management, held in Munich, Germany, from 18 to 22 October 2004 (A/AC.105/837).

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

In paragraph 16 of its resolution 59/116, 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 4 of its resolution 59/2 of 20 October 2004, the General Assembly endorsed the Plan of Action as proposed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in its report on the review of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.²

In paragraph 6 of its resolution 59/2, the General Assembly noted that the Committee would implement some of the actions contained in the Plan of Action through the consideration of items of the agendas of the Committee or its subsidiary bodies and through those action teams that would continue their work as endorsed by the Committee. The Committee, at its forty-seventh session, believed that some of the action teams could continue their work to further define and implement action plans by identifying the specific means, goals and tasks to complete those actions. Those action teams could inform the Subcommittee at its forty-second session, in 2005, of their intentions to continue their work.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 13 (a) of its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee consider this item at its forty-second session. The views of the Committee are set out in the report on its forty-seventh session.⁴

7. Space debris

In paragraph 13 (b) of its resolution 59/116, 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), and as revised by the Committee at its forty-seventh session, in 2004.⁵ According to the work plan, Member States will begin annual reporting on a voluntary basis of national activities to implement the proposals of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee on space debris mitigation.⁶

In paragraph 17 of its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene the Working Group on Space Debris to consider, as necessary, the proposals on space debris mitigation and any related comments that might be received.

² A/59/174, chap. VI, sect. B.

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/59/20)*, para. 59.

⁴ *Ibid.*, paras. 91-93.

⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 141.

⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 144.

Pursuant to paragraph 25 of General Assembly resolution 59/116, 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.105/838).

8. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

In paragraph 13 (b) of its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its forty-second session, consider this item in accordance with the work plan for the period 2003-2006, adopted by the Subcommittee at its fortieth session (A/AC.105/804, annex III). In paragraph 18 of its resolution 59/116, 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 forty-second session, the Subcommittee should:

(a) Review information from national and regional space agencies on the content of relevant national (including bilateral and multilateral) space nuclear power source (NPS) programmes and applications planned or currently foreseeable;

(b) Prepare a final outline of the objectives, scope and attributes of an international technically based framework of goals and recommendations for assuring the safety of planned and currently foreseeable space NPS applications;

(c) Prepare a draft report based on the final outline, including potential implementation options.

Relating to sub-item (b) above, the Subcommittee will have before it a revised version of the document entitled "Proposed outline of objectives, scope and attributes for an international technically based framework of goals and recommendations for the safety of planned and currently foreseeable nuclear power source applications in outer space" (A/AC.105/L.253/Rev.1).

The Subcommittee will have before it a revised version of the document entitled "Preliminary draft of flow charts for potential implementation options for establishing an international technically based framework of goals and recommendations for the safety of planned and currently foreseeable nuclear power source applications in outer space" (A/AC.105/L.254/Rev.1).

The Subcommittee will also have before it a working paper submitted by the Chairman of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, containing an interim progress report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.1/L.278).

9. Space-system-based telemedicine

In paragraph 13 (b) of its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its forty-second session, consider this item in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Committee at its forty-sixth session.⁷ According to the work plan, the Subcommittee

⁷ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth session, Supplement No. 20 (A/58/20), para. 138*

will, at its forty-second session, hear presentations on the development of electronic biomedical equipment and its compatibility with space-based telemedicine systems, as well as presentations by specialist organizations such as the World Health Organization on space-based telemedicine systems. The Subcommittee will also consider the limitations of space-based telemedicine systems in terms of technical parameters and user acceptability, as well as ways and means of enhancing the capacity of developing countries to use the space-based telemedicine systems, including issues such as access to the space segment and training.

10. Near-Earth objects

In paragraph 13 (b) of its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its forty-second session, consider this item in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-first session (A/AC.105/823, annex II, para. 18).

According to the work plan, the Subcommittee, at its forty-second session, would receive reports from international organizations, regional bodies and others active in the field of near-Earth object research, including in terms of detection and follow-up activity, in particular, reports and presentations from the International Council for Science (on its multidisciplinary activity on near-Earth objects involving the International Astronomical Union, the Committee on Space Research and other scientific unions), as well as from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, on the work they undertook in 2004. Other organizations playing a significant role in the field of near-Earth object research could also be asked to make presentations. The Subcommittee will also update the work programme for later years as required.

