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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fiftieth session
Vienna, 11-22 February 2013

Draft report of the Working Group of the Whole

1. In accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 67/113, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fiftieth session, reconvened its Working Group of the Whole. From 13 to 21 February 2013, the Working Group held three meetings, under the chairmanship of V. K. Dadhwal (India). The Working Group considered the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, space-system-based disaster management support, 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 fifty-first session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2014. At its third meeting, on 21 February, the Working Group adopted the present report.

United Nations Programme on Space Applications

2. For its consideration of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, the Working Group had before it the documents referred to under item 4 of the agenda of the Subcommittee (see para. [...] in the main body of the report above). The Working Group noted the meetings, seminars, symposiums, training courses and workshops that had been proposed in the report of the Expert on Space Applications.

3. The Working Group agreed that it should not continue its consideration of the item on the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, and that the consideration of the item in the future should be carried out by the Subcommittee in its plenary sessions.

Space-system-based disaster management support

4. For its consideration of space-system-based disaster management support, the Working Group had before it the documents referred to under item 8 of the agenda of the Subcommittee (see para. [...] in the main body of the report above). The



Working Group noted the proposed workplan for the biennium 2014-2015 for the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER).

5. The Working Group agreed that it should not continue its consideration of the item on space-system-based disaster management support, and that the consideration of the item should in the future be carried out by the Subcommittee in its plenary sessions.

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

6. For its consideration of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, the Working Group had before it the documents referred to under item 5 of the agenda of the Subcommittee (see para. [...] in the main body of the report above).

7. The Working Group recalled its decision that it should not continue reviewing the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, and that, at the present session of the Subcommittee, the Working Group should study the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, with a view to discussing ways and means of assisting the Subcommittee and the Committee in future activities that could be considered appropriate in relation to the results of that Conference.

8. The Working Group welcomed the conference room paper entitled “Rio+20 and beyond” (A/AC.105/C.1/2013/CRP.16), which provided a background to the discussions. The Working Group noted that the paper provided an overview of the process for implementing the outcome of the Conference at the intergovernmental level and outlined the mechanisms for consideration of the post-2015 development agenda.

9. The Working Group encouraged member States of the Committee to liaise nationally with their respective authorities and departments responsible for the intergovernmental processes related to the Conference and the post-2015 development agenda in order to promote the inclusion in those processes of the relevance of space science and technology applications and use of space-derived geospatial data.

10. The Working Group requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to take an active part in the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda and other inter-agency mechanisms for the processes related to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda, within its capacities, in order to influence the inclusion of space-related references and elements in the documentation generated by the United Nations Secretariat under those processes.

11. The Working Group recommended that the modalities of a mechanism for closer interaction between the Subcommittee and the Committee on the two processes should be elaborated further by the Committee at its fifty-sixth session, in June 2013. The aim of such a mechanism could be to provide a platform for the sharing of information on actions taken by member States of the Committee and the

Office for Outer Space Affairs in their involvement to promote the role of space technology applications and use of space-derived geospatial data in those processes.

12. The Working Group noted with satisfaction that, in relation to the recommendations of the Action Team on Public Health, a strategy meeting was held on the margins of the current session to discuss a follow-up initiative for an open community approach to tele-health and telemedicine and the use of space technology in spatial epidemiology and spatial ecotoxicology issues, emanating from the international expert meeting on “Improving public health through space technology applications: an open-community approach”, held from 30 July to 1 August 2012 in Bonn, Germany.

13. Based upon a proposal by the delegation of Canada, the Working Group agreed that the topic of global health be included as an ongoing subject of discussion under its broader consideration of the processes related to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda.

14. The Working Group recommended that the agenda item of the Subcommittee on UNISPACE III be renamed so that it connected more closely with the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda, taking into account the new agenda item of the Committee on “Space and sustainable development”.

Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

15. The Working Group of the Whole noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/113, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would submit to the Committee its proposal for the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2014. The Working Group recommended that the draft provisional agenda, as well as any organizational matters of the Subcommittee, be considered directly in the Subcommittee under its agenda item 15.