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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Forty-fourth session
Vienna, 12-23 February 2007**

Draft report of the Working Group of the Whole**I. Introduction**

1. In accordance with paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 61/111 of 14 December 2006, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-fourth session, reconvened the Working Group of the Whole. The Working Group held [...] meetings, from 14 to [...] February 2007. It considered the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) and the draft provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2008. At its [...]th meeting, on [...] February, the Working Group adopted the present report.

2. Muhammad Nasim Shah (Pakistan) was elected Chairman of the Working Group of the Whole at the 660th meeting of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, on 13 February. The Working Group had before it, inter alia, a list of issues that it should consider (A/AC.105/C.1/2007/CRP.11).

II. United Nations Programme on Space Applications

3. The Working Group of the Whole also had before it the report of the Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/874). It was noted that the Expert had supplemented her report by a statement.

4. The Working Group of the Whole noted the workshops, seminars, symposiums, training courses and long-term fellowships for in-depth training, as well as technical advisory services, that had been proposed to the Subcommittee in the report of the Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/874, annex II).



III. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

5. The Working Group of the Whole had before it the following:

(a) Status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) (A/AC.105/C.1/2007/CRP.4);

(b) Promoting greater participation of young people in space science and technology (A/AC.105/C.1/2007/CRP.5);

(c) Draft text for the contribution of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the thematic cluster 2008-2009 (A/AC.105/C.1/2007/CRP.6);

(d) Contribution of the Committee to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the thematic cluster 2008-2009: input from member States (A/AC.105/C.1/2007/CRP.7).

6. The Working Group of the Whole noted the statement of the observer for the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) on the activities of the Council related to the promotion of space-related activities among young people.

7. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that member States of the Committee, entities of the United Nations system and other organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee should continue to report on their efforts to promote education and opportunities for greater participation of youth in space-related activities.

8. The Working Group of the Whole noted that, the Committee at its forty-eighth session had agreed to establish a closer link between its work relating to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III and the work being carried out by the Commission on Sustainable Development¹ and that, at its forty-ninth session, the Committee had agreed that the Working Group should, during the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, conduct the first review of the draft concise document that would emphasize the benefits of the use of, and tools offered by, space science and technology and their applications for meeting the challenges being faced, in particular by developing countries with regard to the issues to be addressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development in the period 2008-2009, to be prepared on the basis of the input received from member States.²

9. The Working Group of the Whole invited member States of the Committee, entities of the United Nations system and other organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee to provide further concrete examples of what had been done, was currently being done or was being planned, in particular at the international and regional levels, demonstrating the essential nature of space-related contributions to the thematic cluster 2008-2009 of the Commission on Sustainable

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/60/20 and Corr.1), para. 49.

² *Ibid., Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/61/20 and Corr.1), para. 64.

Development, and noted that any contributions that member States of the Committee, entities of the United Nations system and other organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee might wish to make for inclusion in the report should be submitted by e-mail to the Secretariat (oosa@unvienna.org) not later than 30 March 2007. The Secretariat would take into account contributions received by then, as well as the statements made on that issue during the discussion in the Working Group in preparing a revised version of the draft concise text contained in A/AC.105/C.1/2007/CRP.6 for consideration by the Committee at its fiftieth session, in 2007.

10. The Working Group of the Whole noted with satisfaction that the Action Team on Public Health (recommendation 6), co-chaired by Canada and the World Health Organization, had met during the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee.

11. The Working Group of the Whole noted that in 2005, it had aligned its consideration of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III with the plan of action contained in the report of the Committee on the implementation of the recommendations (A/59/174, sect. VI.B). In the same year, the Working Group had also decided to focus its discussions on three actions: (a) maximizing the benefits of existing space capabilities for disaster management; (b) maximizing the benefits of the use and applications of global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) to support sustainable development; and (c) enhancing capacity-building in space-related activities.

12. The Working Group of the Whole noted that since 2005, member States of the Committee, entities of the United Nations system and other organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee had made further progress in implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE III, as evidenced in discussions in the Working Group in 2006 and as reflected in A/AC.105/C.1/2007/CRP.4.

13. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that the Secretariat should prepare a summary of the status of the further implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III as contained in the plan of action in the report of the Committee on the subject (A/59/174, sect. VI.B), taking into account the results of the deliberations on that issue in the Working Group in the period 2005-2007 and on the basis of the contributions received during that period from member States of the Committee, entities of the United Nations system and other organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee. That summary would identify the actions contained in the plan of action that could be considered to have been implemented and would mark them accordingly.

14. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that on the basis of that summary, the Secretariat would, in mid-2007, invite member States of the Committee, entities of the United Nations system and other organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee to report on their activities, focusing on the implementation of the actions in the plan of action that had not yet been implemented. The replies received would be taken into account in preparing a report on the status of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III in tabular form, to be considered by the Working Group during the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee. On the basis of that report, the Working Group might wish to consider a strategy on the way forward in its consideration of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

IV. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

15. The Working Group of the Whole noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/111, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would submit to the Committee its proposal on the draft provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2008.

16. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that the Subcommittee should consider the following as regular items of its agenda, starting with its forty-fifth session: (a) Space debris; (b) Space-system-based disaster management support; (c) Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems.

17. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that the Subcommittee should consider reports on space debris with an emphasis on mitigation practices under the regular agenda item on space debris.

18. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that the Subcommittee should consider issues related to the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (SPIDER) under the regular agenda item on space-system-based disaster management support and that the agenda item should be included in the list of issues that would be considered in the Working Group, starting with the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee.

19. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that the Subcommittee should consider issues related to the International Committee on GNSS (ICG), the latest developments in the field of GNSS and new GNSS applications under the regular agenda item on recent developments in global navigation satellite systems.

20. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that the Subcommittee should continue its consideration of the agenda item on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space in accordance with the multi-year workplan agreed by the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, as reflected in paragraph [...] of annex [...] to the present report.

21. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that the Subcommittee should continue its consideration of the agenda item on near-Earth objects in accordance with the multi-year workplan agreed by the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects, as reflected in paragraph [...] of annex [...] to the present report.

22. The Working Group of the Whole recommended the following draft provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in 2008:

1. General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities.
2. United Nations Programme on Space Applications.
3. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

4. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment.
 5. Space debris.
 6. Space-system-based disaster management support.
 7. Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems.
 8. Items to be considered under workplans:
 - (a) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space;
(Work for 2008 as reflected in the multi-year workplan in paragraph [...] of annex [...] to the present report)
 - (b) Near-Earth objects;
(Work for 2008 as reflected in the multi-year workplan in paragraph [...] of annex [...] to the present report)
 - (c) International Heliophysical Year 2007.
(Work for 2008 as reflected in the multi-year workplan in paragraph 22 of annex I to the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/848))
 9. Single issue/item for discussion: Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, 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.
 10. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, including identification of subjects to be dealt with as single issues/items for discussion or under multi-year workplans.
 11. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.
23. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that there should be a regular presentation by the secretariat of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) on the status of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) scheduled under agenda item 4, on matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite.
24. The Working Group of the Whole accepted a proposal, co-sponsored by Colombia, the Czech Republic, France, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania and the United States of America, for a new approach to organizing the annual symposium of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), (A/AC.105/C.1/2007/CRP.13). Accordingly, the symposium to strengthen the partnership with industry (the industry symposium), organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, would be held every other year. In the years when the industry symposium would not be held, IAF and COSPAR would alternate in organizing a symposium. Prior to the beginning of each session of the Subcommittee, the organization responsible for organizing the next symposium would provide several

potential topics for consideration by the Working Group. On the basis of those proposals, the Working Group would select the topic. The industry symposium would be held during the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee. IAF would organize a symposium during the forty-sixth session of the Subcommittee.

25. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that the topic, chosen from a list of topics proposed by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, for the 2008 symposium to strengthen the partnership with industry should be “Space industry in emerging space nations”. The symposium would consider the role, activities and products of space-related industry in emerging space-using and space-faring countries. The Working Group agreed that the symposium should be held during the first week of the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee.

26. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that it be reconvened during the forty-fifth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in 2008.
