



# General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
**Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**  
**Forty-fifth session**  
Vienna, 11-22 February 2008

## Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of the Chairman.
3. Statement by the Chairman.
4. General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities.
5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications.
6. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
7. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment.
8. Space debris.
9. Space-system-based disaster management support.
10. Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems.
11. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.
12. Near-Earth objects.
13. International Heliophysical Year 2007.
14. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including 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.

15. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
16. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

## **Annotations\***

### **2. Election of the Chairman**

In paragraph 55 of its resolution 62/217 of 22 December 2007, the General Assembly agreed that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Subcommittees should elect their officers at their respective sessions in 2008 in accordance with the composition endorsed by the Assembly in paragraph 51 of its resolution 61/111.

At its fiftieth session, in 2007, the Committee noted that *Ciro Arévalo Yepes* (Colombia), *Suvit Vibulsresth* (Thailand) and *Filipe Duarte Santos* (Portugal) would be elected to the offices of Chairman, First Vice-Chairman and Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space respectively, that *Aboubekr Seddik Kedjar* (Algeria) would be elected to the office of Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and that *Vladimir Kopal* (Czech Republic) would be elected to the office of Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee for the period 2008-2009.

### **3. 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-fourth session. After the statement, the Subcommittee will organize its schedule of work.

### **4. General exchange of views and introduction of 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.105/907 and Add.1). As a general guideline, the statements under this agenda item should be roughly 5-10 minutes in length (see A/AC.105/786, para. 16).

In paragraph 36 of its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly invited the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities to continue to contribute to the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and to report to the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work conducted at its annual sessions. The report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on the work of its twenty-eighth session, in 2008 (A/AC.105/909), as well as the report of the Secretary-General on coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system: directions

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

and anticipated results for the period 2008-2009 (A/AC.105/910), will be before the Subcommittee.

## 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications

In paragraph 13 of its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee, at its forty-fifth session, 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 2007-2008, are set out in the report of the Committee on its fiftieth session.<sup>1</sup> In paragraph 17 of its resolution 62/217, the Assembly endorsed the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2008, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications (see A/AC.105/874, sects. II and III and annex III) and endorsed by the Committee.<sup>2</sup>

The Subcommittee will have before it the report of the Expert on Space Applications, covering the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications in 2007 and 2008 and containing a list of States contributing to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (A/AC.105/900).

The Subcommittee will also have before it the following reports on training courses, symposiums and workshops organized by the Programme in 2007:

(a) United Nations/Morocco/European Space Agency International Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Sustainable Development, held in Rabat from 25 to 27 April (A/AC.105/898);

(b) United Nations/European Space Agency/National Aeronautics and Space Administration Workshop on Basic Space Science and the International Heliophysical Year 2007, held in Tokyo from 18 to 22 June (A/AC.105/902);

(c) United Nations/Mexico/Pan American Health Organization Training Course on Satellite Technology for Tele-health, held in Mexico City from 25 to 29 June (A/AC.105/895);

(d) United Nations/Russian Federation/European Space Agency Workshop on the Use of Microsatellite Technologies for Monitoring the Environment and Its Impact on Human Health, held in Tarusa, Russian Federation, from 3 to 7 September (A/AC.105/903);

(e) United Nations/Austria/European Space Agency Symposium on Space Tools and Solutions for Monitoring the Atmosphere in Support of Sustainable Development, held in Graz, Austria, from 11 to 14 September (A/AC.105/904);

(f) United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Sustainable Development Towards Food Security, held in Hyderabad, India, from 21 to 23 September (A/AC.105/905);

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/62/20)*, paras. 74-90.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 75 and 84.

(g) United Nations/Viet Nam/European Space Agency Workshop on Forest Management and Environmental Protection, held in Hanoi from 5 to 9 November (A/AC.105/906).

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

In paragraph 13 of its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole to consider the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

In paragraph 44 of resolution 62/217, the Assembly noted with satisfaction that the Committee had established a closer link between its work to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development by contributing to the thematic areas that were addressed by the Commission.