11. Space-system-based disaster management support

In paragraph 13 (b) of its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its forty-second session, consider this item in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-first session (A/AC.105/823, annex II, para. 15).

According to the work plan, the Subcommittee, at its forty-second session, should review the recommendations of the Action Team on Disaster Management, with a view to their implementation, as well as review the status, through presentations by experts, of earthquake prediction capabilities using data and information from satellites. The Subcommittee should also hear presentations on the disaster management support provided by the Charter on Cooperation to Achieve the Coordinated Use of Space Facilities in the Event of Natural or Technological Disasters (the International Charter “Space and Major Disasters”), as well as presentations by various countries on the launch of and in-orbit services provided by small satellite constellations for disaster management support.

12. 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

In paragraph 13 (c) of its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee consider this item, at its forty-second session, as a single issue and item for discussion.

13. Support to proclaim the year 2007 International Geophysical and Heliophysical Year

In paragraph 13 (c) of its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee consider this item, at its forty-second session, as a single issue and item for discussion.

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

In paragraph 14 of its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly noted that the Subcommittee, at its forty-second session, would submit its proposal to the Committee for a draft provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Subcommittee, in 2006. 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.⁸ Pursuant to paragraph 16 of resolution 59/116, this item will be considered by the Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened at the forty-second session of the Subcommittee.

Symposium on high-resolution and hyperspectral satellite data integration for precision farming, environmental monitoring and possible new applications

In paragraph 15 of resolution 59/116, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation, in liaison with member States, be invited to arrange a symposium to address high-resolution and hyperspectral satellite data integration for precision farming, environmental monitoring and possible new applications, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the forty-second session of the Subcommittee. The symposium will be held on the afternoons of 21 and 22 February 2005.

⁸ *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 21-25 February 2005		
Monday, 21 February	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Statement by the Chairman Item 3. General exchange of views	Item 3. General exchange of views Symposium on high-resolution and hyperspectral satellite data integration for precision farming, environmental monitoring and possible new applications
Tuesday, 22 February	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications ^b	Item 3. General exchange of views Symposium on high-resolution and hyperspectral satellite data integration for precision farming, environmental monitoring and possible new applications
Wednesday, 23 February	Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications ^b Item 5. UNISPACE III ^b Item 6. Remote sensing	Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications ^b Item 5. UNISPACE III ^b Item 6. Remote sensing
Thursday, 24 February	Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications ^b Item 5. UNISPACE III ^b Item 8. Nuclear power sources ^c	Item 5. UNISPACE III ^b Item 6. Remote sensing Item 8. Nuclear power sources ^c
Friday, 25 February	Item 8. Nuclear power sources ^c Item 9. Space-system-based telemedicine Item 12. Geostationary orbit	Item 8. Nuclear power sources ^c Item 9. Space-system-based telemedicine Item 12. Geostationary orbit
Week of 28 February-4 March 2005		
Monday, 28 February	Item 7. Space debris ^d Item 9. Space-system-based telemedicine Item 12. Geostationary orbit	Item 7. Space debris ^d Item 9. Space-system-based telemedicine Item 10. Near-Earth objects
Tuesday, 1 March	Item 7. Space debris ^d Item 10. Near-Earth objects Item 11. Disaster management support	Item 7. Space debris ^d Item 10. Near-Earth objects Item 11. Disaster management support

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Wednesday, 2 March	Item 10. Near-Earth objects Item 11. Disaster management support Item 13. Support to proclaim the year 2007 International Geophysical and Heliophysical Year	Item 11. Disaster management support Item 13. Support to proclaim the year 2007 International Geophysical and Heliophysical Year Item 14. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Subcommittee ^b
Thursday, 3 March	Item 13. Support to proclaim the year 2007 International Geophysical and Heliophysical Year Item 14. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Subcommittee	Item 14. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Subcommittee Adoption of the report of the Working Group of the Whole Adoption of the report of the Working Group on Space Debris Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space
Friday, 4 March	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 of the Whole, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 59/116, 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, 3 March, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group of the Whole.

^c The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 59/116, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 8. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 3 March, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

^d The Working Group on Space Debris, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 59/116, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 7. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 3 March, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group on Space Debris.