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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
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Vienna, 7-18 February 2011

Draft report of the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects

1. Pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 65/97, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-eighth session, reconvened its Working Group on Near-Earth Objects. The Working Group held [...] meetings, from 14 to [...] February 2011.
2. Sergio Camacho (Mexico) was elected Chairman of the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects at the 738th session of the Subcommittee, on 7 February 2011.
3. In accordance with the multi-year workplan under the item on near-Earth objects (NEOs) (A/AC.105/911, annex III), the Working Group reviewed the following items:
 - (a) Consideration of the reports submitted in response to the annual request for information on NEO activities and continuation of intersessional work;
 - (b) Finalization of the agreement on international procedures for handling the NEO threat and engagement of international stakeholders;
 - (c) Review of progress on international cooperation and collaboration on NEO observations and on international capability for the exchange, processing, archiving and dissemination of data for the purpose of threat detection;
 - (d) Consideration of the final report of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects.
4. The Working Group had before it information on research in the field of near-Earth objects carried out by Member States, international organizations and other entities, contained in A/AC.105/976 and A/AC.105/C.1/2011/CRP.12.
5. The Working Group noted that during the current session of the Subcommittee, technical presentations related to the exchange, processing, archiving and dissemination of data for the purpose of threat detection and on near-Earth object mission planning and operations had been made by the representatives of Japan,

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Mexico, the Russian Federation and the United States and by the observers for the Association of Space Explorers and the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA).

6. 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. In that context, the Working Group encouraged international conferences such as the forthcoming IAA Planetary Defense Conference, to be held from 9 to 12 May 2011 in Bucharest, to raise awareness among decision makers about the threat posed by near-Earth objects and to promote further cooperation.

7. The Working Group also noted that the Association of Space Explorers and the Secure World Foundation had organized a workshop of experts, held in Mexico City in January 2010, on ways and means to establish a NEO information, analysis and warning network. A similar workshop of experts on mission planning and operations was held at the European Space Operations Centre of ESA in Darmstadt, Germany, in October 2010. The recommendations resulting from those workshops had been considered by the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects and incorporated in its interim report to the Subcommittee for the period 2010-2011 (A/AC.105/C.1/L.308, annex).

8. The Working Group noted with satisfaction the progress made by the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects in the period 2010-2011, as reflected in the draft recommendations for an international response to the near-Earth object impact threat (A/AC.105/C.1/L.308, annex).

9. Taking note that the multi-year workplan on near-Earth objects concluded in 2011, the Working Group recommends to the Subcommittee that the multi-year workplan be continued for the period 2012-2013, as follows:

2012 Consider the reports submitted in response to the annual request for information on near-Earth object activities and continue intersessional work. Review progress on international cooperation and collaboration on NEO observations. Facilitate, for the purpose of NEO threat detection, a more robust international capability for the exchange, processing, archiving and dissemination of data. Continue the work begun during the intersessional period on drafting international procedures for handling the NEO threat and seek agreement on those procedures. Consider updated information as presented in an interim report of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects. Review progress made in activating the work of the NEO Information, Analysis and Warning Network (IAWN) and the mission planning and operations group.

2013 Consider the reports submitted in response to the annual request for information on near-Earth object activities and continue intersessional work. Review progress on international cooperation and collaboration on NEO observations and on the capability for the exchange, processing, archiving and dissemination of data for the purpose of NEO threat detection. Finalize the agreement on international procedures for handling the NEO threat and engage international stakeholders. Consider the final report of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects.

Review progress made in activating the work of IAWN and the mission planning and operations group, and assess their performance.

10. The Working Group agreed that the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects should be tasked with continuing its work on the draft recommendations for an international response to the near-Earth object impact threat with a view to finalizing them by the fiftieth session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2013. The Working Group further agreed that intersessional work to be carried out in the 2011-2012 period could include workshops held under the auspices of the Action Team that would gather experts on various aspects of the draft recommendations made by the Action Team (A/AC.105/C.1/L.308, annex), and meetings of experts, which could facilitate the establishment of a mission planning and operations group.
11. The Working Group encouraged member States to participate in the intersessional work on NEOs and submit their research contributions to the Chairman of the Action Team. The Working Group also encouraged member States to financially support the facilities and programmes necessary for planetary defence.
12. The Working Group encouraged member States and their institutions to follow near-Earth object developments on a regular basis (see <http://neo.jpl.nasa.gov> and www.jpl.nasa.gov/asteroidwatch).
13. At its [...] meeting, on [...] February 2011, the Working Group adopted the present report.