At its fiftieth session, in 2007, the Committee reviewed and finalized its contribution to the issues to be addressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development in the period 2008-2009. The Committee agreed to continue contributing to the policy year of each of the two-year cycles of the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Committee agreed that the Working Group of the Whole should, during the forty-fifth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, consider a plan for optimizing the contributions of the Committee to the thematic clusters.<sup>3</sup>

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

In paragraph 10 (a) of its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should consider this item at its forty-fifth session. The views of the Committee are set out in the report on its fiftieth session.<sup>4</sup>

In paragraph 16 of its resolution 62/217, the Assembly agreed that the Director of the secretariat of the Group on Earth Observations should be invited to report on a regular basis to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on progress made in the implementation of the 10-year implementation plan for the Global Earth Observation System of Systems.

At its forty-fourth session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee endorsed the agreement of the Working Group of the Whole that the presentation by the secretariat of the Group on Earth Observations on the status of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems be scheduled under the agenda item on matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite (A/AC.105/890, annex I, para. 23).

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid., paras. 62 and 63.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., paras. 111-115.

## 8. Space debris

In paragraph 10 (a) of its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should consider this item at its forty-fifth session.

In paragraph 26 of its resolution 62/217, the Assembly endorsed the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.<sup>5</sup> In paragraph 27 of its resolution, the Assembly agreed that the voluntary guidelines for the mitigation of space debris reflected the existing practices as developed by a number of national and international organizations, and invited Member States to implement those guidelines through relevant national mechanisms.

At its fiftieth session,<sup>6</sup> the Committee noted with appreciation that some Member States had already implemented space debris mitigation measures on a voluntary basis, through national mechanisms and consistent with the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee Guidelines.

Pursuant to paragraph 28 of Assembly resolution 62/217, 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.105/918).

## 9. Space-system-based disaster management support

In paragraph 40 of its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction the establishment, pursuant to Assembly resolution 61/110, of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response as a programme within the United Nations to provide universal access to all countries and all relevant regional and international organizations to all types of space-based information and services relevant to disaster management to support the full disaster management cycle and its implementation, highlighting the benefits that such a programme would bring to developing countries, in particular to those countries that suffer frequent disasters and that would benefit from the access to, and from the use of, space-based solutions for disaster management. In paragraph 41 of its resolution 62/217, the Assembly agreed that the acronym of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response should be UN-SPIDER, for its easier recognition as a United Nations programme.

In paragraph 42 of its resolution 62/217, the Assembly endorsed the UN-SPIDER workplan for 2007, the platform programme for the period 2007-2009<sup>7</sup> and the workplan for the period 2008-2009,<sup>8</sup> and requested the Secretary-General to implement those activities that are contained in the workplan for the period 2008-2009. The workplan is contained in document A/AC.105/894.

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid., annex.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., para. 127.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., para. 144.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., para. 149 and A/AC.105/894.

In paragraph 10 (a) of its resolution 62/217, the Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should consider this item at its forty-fifth session.

At its fiftieth session, the Committee agreed that the item be included in the list of issues to be considered by the Working Group of the Whole.<sup>9</sup>

The Committee also agreed that the Office for Outer Space Affairs should report to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-fifth session, on the activities carried out by UN-SPIDER in 2007. The Committee requested the Office to continue to secure further support and in-kind or cash contributions for the implementation of the UN-SPIDER workplan for the period 2008-2009. In the event that UN-SPIDER did not receive all the United Nations regular budget resources requested for 2008-2009, the Office for Outer Space Affairs would prepare and present to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-fifth session, a reduced workplan based on the workplan for the period 2008-2009 endorsed by the Committee.<sup>10</sup> The Office will report to the Subcommittee on the status of the UN-SPIDER programme for the period 2008-2009.

#### **10. Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems**

In paragraph 10 (a) of its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should consider this item at its forty-fifth session.

In paragraph 16 of its resolution 62/217, the Assembly agreed that the Chairman of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems should be invited to report on a regular basis to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the activities of the Committee.

