



# General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
**Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**  
**Forty-seventh session**  
Vienna, 8-19 February 2010

## **Draft report of the Working Group of the Whole**

### **I. Introduction**

1. In accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 64/86, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-seventh session, reconvened its Working Group of the Whole. The Working Group held [...] meetings from [...] to [...] February 2010, under the chairmanship of S. K. Shivakumar (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-eighth session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2011. At its [...] meeting, on [...] February, the Working Group adopted the present report.

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

2. 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.105/969). It was noted that the Expert had supplemented the report with a statement.

3. 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.105/969, annex II).



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

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

(a) A note by the Secretariat on space benefits for Africa: contribution of the United Nations system (A/AC.105/941);

(b) A note by the Secretariat on 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 2010-2011 (A/AC.105/944);

(c) A conference room paper on the status of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (A/AC.105/C.1/2010/CRP.5);

(d) A conference room paper on promoting greater participation of young people in space science and technology (A/AC.105/C.1/2010/CRP.6).

5. The Working Group of the Whole considered the way forward in its consideration of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III and agreed that it should focus its efforts on the preparation of a contribution by the Committee to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the thematic clusters for 2012-2013, 2014-2015 and 2016-2017.

6. In that regard, the Working Group of the Whole recommended that the Committee should contribute to the thematic clusters in which space technology and its applications played a particularly important role; pay attention to the cross-cutting issues identified by the Commission; identify areas where space-based systems could complement terrestrial systems in order to promote integrated solutions; and include, as appropriate and in addition to examples of regional and international cooperation, national success stories that might provide useful examples for the overall contribution of the Committee.

7. The Working Group of the Whole requested the Secretariat to provide, for consideration by the Committee at its fifty-third session, a template for the preparation of its contribution to the work of the Commission for the thematic cluster for 2012-2013.

8. The Working Group of the Whole noted that the recommendations of UNISPACE III that were not considered to have been implemented (see A/AC.105/C.1/2010/CRP.5, annex) related to ongoing activities being carried out by the primary actors. The Working Group therefore agreed that it would suspend consideration of the status of implementation of those recommendations and that it would discontinue the annual reporting.

9. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that the issue of promoting the greater participation of young people in space science and technology be considered under the item "Space and society" of the agenda of the Committee.

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

10. For its consideration of space-system-based disaster management support, the Working Group of the Whole had before it the documents referred to in paragraph [...] of the report of the Subcommittee at its current session.

11. The Working Group of the Whole noted with satisfaction the progress made in terms of the activities carried out in 2009 within the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER).

12. The Working Group of the Whole requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat to prepare a proposal to be considered by the Committee at its fifty-third session, in June 2010, on the establishment of a fund for SpaceAid.

13. The Working Group of the Whole took note of a presentation by the Office for Outer Space Affairs explaining that such a fund could enable quick and direct acquisition of satellite imagery to support emergency and humanitarian response in cases when existing mechanisms could not provide the imagery needed, such as when users needed to receive imagery from specific sensors or needed to have multi-agency licences, as well as for humanitarian response, early recovery and reconstruction.

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

14. The Working Group of the Whole noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 64/86, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would submit to the Committee its proposal on the draft provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2011, and recommended the following draft provisional agenda:

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 2011 as reflected in the multi-year workplan in paragraph 8 of annex II to the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-seventh session)
  - (b) Near-Earth objects;  
(Work for 2011 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 2011 as reflected in the multi-year workplan in paragraph 16 of annex I to the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-sixth session (A/AC.105/933))
  - (d) Long-term sustainability of outer space activities.  
(Work for 2011 as reflected in the multi-year workplan in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its fifty-second session)<sup>1</sup>
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, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.
10. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth 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.
15. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that the topic for the symposium to be organized in 2011 by the Committee on Space Research 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 "Planetary protection".
16. The Working Group of the Whole requested the Secretariat to ensure that at least two hours will be available during each session of the Subcommittee from 2011 to 2013 for holding the workshops to be organized in accordance with the workplan under the item "Use of nuclear power sources in outer space" (see paragraph 10 (c) of annex II to the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-seventh session).
17. The Working Group of the Whole requested the Secretariat to take measures, in close consultation with the Chairman of the Subcommittee, to rationalize and optimize the use of time of the Subcommittee, including on the possible scheduling

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/64/20), para. 161.*

of the symposium during the second week, as appropriate. To enable the Subcommittee to commence its consideration of all the items of the provisional agenda in a timely and balanced manner, the Working Group agreed that the possibility of scheduling the item entitled "General exchange of views" over a longer period of time during the session and of limiting the number of slots for statements per meeting, should be explored.

18. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that the reports to be submitted by Member States on their national activities in outer space (see para. 18 of the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-seventh session) should comprise a summary of those activities and not exceed three pages.

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