



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
20 February 2008

Original: English

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Forty-fifth session
Vienna, 11- 22 February 2008

Draft report of the Working Group of the Whole

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 62/217 of 22 December 2007, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-fifth session, reconvened the Working Group of the Whole. The Working Group held [...] meetings, from 13 to [...] February 2008. 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), space-system-based disaster management support and the draft provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2009. At its [...]th meeting, on [...] February, the Working Group adopted the present report.

2. K. Radhakrishnan (India) was elected Chairman of the Working Group of the Whole at the 682nd meeting of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, on 13 February. The Working Group had before it, inter alia, a list of issues for its consideration (A/AC.105/C.1/2008/CRP.9).

3. The Working Group of the Whole noted that its former Chairman, Muhammad Nasim Shah (Pakistan), had recently retired. The Working Group of the Whole expressed its deep appreciation to Mr. Shah for his leadership and dedication to the Working Group of the Whole, which he had chaired from 1991 to 2007.

II. United Nations Programme on Space Applications

4. The Working Group of the Whole had before it the report of the Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/900). It was noted that the Expert had supplemented her report by a statement.



5. 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.105/900, annex II).

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

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

(a) Status of implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (A/AC.105/C.1/2008/CRP.3);

(b) Promoting greater participation of young people in space science and technology (A/AC.105/C.1/2008/CRP.4).

7. The Working Group of the Whole noted with appreciation 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 successfully implemented a number of the recommendations of UNISPACE III and noted that satisfactory progress was being made in the implementation of several more of the recommendations.

8. The Working Group of the Whole welcomed the note by the Secretariat on the status of implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (A/AC.105/C.1/2008/CRP.3). The Working Group agreed to consider the recommendations to be implemented on the basis of the following criteria: (a) recommendation being considered and implemented by an intergovernmental body other than the United Nations and reporting lines established with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in order to keep it informed of status of progress of implementation; (b) recommendation has been considered by a UNISPACE III action team that has concluded its work and/or recommendation has been or is being considered by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and/or its Subcommittees; and (c) recommendation has been fully implemented.

9. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that the Secretariat would continue to request 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 in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, focusing on those recommendations that had not yet been considered as implemented. The replies received would be taken into account in preparing a revised status report for consideration by the Working Group during the forty-sixth session of the Subcommittee. On the basis of that report, the Working Group would consider the way forward in its consideration of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

10. The Working Group of the Whole welcomed the report of the Secretariat on promoting greater participation of young people in space science and technology (A/AC.105/C.1/2008/CRP.4). The Working Group 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 the education and opportunities for greater participation of youth in space-related activities.

11. The Working Group of the Whole welcomed the closer link established between the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space relating to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III and the work being carried out by the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Working Group noted that 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.105/892) would be considered by the Commission at its sixteenth session, the review session of the third implementation cycle, to be held from 5 to 16 May 2008. The Working Group agreed to review, at the forty-sixth session of the Subcommittee, the contribution of the Committee to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the thematic cluster 2010-2011.

12. The Working Group of the Whole requested the Secretariat to prepare, for consideration by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifty-first session, a template and guidelines for use by member States and permanent observers of the Committee in preparing inputs to the contribution of the Committee to the issues to be addressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development in the thematic cluster 2010-2011. The guidelines would take into account the need to include in the report of the Committee concrete information that clearly demonstrated how space science and technology and their applications could address the thematic areas under consideration. Where appropriate, examples of regional and international success stories would be used to illustrate the usefulness of space science and technology for sustainable development.

13. The Working Group of the Whole noted with appreciation that the entities of the United Nations system, through the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, would provide inputs for inclusion in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its contribution to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the thematic cluster 2010-2011.

IV. Space-system-based disaster management support

14. The Working Group of the Whole noted with satisfaction the progress made in terms of the activities carried out within the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) in 2007, including the inauguration of the UN-SPIDER office in Bonn, Germany, on 29 October 2007.

15. The Working Group of the Whole further noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs was working with China to ensure the opening of a dedicated UN-SPIDER office in Beijing. The Working Group also noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs was working with Switzerland to open a dedicated UN-SPIDER liaison office in Geneva.

16. The Working Group of the Whole also noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat was following up on the commitments or indications of commitment received from Member States and regional and international

organizations with regard to the establishment of the network of UN-SPIDER regional support offices. It further noted that expressions of commitment to become a regional support office should be made officially through the relevant Government in the case of a national institution or by the governing body in the case of a regional or international organization.

17. Some delegations expressed regret that regular budget resources had been made available to the UN-SPIDER programme for the 2008-2009 biennium. Those delegations were of the view that the UN-SPIDER programme should not receive any further regular budget resources for the biennium 2010-2011 if that would result in an increase in the total regular budget of the United Nations.

18. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that the UN-SPIDER programme should work to raise the level of extrabudgetary resources (cash and in-kind) available to the programme, in addition to the contributions made by Austria, China, Germany, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland, with a view to ensuring its long-term implementation.

19. The Working Group of the Whole noted that the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs was the supervisor of UN-SPIDER and was responsible for its implementation, with the assistance of a programme coordinator, and that all UN-SPIDER staff members were United Nations staff and were ultimately answerable and accountable to the Director.

20. The Working Group of the Whole noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs would prepare, for consideration by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-sixth session under the regular agenda item on space-system-based disaster management support, a progress report on the activities carried out by the UN-SPIDER programme in 2008. It further noted that the report would give special consideration to cooperation between UN-SPIDER and relevant initiatives that made available space-based information and proposed solutions for risk and disaster management, and to coordination with entities of the United Nations system, as well as with regional and international organizations that had a mandate in the area of risk and disaster management.

V. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

21. The Working Group of the Whole noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/217, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would submit to the Committee its proposal on the draft provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2009.

22. 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 7 of annex II to the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session (A/AC.105/890).

23. 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 7 of annex III to the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session (A/AC.105/890).

24. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that the Subcommittee should continue its consideration of the agenda item on the 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 as a single issue/item for discussion.

25. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that the Subcommittee should continue its consideration of the agenda item on the International Heliophysical Year 2007 as a single issue/item for discussion.

26. The Working Group of the Whole recommended the following draft provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in 2009:

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 2009 as reflected in the multi-year workplan in paragraph 7 of annex II to the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/890))
 - (b) Near-Earth objects.
(Work for 2009 as reflected in the multi-year workplan in paragraph [...] of annex [...] to the present report)
9. Single issue/item for discussion: 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.

10. Single issue/item for discussion: International Heliophysical Year 2007.
 11. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-seventh 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.
 27. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that the topic for the 2009 symposium, to be organized by IAF, chosen from a list of topics proposed by IAF, should be "Understanding and addressing climate change concerns: the role of Earth observation satellites". The Working Group agreed that the symposium should be held during the first week of the forty-sixth session of the Subcommittee.
 28. The Working Group of the Whole was informed that France would propose a new multi-year workplan item entitled "Long-term sustainability of space activities" at the fifty-first session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to be included on the agenda of the Committee at its fifty-second session (A/AC.105/C.1/2008/CRP.11).
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