



# General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
**Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**  
**Forty-sixth session**  
Vienna, 9-20 February 2009

## **Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Statement by the Chairman.
3. General exchange of views and introduction of 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. Space-system-based disaster management support.
9. Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems.
10. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.
11. Near-Earth objects.
12. 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.
13. International Heliophysical Year 2007.

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14. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-seventh 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-fifth session. After the statement, the Subcommittee will organize its schedule of work.

### **3. 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.105/923 and addenda). The 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 13 of its resolution 63/90 of 5 December 2008, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee, at its forty-sixth session, should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole. The Working Group of the Whole is expected 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 2008-2009, are set out in the report of the Committee on its fifty-first session.<sup>1</sup> In paragraph 16 of its resolution 63/90, the Assembly endorsed the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2009, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications (see A/AC.105/900, paras. 2-8, 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 2008 and 2009 and containing a list of States contributing to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (A/AC.105/925).

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

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/63/20)*, paras. 70-104.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 71 and 77.

The Subcommittee will also have before it the following reports on training courses, symposiums and workshops organized by the Programme in 2008:

(a) United Nations/Saudi Arabia/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization International Conference on the Use of Space Technology in Water Management, held in Riyadh from 12 to 16 April 2008 (A/AC.105/914);

(b) United Nations/Burkina Faso/World Health Organization/European Space Agency/Centre national d'études spatiales Workshop on the Use of Space Technology in Tele-health to Benefit Africa, held in Ougadougou from 5 to 9 May 2008 (A/AC.105/915);

(c) United Nations/European Space Agency/National Aeronautics and Space Administration/Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency Workshop on the International Heliophysical Year 2007 and Basic Space Science: First Results from the International Heliophysical Year 2007, held in Sozopol, Bulgaria, from 2 to 6 June 2008 (A/AC.105/919);

(d) United Nations/Colombia/United States of America Workshop on Applications of Global Navigation Satellite Systems, held in Medellin, Colombia, from 23 to 27 June 2008 (A/AC.105/920);

(e) United Nations/Indonesia Regional Workshop on Integrated Space Technology Applications to Water Resources Management, Environmental Protection and Disaster Vulnerability Mitigation, held in Jakarta from 7 to 11 July 2008 (A/AC.105/921);

(f) United Nations/Austria/European Space Agency Symposium on Space Applications to Support the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Graz, Austria, from 9 to 12 September 2008 (A/AC.105/924);

(g) United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on Space Technology: Support for an Integrated Approach to Address Potential Environmental Hazards, held in Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on 26 and 27 September 2008 (A/AC.105/930).

## **5. 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 63/90, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole. The Working Group of the Whole is expected 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 31 of the same resolution, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction that a number of the recommendations, as set out in the plan of action on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (see A/59/174, sect. VI.B), had been implemented and that satisfactory progress was being made in implementing the outstanding recommendations.

In paragraph 42 of the same resolution, the General Assembly also 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 addressed by the Commission.

At its fifty-first session, in 2008, the Committee agreed upon the plan for its contribution to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the thematic cluster for the period 2010-2011. The Committee also agreed that its contribution should: examine the areas of the thematic cluster in which space technology and its applications played a particularly important role; pay attention to the cross-cutting issues identified by the Commission; identify areas where space-based systems could complement terrestrial systems in order to promote integrated solutions; and include, as appropriate and in addition to examples of regional and international cooperation, national success stories that might provide useful examples for the overall contribution of the Committee.<sup>3</sup>

The thematic cluster of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the period 2010-2011 comprises transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (see A/59/174, para. 231).

**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 10 (a) of its resolution 63/90, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should consider as an agenda item, at its forty-sixth session, 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 of its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly agreed that the Director of the secretariat of the Group on Earth Observation should be invited to report on a regular basis to the Subcommittee on progress made in the implementation of the 10-year implementation plan for the Global Earth Observation System of Systems.

**7. Space debris**

In paragraph 10 (a) of its resolution 63/90, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should consider space debris as an agenda item at its forty-sixth session.

In paragraph 25 of the same resolution, the General Assembly noted with appreciation that some States were already implementing space debris mitigation measures on a voluntary basis, through national mechanisms and consistent with the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee Guidelines and the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,<sup>4</sup> endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 62/217.

