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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Forty-fifth session
Vienna, 11-22 February 2008
Agenda item 11
Use of nuclear power sources in outer space**

Report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space

1. At its 683rd meeting, on 13 February 2008, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space under the chairmanship of Sam A. Harbison (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).
2. At the 1st meeting of the Working Group, on 14 February, the Chairman recalled the tasks before the Working Group, as contained in the multi-year workplan covering the period 2007-2010 for developing an international technically based framework of goals and recommendations for the safety of planned and currently foreseeable nuclear power source applications in outer space, which the Subcommittee had endorsed at its forty-fourth session (A/AC.105/890, paras. 112-113 and annex II).
3. The Working Group noted that the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session, in 2007, had endorsed the draft document preparation profile (A/AC.105/C.1/L.289/Rev.1, annex III) and that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had subsequently agreed to the profile.
4. The Working Group noted with satisfaction that the Joint Expert Group of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the International Atomic Energy Agency, established at the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, had conducted extensive work during the year 2007. The Joint Expert Group had held two drafting meetings in June and October 2007 and had conducted intensive consultations through electronic means. That work had resulted in the preparation by the Joint Expert Group of a draft safety framework for nuclear power source applications in outer space, which had been made available to the Subcommittee at its forty-fifth session in document A/AC.105/C.1/L.292.

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5. The Working Group noted that the Joint Expert Group had requested the Secretariat to prepare minutes of its meetings. The Joint Expert Group had agreed that all such minutes, reports and other written material to be made available would require its consent and would not be subject to any editorial changes without its review and approval.
6. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, the Working Group considered the draft framework (A/AC.105/C.1/L.292) and submitted to the Joint Expert Group comments provided by member States.
7. The Working Group noted that the Joint Expert Group had updated the text of the draft framework, based on discussions that had taken place in the Joint Expert Group during the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee, as well as on comments received from member States. At its 3rd, 4th and 5th meetings, the Working Group considered the text of the updated draft framework (A/AC.105/C.1/2008/CRP.10). For those meetings, interpretation services were made available to the Working Group.
8. The Working Group noted the need for future revisions of the draft framework proposed by the Joint Expert Group, to be made available in all official languages of the United Nations to delegations prior to its consideration in the Working Group. The Working Group requested the Secretariat to explore potential mechanisms for accomplishing this at future meetings of the Working Group.
9. The Working Group considered the work done and to be carried out under its multi-year workplan and recommended the following:
 - (a) To request the Secretariat to translate the text of the updated draft framework (A/AC.105/C.1/2008/CRP.10) into all official languages of the United Nations and to make it available as a revised version of document A/AC.105/C.1/L.292 (to be issued subsequently as document A/AC.105/C.1/L.292/Rev.1);
 - (b) To send the text of the revised draft framework, to be contained in document A/AC.105/C.1/L.292/Rev.1, to member States and permanent observers of the Committee for their comments, to be submitted to the Joint Expert Group by 1 May 2008.
10. The Working Group noted the plan of the Joint Expert Group to submit document A/AC.105/C.1/L.292/Rev.1 to the IAEA secretariat for consideration by the IAEA safety standards committees, prior to its submission to IAEA member States for their comments, and the subsequent review of those comments by the IAEA Commission on Safety Standards.
11. The Working Group noted the following tentative schedule of meetings of the Joint Expert Group for the year 2008: 9-11 June and 21-23 October 2008. In that connection, the Working Group noted that the need for any or all of those meetings and their exact timing would be transmitted by the Secretariat to all participants in the Joint Expert Group.
12. The Working Group met with representatives of the Secretariat and agreed on the following actions:
 - (a) The latest version of the draft framework, as agreed to by the Joint Expert Group at its meeting held during the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee,

would be used as the English language version of the revised draft framework, to be issued subsequently as document A/AC.105/C.1/L.292/Rev.1;

(b) The Secretariat would provide a version of document A/AC.105/C.1/L.292/Rev.1 showing tracked changes to facilitate the process of establishing terminology (including a translation glossary) to be used by the Joint Expert Group and the Secretariat;

(c) Representatives of the Secretariat would attend future meetings of the Joint Expert Group to jointly establish terminology, including a translation glossary, to be used by both the Joint Expert Group and the Secretariat in preparing future versions of the revised draft framework.

13. The Working Group expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for its excellent support in organizing the Joint Expert Group meetings, ensuring the timely distribution of documents and collection of review comments and, in general, promoting an efficient process for preparing the draft framework.

14. The Working Group also expressed its gratitude to the Secretariat for meeting with the Joint Expert Group to discuss approaches for editing and translating the framework in a manner ensuring a technically and editorially sound product.

15. At its [6th] meeting, on [21] February, the Working Group adopted the present report.
