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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Fifty-third session
9-18 June 2010

**International cooperation in promoting the use of space-
derived geospatial data for sustainable development**

Note by the Secretariat

At its current session, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft report as requested by the Committee, including conclusions and recommendations (A/AC.105/2010/CRP.7). In addition to that document, the Secretariat received from the Brazilian delegation, on 14 June 2010, a note with recommendations on ways and means to foster international cooperation with a view to building up national infrastructures to use geospatial data.

The text in the present document replaces the set of recommendations, as contained in the document A/AC.105/2010/CRP.7, paras. 42-50.



Draft Report

International cooperation in promoting the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development

Conclusions and recommendations on ways and means to foster international cooperation with a view to building up national infrastructures to use geospatial data

Recognizing the value and the importance of geospatial data, including in particular those provided by satellites systems, for the purpose of supporting sustainable development policies;

Considering that geospatial data constitute a resource that can be managed at a local, national, regional or global level, notably through the establishment of dedicated National Spatial Data Infrastructures (hereafter referred to as “NSDIs”);

Emphasizing that the establishment of such NSDIs, together with the appropriate training and technical capacity, could serve the purposes of international cooperation development in countries which would benefit from a larger use of geospatial data in their policies, notably in the fields of environment protection, land resources management, agriculture, urbanism, disaster prevention and monitoring, early warning systems, amongst others;

Acknowledging the work achieved in the Committee of the United Nations for the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and, in particular, its document entitled [“International Cooperation in Promoting the Use of Space-Derived Geospatial Data for Sustainable Development” (A/AC.105/2009/CRP.3)];

Acknowledging the set of principles applicable to outer space activities, notably those provided by the relevant United Nations treaties, and

Acknowledging the principles adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, in particular the principles relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space, as adopted on December 3, 1986, as well as the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of all States, taking into particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries, as adopted on December 13, 1996;

It is therefore recommended that:

1. In their international cooperation with developing countries, States consider the need, the suitability and the feasibility of strengthening the use of satellite

geospatial data, notably through the establishment of a NSDI in the said developing country;

2. States which hold the expertise in the establishment, the operation and/or the maintenance of satellite geospatial infrastructures, databases, or in the use and exploitation of satellite geospatial data for the purpose of supporting local, national, regional or global governmental policies, should assist those countries wishing to develop their own capacity and expertise in the use of satellite geospatial data.

3. Such cooperation could be organized and performed in the framework of general or *ad hoc* agreements or arrangements at the governmental level or at the institutional level;

4. In assessing the need and/or the suitability of establishing a NSDI, States should consider several criteria, such as non-redundancy of the infrastructure regarding other accessible sources of data, long term sustainability of the maintenance and the exploitation of the infrastructure or the actual interface between the NSDI and the rest of the State's agents in charge of defining, approving, funding and implementing the policies for the purpose of which the data is used;

5. States should encourage developing countries to make full use of satellite capacities or products which are available to them, at the lowest cost. To that end, States should ensure full transparency on the mechanisms, channels or procedures which allow developing countries to have access, at the lowest cost or free of charge, to satellite capacities or satellite geospatial data which could be relevant for those latter countries' policies and sustainable development, for instance in the framework of international programmes or initiatives, or international agreements.

6. States should continue to support the United Nations in its efforts to access and use geospatial information in its mandated programmes to assist all Member States, including through the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group and the United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI).