In paragraph 26 of the same resolution, the General Assembly invited other Member States to implement, through relevant national mechanisms, the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid., paras. 58 and 59.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., *Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/62/20), paras. 117 and 118, and annex.

Pursuant to paragraph 27 of the same resolution, the Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat on national research on space debris, 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.105/931).

#### **8. Space-system-based disaster management support**

In paragraph 10 (a) of its resolution 63/90, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should consider space-system-based disaster management support as an agenda item at its forty-sixth session.

In paragraph 13 of the same resolution, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole. The Working Group of the Whole is expected to consider space-system-based disaster management support.

In paragraph 39 of the same resolution, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction the progress made within the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) in the implementation of the platform programme for the period 2007-2009.

In paragraph 40 of the same resolution, the General Assembly noted that, in accordance with paragraph 11 of its resolution 61/110, UN-SPIDER should work closely with regional and national centres of expertise in the use of space technology in disaster management to form a network of regional support offices for implementing the activities of the programme in their respective regions in a coordinated manner and agreed upon the guidelines proposed by the Committee for selecting and setting up the proposed UN-SPIDER regional support offices.<sup>5</sup>

The Subcommittee will have before it a report on UN-SPIDER outreach activities carried out in 2008 (A/AC.105/927) and a report on the progress made in 2008 in implementing UN-SPIDER (A/AC.105/929).

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

In paragraph 10 (a) of its resolution 63/90, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should consider recent developments in global navigation satellite systems as an agenda item at its forty-sixth session.

In paragraph 43 of the same resolution, the General Assembly noted with appreciation that the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) was established on a voluntary basis as a forum to promote cooperation, as appropriate, on matters of mutual interest to its members related to civil satellite-based positioning, navigation, timing and value-added services, as well as cooperation on the compatibility and interoperability of global navigation satellite systems, and to promote their use to support sustainable development, particularly in developing countries.

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid., *Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/63/20), para. 129.

The third meeting of the ICG was held in Pasadena, United States of America, from 8 to 12 December 2008.

In paragraph 16 of its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly agreed that the Chairman of ICG should be invited to report on a regular basis to the Subcommittee on the activities of ICG.

The Subcommittee will have before it a report of the activities carried out in the framework of the ICG workplan in 2008 (A/AC.105/922).

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

In paragraph 10 (b) of its resolution 63/90, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its forty-sixth session, should consider an item on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, in accordance with the workplan for the period 2007-2010, endorsed by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session (A/AC.105/890, annex II, para. 7).

In paragraph 14 of the same resolution, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee 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 agreed by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session and by the Committee at its fiftieth session.<sup>6</sup>

The Committee at its fifty-first session noted that the Working Group had considered the results of the work of the Joint Expert Group of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the development of 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.<sup>7</sup>

The Committee at its fifty-first session also noted that during the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee the Joint Expert Group had updated the draft safety framework for NPS applications in outer space (A/AC.105/C.1/L.292/Rev.1), which had subsequently been made available by the Secretariat and which, in April 2008, had been sent for comments to member States and permanent observers of the Committee, as well as to the four IAEA safety standards committees, the Commission of Safety Standards of IAEA and, in July 2008, to IAEA member States. The Committee further noted that the Joint Expert Group, at its fourth and fifth meetings, held in Vienna in June and October 2008, had reviewed the draft safety framework, taking into account the comments received as a result of the review process described above and had further updated the draft (A/AC.105/C.1/L.292/Rev.2).

#### **11. Near-Earth objects**

In paragraph 10 (b) of its resolution 63/90, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its forty-sixth session, should consider near-Earth objects (NEOs) as an agenda item in

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid., paras. 142-151.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., para. 143.

accordance with the amended multi-year workplan endorsed by the Committee at its fifty-first session.<sup>8</sup>

According to that workplan (A/AC.105/911, annex III), the Subcommittee, at its forty-sixth session, should:

(a) Consider the reports submitted in response to the annual request for information on NEO activities and continue intersessional work;

(b) Continue to review policies and procedures related to the handling of the NEO threat at the international level and consider drafting international procedures for handling the NEO threat;

(c) Work within the framework of the International Year of Astronomy 2009 to raise awareness of the NEO threat;

(d) Prepare an updated interim report of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects.