In paragraph 45 of its resolution 62/217, the Assembly noted with appreciation that the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems has been established on a voluntary basis as an informal body to promote cooperation, as appropriate, on matters of mutual interest related to civil satellite-based positioning, navigation, timing and value-added services, as well as the compatibility and interoperability of global navigation satellite systems (GNSS), while increasing their use to support sustainable development, particularly in developing countries, and that it had held its first meeting in Vienna, on 1 and 2 November 2006 (A/AC.105/879) and its second meeting in Bangalore, India, from 4 to 7 September 2007. A note by the Secretariat on the second meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems is contained in document A/AC.105/901.

At its fiftieth session, the Committee agreed that the Subcommittee should consider issues related to the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems, the latest developments in the field of GNSS and new GNSS applications

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<sup>9</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/62/20)*, para. 155.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 140-160.

under the regular agenda item on recent developments in global navigation satellite systems.<sup>11</sup>

#### **11. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space**

In paragraph 10 (b) of its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its forty-fifth session, should consider this item in accordance with the workplan for the period 2003-2007, adopted by the Subcommittee at its fortieth session (A/AC.105/804, annex III) and amended at its forty-second session (A/AC.105/848, annex III, paras. 7 and 8).

In paragraph 14 of its resolution 62/217, the Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee, at its forty-fifth session, should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space and that the Working Group should continue its work on the topics described in the multi-year workplan as amended by the Subcommittee at its forty-second session (A/AC.105/848, annex III, para. 8) and as agreed by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session (A/AC.105/890, annex II) and by the Committee at its fiftieth session.<sup>12</sup>

At its fiftieth session, the Committee noted with satisfaction that the Working Group had made significant progress and had successfully carried out detailed work in identifying and developing an international technically based framework of goals and recommendations for the safety of planned and currently foreseeable nuclear power source (NPS) applications in outer space.

The Committee endorsed the decision of the Subcommittee that, in order to prepare and publish the safety framework for NPS applications in outer space, a partnership be established between the Subcommittee and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) by means of a joint group of experts, consisting of representatives of the Subcommittee and of IAEA. The Committee also endorsed the new workplan of the Working Group for the period 2007-2010 for the purpose of establishing a joint Subcommittee/IAEA safety framework development activity for NPS applications in outer space.<sup>13</sup>

In accordance with the schedule of meetings of the joint group of experts, two meetings were held in Vienna, from 18 to 20 June and from 23 to 25 October 2007. The joint group of experts held drafting and consultation meetings on a draft safety framework for nuclear power source applications in outer space. The interim report of the joint group of experts on the development of the international technically based framework on the use of NPS applications in outer space is contained in document A/AC.105/L.292.

#### **12. Near-Earth objects**

In paragraph 10 (b) of its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its forty-fifth session, should consider this item in accordance with the new multi-year workplan for the period 2008-2010, adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session (A/AC.105/890, annex III, para. 7).

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid., para. 174.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., paras. 129-135.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., paras. 130-133.

In accordance with the workplan, the Subcommittee, at its forty-fifth session, will take the following actions:

- (a) Continue intersessional work;
- (b) Consider the reports submitted in response to the annual request for information on near-Earth object activities;
- (c) Update the interim report of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects.

The reports mentioned in subparagraph (b) above are contained in document A/AC.105/896. The interim report of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects for the period 2007-2008, mentioned in subparagraph (c) above, is contained in document A/AC.105/C.1/L.295.

In paragraph 15 of its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee, at its forty-fifth session, should reconvene its Working Group on Near-Earth Objects, in accordance with the workplan under this item.

**13. International Heliophysical Year 2007**

In paragraph 10 (b) of its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its forty-fifth session, should consider this item in accordance with the workplan adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-second session (A/AC.105/848, annex I, para. 22).

According to the workplan, the Subcommittee, at its forty-fifth session, would consider reports by interested Member States, scientific organizations and the International Heliophysical Year secretariat on the progress of scientific campaigns, and the establishment of International Heliophysical Year databases, as well as plans for the continued deployment of instrument arrays and future activities. Reports on national and regional activities related to the International Heliophysical Year 2007 are contained in document A/AC.105/C.1/L.294.

**14. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including 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 10 (c) of its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should consider this item, at its forty-fifth session, as a single issue/item for discussion.

