



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
18 February 2009

Original: English

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

Draft report of the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects

1. Pursuant to paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 63/90, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-sixth session, reconvened its Working Group on Near-Earth Objects, under the chairmanship of Richard Crowther (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). The Working Group held [...] meetings, from [...] to [...] February 2009.
2. In accordance with the multi-year workplan under the item on near-Earth objects (A/AC.105/911, annex III), the Working Group considered:
 - (a) Reports submitted in response to the annual request for information on near-Earth object activities and intersessional work;
 - (b) Review of policies and procedures related to the handling of the NEO threat at the international level and drafting of international procedures for handling the NEO threat;
 - (c) Activities undertaken within the framework of the International Year of Astronomy 2009 to raise the awareness of the NEO threat;
 - (d) The updated interim report of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects (2008-2009) (A/AC.105/C.1/L.298).
3. The Working Group had before it a note by the Secretariat on information on research in the field of near-Earth objects carried out by Member States, international organizations and other entities (A/AC.105/926).
4. The Working Group noted with satisfaction the work of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects, as reflected in the interim report of the Action Team (A/AC.105/C.1/L.298).
5. The Working Group noted that the work accomplished on near-Earth objects in the intersessional period had resulted in important contributions to international cooperation in that area. The Working Group also noted that international

V.09-80975 (E)



conferences such as the conference entitled “Planetary Defense Conference: Protecting Earth from Asteroids”, to be held in Granada, Spain, from 27 to 30 April 2009, and the conference entitled “Asteroid-Comet Hazard 2009”, to be held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 21 to 25 September 2009, provided opportunities to raise awareness among decision makers about the NEO threat and to promote further cooperation.

6. The Working Group noted that international cooperation and coordination in improving the Apophis ephemeris was important for obtaining a better understanding of the threat to Earth posed by the Apophis asteroid. The Working Group also noted that the period leading up to 2012 presented the best opportunity to make preparations for carrying out international activities in that regard.

7. The Working Group heard a statement by the observer for the Association of Space Explorers (ASE) on the work carried out by ASE in furthering the intersessional work of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects under the item, in accordance with the multi-year workplan of the Working Group.

8. The Working Group agreed that the report of ASE served as a good basis for advancing the implementation of the workplan of the Working Group to continue drafting, and seek agreement on, international procedures for handling the NEO threat. In that context, the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects held four meetings during the forty-sixth session of the Subcommittee to discuss and review the report of ASE. On the basis of those discussions, the Action Team prepared a conference room paper entitled “Draft recommendations for near-Earth objects threat mitigation” (A/AC.105/C.1/2009/CRP.13), for consideration by the Working Group.

9. The Working Group agreed that the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects should continue the intersessional work, under the multi-year workplan, to further review and develop draft recommendations for the international response to the threat of NEO impacts, for consideration by the Working Group at the forty-seventh session of the Subcommittee, in 2010. In that context, the Working Group encouraged member States to participate in the intersessional work on NEO and submit their contributions to the chairman of the Action Team.

10. At its [...] meeting, on [...] February 2009, the Working Group adopted the present report.