A document containing information on research in the field of near-Earth objects carried out by member States, international organizations and other entities (A/AC.105/926) has been prepared. In addition, the third interim report of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects (A/AC.105/C.1/L.298) will be made available to the Subcommittee.

**12. 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 63/90, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its forty-sixth session, should consider this item as a single issue/item for discussion.

**13. International Heliophysical Year 2007**

In paragraph 10 (c) of its resolution 63/90, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its forty-sixth session, should consider International Heliophysical Year 2007 as a single issue/item for discussion.

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

In paragraph 11 of its resolution 63/90, the General Assembly noted that the Subcommittee, at its forty-sixth session, would submit its proposal to the Committee for a draft provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Subcommittee, in 2010. 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

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., para. 153.

workplans.<sup>9</sup> Pursuant to paragraph 13 of that Assembly resolution, this item will be considered by the Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened by the Subcommittee at its forty-sixth session.

*Symposium*

In paragraph 12 of its resolution 63/90, the General Assembly endorsed the agreement of the Committee, at its fifty-first session, that the topic of the 2009 symposium, to be organized by the International Astronautical Federation, would be “The role of Earth observation satellites in promoting understanding of and addressing climate change concerns” and that the symposium should be held during the first week of the forty-sixth session of the Subcommittee.

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/54/20 and Corr.1), annex I, sect. A.



## Annex

**Indicative schedule of work\***

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
<b>Week of 9-13 February 2009</b>		
Monday, 9 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 organized by the International Astronautical Federation on the theme "The role of Earth observation satellites in promoting understanding of and addressing climate change concerns"
Tuesday, 10 February	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>a</sup> Item 6. Remote sensing	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>a</sup> Item 6. Remote sensing
Wednesday, 11 February	Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>a</sup> Item 6. Remote sensing Item 10. Nuclear power sources <sup>b</sup>	Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>a</sup> Item 6. Remote sensing Item 10. Nuclear power sources <sup>b</sup>
Thursday, 12 February	Item 8. Disaster management support <sup>a</sup> Item 9. Global navigation satellite systems Item 10. Nuclear power sources <sup>b</sup>	Item 8. Disaster management support <sup>a</sup> Item 9. Global navigation satellite systems Item 10. Nuclear power sources <sup>b</sup>
Friday, 13 February	Item 5. UNISPACE III <sup>a</sup> Item 8. Disaster management support <sup>a</sup> Item 9. Global navigation satellite systems	Item 5. UNISPACE III <sup>a</sup> Item 8. Disaster management support <sup>a</sup> Item 9. Global navigation satellite systems
<b>Week of 16-20 February 2009</b>		
Monday, 16 February	Item 5. UNISPACE III <sup>a</sup> Item 7. Space debris Item 11. Near-Earth objects <sup>c</sup>	Item 5. UNISPACE III <sup>a</sup> Item 7. Space debris Item 11. Near-Earth objects <sup>c</sup>
Tuesday, 17 February	Item 7. Space debris Item 11. Near-Earth objects <sup>c</sup> Item 12. Geostationary orbit	Item 7. Space debris Item 11. Near-Earth objects <sup>c</sup> Item 12. Geostationary orbit

\* 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)).

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Wednesday, 18 February	Item 12. Geostationary orbit Item 13. International Heliophysical Year 2007 Item 14. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Subcommittee <sup>a</sup>	Item 12. Geostationary orbit Item 13. International Heliophysical Year 2007 Item 14. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Subcommittee <sup>a</sup>
Thursday, 19 February	Item 13. International Heliophysical Year 2007 Item 14. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Subcommittee <sup>a</sup> Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space	Item 13. International Heliophysical Year 2007 Item 14. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Subcommittee <sup>a</sup> Adoption of the report of the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects
Friday, 20 February	Adoption of the report of the Working Group of the Whole Item 15. Report to the Committee	Item 15. Report to the Committee

<sup>a</sup> The Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 63/90 of 5 December 2008, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of items 4, 5, 8 and 14. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee will resume its consideration of those items on Thursday, 19 February, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group of the Whole.

<sup>b</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 63/90, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 10. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 19 February, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.

<sup>c</sup> The Working Group on Near-Earth Objects, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 63/90, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 11. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 19 February, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.