**15. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**

In paragraph 11 of its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly noted that the Subcommittee, at its forty-fifth session, would submit its proposal to the Committee for a draft provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Subcommittee, in 2009. 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/items for discussion or under multi-year



workplans.<sup>14</sup> Pursuant to paragraph 13 of resolution 62/217, this item will be considered by the Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened at the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee.

*Industry symposium*

In paragraph 12 of its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly endorsed the agreement of the Committee, at its fiftieth session, on a new approach to scheduling the symposium organized by the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and the industry symposium organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs aimed at strengthening the partnership with industry, and endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the topic of the 2008 industry symposium, to be held during the first week of the forty-fifth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, should be “Space industry in emerging space nations”.

According to the new arrangement,<sup>15</sup> IAF will organize the symposium during the forty-sixth session of the Subcommittee, in 2009. Potential topics for the theme of that symposium, to be proposed by IAF, will be before the Working Group of the Whole for its consideration.

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<sup>14</sup> Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/54/20 and Corr.1), annex I, sect. A.

<sup>15</sup> A/AC.105/890, annex I, para. 24.

## Annex

Indicative schedule of work<sup>a</sup>

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
<b>Week of 11-15 February 2008</b>		
Monday, 11 February	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Election of the Chairman Item 3. Statement by the Chairman Item 4. General exchange of views	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>b</sup> Item 6. UNISPACE III <sup>b</sup>
Tuesday, 12 February	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>b</sup> Item 6. UNISPACE III <sup>b</sup>	Industry Symposium on Space Industry in Emerging Space Nations
Wednesday, 13 February	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>b</sup> Item 6. UNISPACE III <sup>b</sup>	Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>b</sup> Item 6. UNISPACE III <sup>b</sup> Item 7. Remote sensing
Thursday, 14 February	Item 7. Remote sensing Item 9. Disaster management support <sup>b</sup> Item 11. Nuclear power sources <sup>c</sup>	Item 7. Remote sensing Item 9. Disaster management support <sup>b</sup> Item 11. Nuclear power sources <sup>c</sup>
Friday, 15 February	Item 7. Remote sensing Item 9. Disaster management support <sup>b</sup> Item 11. Nuclear power sources <sup>c</sup>	Item 9. Disaster management support <sup>b</sup> Item 11. Nuclear power sources <sup>c</sup> Item 14. Geostationary orbit
<b>Week of 18-22 February 2008</b>		
Monday, 18 February	Item 8. Space debris Item 12. Near-Earth objects <sup>d</sup> Item 14. Geostationary orbit	Item 8. Space debris Item 12. Near-Earth objects <sup>d</sup> Item 14. Geostationary orbit
Tuesday, 19 February	Item 8. Space debris Item 10. GNSS Item 12. Near-Earth objects <sup>d</sup>	Item 8. Space debris Item 10. GNSS Item 12. Near-Earth objects <sup>d</sup>
Wednesday, 20 February	Item 10. GNSS Item 13. International Heliophysical Year 2007 Item 15. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Subcommittee <sup>b</sup>	Item 10. GNSS Item 13. International Heliophysical Year 2007 Item 15. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Subcommittee <sup>b</sup>
Thursday, 21 February	Item 13. International Heliophysical Year 2007 Item 14. Geostationary orbit Item 15. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Subcommittee <sup>b</sup>	Item 13. International Heliophysical Year 2007 Item 15. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Subcommittee <sup>b</sup> Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space Adoption of the report of the

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Thursday, 21 February	Item 13. International Heliophysical Year 2007 Item 14. Geostationary orbit Item 15. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Subcommittee <sup>b</sup>	Item 13. International Heliophysical Year 2007 Item 15. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Subcommittee <sup>b</sup> Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space Adoption of the report of the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects
Friday, 22 February	Adoption of the report of the Working Group of the Whole Item 16. Report to the Committee	Item 16. Report to the Committee

<sup>a</sup> 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)).

<sup>b</sup> The Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 62/217, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of items 5, 6, 9 and 15. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of those items on Friday, 22 February, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group of the Whole.

<sup>c</sup> The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 62/217, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 11. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 21 February, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.

<sup>d</sup> The Working Group on Near-Earth Objects, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 62/217, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 12. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 21 February, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.