

16 June 2010

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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Fifty-third session
Vienna, 9-18 June 2010
Agenda item 16
Other matters

Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Committee and 50th anniversary of human space flight

Proposal by the Chairman of the Committee

1. In 2009 the Committee agreed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the 50th anniversary of the first human space flights at its fifty-fourth session, scheduled to be held from 1-10 June 2011.
2. The Committee also agreed that the Office should assist member States in the coordination of commemorative activities that member States may wish to organize during the sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees.
3. In response to the request by the Committee, the Office has begun to make arrangements for special events and activities to be held throughout 2011 in celebration of these milestones and has, together with the Chairman of the Committee, conducted informal consultations with interested member States regarding the events to take place at the fifty-fourth session of the Committee.
4. On the basis of those consultations and to enable representation at the highest level, the Chairman is seeking the Committee's agreement that the first day of the fifty-fourth session be dedicated to the commemoration of the two anniversaries.
5. The commemoration events on 1 June 2011 will include a high-level segment, open to all Member States of the United Nations. The commemoration events would include the participation of representatives at the Ministerial level, heads of agencies, astronauts and other dignitaries and would address the achievements of 50 years of the Committee, 50 years of human space flight and the future of humanity in outer space.

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6. The objective of the high-level segment will be to finalize a joint statement or similar communication that would be widely distributed to raise awareness on how international co-operation among States is accelerating space science and technology and their applications as a means for enabling sustainable development.
7. The usual pattern of work of the Committee would thus begin on Thursday, 2 June 2011.
8. Member States are invited to draw the attention of their Ministers and Heads of Agencies and other renowned dignitaries to the special commemoration of these two milestones with a view to securing their participation on 1 June. A letter by the Chairman of the Committee will be prepared and transmitted to all Member States of the United Nations in the coming months.
9. To facilitate the organization and finalization of the details of the commemoration events to be held on 1 June and during the course of the fifty-fourth session of the Committee, the Chairman recommends that an informal consultative group, composed of representatives of the permanent missions of interested States, be set up to support the Chairman in the preparations to be made. Interested representatives of the permanent missions are invited to provide their names to the Office for Outer Space Affairs.