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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Forty-eighth session
Vienna, 7-18 February 2011

Draft report of the Working Group of the Whole

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 65/97, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-eighth session, reconvened its Working Group of the Whole. The Working Group held [...] meetings from [...] to [...] February 2011, 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, the organization of the events at the fifty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in June 2011, and the draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2012. 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.105/980). It was noted that the Expert had supplemented the report with a statement.

3. The Working Group of the Whole noted the meetings, seminars, symposiums, training courses and workshops that had been proposed in annex II of the report of the Expert on Space Applications.



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 containing the final report of the Action Team on Public Health: the use of space technology to improve public health (A/AC.105/C.1/L.305);

(b) A conference room paper containing a draft contribution of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development: harnessing geospatial data for sustainable development (A/AC.105/C.1/2011/CRP.3).

Final report of the Action Team on Public Health

5. The Working Group of the Whole welcomed the final report of the Action Team on Public Health and noted its recommendations on the coordination of inter-organizational and multidisciplinary actions at the national, regional and international levels, including by international organizations, with the objective of bringing technical experts together with policymakers and other stakeholders for better harmonization of the use of space technology applications with the key public health functions.

6. The Working Group of the Whole noted, on the basis of the overall findings of the Action Team, that continued discussions were needed at the national, regional and international levels on the deployment and use of space technology to bring concrete benefits for meeting health needs; that long-term efforts in cross-disciplinary capacity-building in the area of tele-epidemiology and tele-health could be further pursued in the form of initiatives and pilot projects at the national and regional levels; and that horizontal linkages in activities of United Nations entities in tele-epidemiology and tele-health should be encouraged in order to disseminate information and promote initiatives in those areas throughout the United Nations system.

7. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that the findings and recommendations presented by the Action Team in its final report should be further discussed in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

8. The Working Group of the Whole requested the Secretariat to transmit the final report of the Action Team to the World Health Organization (WHO) with an invitation to WHO to report to the Subcommittee at its forty-ninth session on the possible development of long-term tele-epidemiology and tele-health activities.

9. The Working Group of the Whole noted the United Nations/Canada workshop on the contribution of tele-epidemiology to public health actions in the context of climate change adaptation, co-sponsored by the European Space Agency, to be held in Montreal, Canada, in June 2011. The Working Group of the Whole requested that the outcome and recommendations of the workshop be presented to the Subcommittee under its agenda item on the United Nations Programme on Space

Applications, for consideration by the Subcommittee in connection with a possible creation of an international committee on tele-epidemiology and tele-health.

Draft contribution of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

10. The Working Group of the Whole considered the draft contribution of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised draft in the form of a conference room paper for consideration by the Legal Subcommittee at its fiftieth session, in 2011.

11. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that, in the contribution of the Committee, the institutional framework for harnessing geospatial data for sustainable development should be reviewed with a view to providing an overall picture of the role of the Committee and its continuous impact in this field; the role of other mechanisms and initiatives for harnessing geospatial data for sustainable development undertaken by United Nations entities and other international organizations such as the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites; and, at the regional level, the role of high-level mechanisms for space cooperation, such as the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development and the Space Conference of the Americas, in relation to the theme of geospatial data. The role of the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, and the Office for Outer Space Affairs under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) should also be assessed.

IV. Space-system-based disaster management support

12. 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.

13. The Working Group of the Whole noted the proposed workplan for the biennium 2012-2013 for the UN-SPIDER programme. The Working Group of the Whole further noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs would follow-up with Member States, specifically requesting them to consider providing the necessary resources to carry out the proposed workplan, and that the Office for Outer Space Affairs would present a final revised proposed workplan for the biennium 2012-2013, which would take into consideration the level of resources committed to the programme by Member States for 2012-2013 and would be considered by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space during its fifty-fourth session.

V. Events at the fifty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

14. The Working Group of the Whole recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/97, had welcomed the fact that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its fifty-fourth session, in 2011, would celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight and the fiftieth anniversary of the Committee.

15. The Working Group of the Whole noted the decision by the Committee at its fifty-third session, in 2010, that the events on 1 June 2011 would include a high-level segment, open to all States Members of the United Nations. Those events would enjoy the participation of representatives at the ministerial level, heads of agencies, astronauts and other dignitaries and would address the achievements of the Committee over the course of 50 years, the 50 years of human space flight and the future of humanity in outer space.

16. The Working Group of the Whole considered the preparations for the high-level segment and noted that 1 June would be reserved for a one-day high-level event, with addresses to be made by the participating States Members of the United Nations, and that the normal procedures for similar high-level events organized at the United Nations Office at Vienna would be applied. The Working Group requested the Secretariat to communicate to all permanent missions in Vienna information on the administration of the high-level segment.

17. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that a draft document should be prepared with the objective of having a declaration of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space adopted at the high-level segment, and that the draft document should be further negotiated among member States of the Committee and finalized before the fifty-fourth session of the Committee. The Working Group noted in this regard that consultations had been held during the current session of the Subcommittee under the leadership of the Chair of the Committee, on the basis of a non-paper by the Secretariat circulated among permanent missions in Vienna, and agreed that the Chair of the Committee, in close consultation with the Secretariat, should prepare a working paper of the Chair, to be issued in all official languages of the United Nations, for further consideration by the Legal Subcommittee at its fiftieth session.

VI. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

18. The Working Group of the Whole noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 65/97, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would submit to the Committee its proposal for the draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2012.

19. The Working Group of the Whole considered the list of substantive items contained in the provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/C.1/L.306) and recommended that the same substantive items should be considered at the forty-ninth session of the Subcommittee.

20. The Working Group of the Whole noted that, in accordance with the agreement reached by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session, in 2007 (A/AC.105/890, annex I, para. 24), the Office for Outer Space Affairs would organize a symposium to strengthen the partnership with industry (the industry symposium) at the forty-ninth session of the Subcommittee, and noted that the Office had proposed “The Earth observation services industry: market opportunities” as a topic for that symposium.

21. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that further consideration be given to the topic to be selected for the industry symposium in view of the fact that there were other possible themes related to substantive items on the agenda of the Subcommittee.

22. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that consultations among interested member States, permanent observer organizations and the Office for Outer Space Affairs be held during the fifty-fourth session of the Committee, in June 2011, to consider events to be held during the forty-ninth session of the Subcommittee to mark the fortieth anniversary of the launch of Landsat-1.
