



# General Assembly

Distr.: Limited  
17 February 2009

Original: English

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**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 of the Whole**

### **I. Introduction**

1. In accordance with paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 63/90 of 5 December 2008, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-sixth session, reconvened its Working Group of the Whole. The Working Group held [...] meetings, from 11 to 13 February 2009, under the leadership of the Chairman, K. Radhakrishnan (India), and [...] meetings, from 16 to [...] February, under the leadership of the Acting Chairperson, R. Ramachandran (India). The Working Group 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-seventh session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2010. At its [...]th meeting, on [...] February, the Working Group adopted the present report.
2. The Working Group had before it, inter alia, a list of issues for its consideration (A/AC.105/C.1/2009/CRP.7).

### **II. United Nations Programme on Space Applications**

3. For its consideration of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, the Working Group of the Whole had before it the report of the Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/925). It was noted that the Expert had supplemented the 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 in the report of the Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/925, annex II).



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

5. For its consideration of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, the Working Group of the Whole had before it the following:

(a) Status of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (A/AC.105/C.1/2009/CRP.4 and Corr.1);

(b) Promoting greater participation of young people in space science and technology (A/AC.105/C.1/2009/CRP.5);

(c) Contribution of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the thematic cluster 2010-2011 (A/AC.105/C.1/2009/CRP.6).

6. The Working Group of the Whole welcomed the note by the Secretariat on the status of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (A/AC.105/C.1/2009/CRP.4 and Corr.1). The Working Group agreed with the assessment of the Secretariat.

7. 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. Information would be requested only on those recommendations that still remained to be implemented. The replies received, as well as other information on implementation activities, including those mentioned in statements made at the sessions of the Committee and its Legal Subcommittee and Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, would be taken into account in preparing a revised status report for consideration by the Working Group during the forty-seventh session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2010. 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.

8. 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.1/2009/CRP.5). 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.

9. The Working Group of the Whole took note of the proposed outline of the contribution of the Committee to the Commission on Sustainable Development for the thematic cluster 2010-2011 (A/AC.105/C.1/2009/CRP.6) and noted that the outline aimed to assist the Committee in finalizing, at its fifty-second session, in 2009, its report to the Commission. The Working Group also noted that the thematic cluster for the period 2010-2011 addressed the themes of transport, chemicals, waste management and mining, as well as a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns. In view of the cross-cutting nature

of those and other themes addressed by the Commission under previous thematic clusters, the Working Group agreed that the Committee should contribute to the thematic cluster for 2010-2011 by targeting the following overarching issues: the role of space in transport; the use of space technology in sustainable resource management; and space solutions for sustainable consumption and production. The Working Group agreed that any contribution that member States of the Committee might wish to have included in the report of the Committee should be submitted by e-mail to the Secretariat (oosa@unvienna.org) by 30 April 2009 at the latest.

10. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that the tenth anniversary of UNISPACE III be celebrated by holding a panel discussion, to be organized by the Secretariat during the first week of the fifty-second session of the Committee. The Working Group recommended that the panel should review the unique organizational aspects and the overall accomplishments of UNISPACE III.

#### **IV. Space-system-based disaster management support**

11. For its consideration of space-system-based disaster management support, the Working Group of the Whole had before it the workplan of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) for the biennium 2010-2011 (A/AC.105/C.1/2009/CRP.8).

12. The Working Group of the Whole noted with satisfaction the progress made in terms of the activities carried out within the framework of UN-SPIDER in 2008 (A/AC.105/927 and A/AC.105/929).

13. The Working Group of the Whole approved the workplan for the biennium 2010-2011 and agreed that it should be made available in the six official languages of the United Nations.

14. The Working Group of the Whole noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs would continue to work to raise additional extrabudgetary resources (cash and in-kind) for UN-SPIDER to ensure the implementation of all the activities planned for 2009 and for the biennium 2010-2011.

#### **V. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**

15. The Working Group of the Whole noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/90, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would submit to the Committee its proposal on the draft provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2010.

16. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that the Subcommittee should include "International Space Weather Initiative" as a new item under the following three-year workplan:

- 2010 Consider reports on regional and international plans. Encourage continued operation of existing instrument arrays and encourage new instrument deployments;

- 2011 Consider reports on regional and international plans. Identify gaps and synergies in ongoing activities. Encourage continued operation of existing instrument arrays and encourage new instrument deployments;
- 2012 Finalize a report on regional and international plans. Encourage continued operation of existing instrument arrays and encourage new instrument deployments.

17. 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.

18. The Working Group of the Whole recommended the following draft provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in 2010:

- 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 2010 as reflected in the multi-year workplan in paragraph 7 of annex II to the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session (A/AC.105/890))
  - (b) Near-Earth objects;  
(Work for 2010 as reflected in the multi-year workplan in paragraph 11 of annex III to the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-fifth session (A/AC.105/911))
  - (c) International Space Weather Initiative.  
(Work for 2010 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. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-eighth 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.
19. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that the topic for the symposium to strengthen the partnership with industry (the industry symposium), to be organized in 2010 by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in accordance with the agreement reached by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session in 2007 (A/AC.105/890, annex I, para. 24), should be “Nurturing the development of space technology”. The Working Group agreed that the symposium should be held during the first week of the forty-seventh session of the Subcommittee.
20. The Working Group of the Whole recognized the importance of the new agenda item entitled “Long-term sustainability of outer space activities”, which had been proposed by France for inclusion in the agenda of the Subcommittee, beginning with its forty-seventh session, in 2010, under the following three-year workplan:
  - 2010 Establish a working group to discuss present and future challenges of space operations and to examine measures that could potentially enhance the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. The working group would consider the results of informal consultations as the basis for its discussion and subsequent development of recommendations for the Subcommittee;
  - 2011 Continue to exchange views within the working group and receive reports from member States and interested private-sector entities involved in outer space activities regarding potential measures to enhance the long-term sustainability of such activities. Start preparing a document entitled “Best practices for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities”, based on the work conducted in 2010 and 2011;
  - 2012 Finalize the document entitled “Best practices for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities”, to be presented to the Committee.
21. The Working Group of the Whole expressed its appreciation for the work being conducted in informal consultations and agreed that the proposal made by France on that agenda item would be formally approved by the Committee at its fifty-second session, in 2009, pending the results of further informal intersessional consultations.