**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Fifty-sixth session
Vienna, 12-21 June 2013
Space and sustainable development

Rio+20 and beyond

Note by the Secretariat

Introduction

1.   At the fiftieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Working Group of the Whole of the Subcommittee welcomed the conference room paper entitled "Rio+20 and beyond" (A/AC.105/C.1/2013/CRP.16), and noted that the paper provided an overview of the process for implementing the outcome of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) at the intergovernmental level and outlined the mechanisms for consideration of the post-2015 development agenda.

2.   The Working Group encouraged member States of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space 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.

3.   The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendations made by the Working Group, including the recommendation that the modalities of a mechanism for closer interaction between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Committee on the two processes (Rio+20 and the post-2015 development agenda) should be further elaborated by the Committee at its fifty-sixth session. 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 (A/AC.105/1038, annex I, paras. 8-11).

4.   The Subcommittee agreed that the agenda item on the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) be renamed as "Space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda" (A/AC.105/1038, para. 238).

5.   The present document is an updated version of the above-mentioned conference room paper A/AC.105/C.1/2013/CRP.16.

A.   Contribution of the Committee to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

6.   The importance of space science and space applications for education, health, environmental monitoring, management of natural resources, disaster management, meteorological forecasting and climate modelling, satellite navigation and communications and the benefits and applications of space technologies in addressing the challenges of sustainable development was recognized and noted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), held in Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999 in its resolution "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development".[1] The Vienna Declaration, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 54/68 of 6 December 1999, provided a strategy for addressing global challenges in the future through the use of space science and technology and their applications.

7.   Paramount in the strategy for implementing the recommendations of the Conference was the need to take into account the results of the global conferences held by the United Nations that identified priorities for promoting human development, in particular the United Nations Millennium Summit and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

8.   On 20 October 2004, the General Assembly conducted a five-year review of the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (A/59/174) and requested the Committee to examine the contribution that could be made by space science and technology and their applications to one or more of the issues selected by the Commission on Sustainable Development as a thematic cluster and to provide substantive inputs for consideration by the Commission (A/RES/59/2).

9.   The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space therefore made contributions to the following thematic clusters of the Commission on Sustainable Development in order to increase awareness, promote and highlight the benefits of space science and technology and their applications with regard to:

     (a)   Contribution to the CSD thematic cluster 2006-2007 (A/AC.105/872) addressed the topics of (i) space and energy for sustainable development, (ii) the

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[1] *Report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 19-30 July 1999* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.I.3), chap. I, resolution 1.

role of space in industrial development, (iii) using to combat air pollution and observe the atmosphere, and (iv) space solutions for addressing climate change;

(b)   Contribution to the CSD thematic cluster 2008-2009 (A/AC.105/892) highlighted (i) the role of space in agriculture; (ii) the use of space in land use and for rural development; (iii) using space to prevent drought and combat desertification, and (iv) space solutions for sustainable development in Africa;

(c)   Contribution to the CSD thematic cluster 2010-2011 (A/AC.105/944) focused on (i) the role of space technology in transport; and (ii) space technology solutions for sustainable resource management, consumption and production.

B.   Contribution of the Committee to Rio+20: Harnessing space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development

10.   In its resolution 65/97 of 10 December 2010, the General Assembly expressed its conviction that the use of space science and technology and their applications contributed to achieving the objectives of the global conferences of the United Nations that addressed various aspects of economic, social and cultural development, particularly poverty eradication, and invited the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to consider how it could contribute to the objectives of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 20-22 June 2012.

11.   The Committee identified the use of space-derived geospatial data as an overarching theme for its contribution to the objectives of the Conference. In its contribution on harnessing space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development (A/AC.105/993), the Committee reviewed the overall governance of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and the role of the Committee in that regard, assessed the benefits of space-based data and examined the underlying institutional framework at international and regional levels.

12.   The Committee underscored the value and the importance of geospatial data, including in particular those provided by satellites systems, for the purpose of supporting sustainable development policies, and provided a number of recommendations on ways and means of fostering international cooperation with a view to building up national infrastructures to use geospatial data.

13.   Among those recommendations the Committee pointed to the need for the following (A/AC.105/993, para. 49 (a)-(k)), as summarized below:

- Establishing or enhancing non-redundant and sustainable national spatial data infrastructure in accordance with the international legal framework governing outer space activities;

- Enhancing autonomous national capabilities and building the enabling environment in the area of space-derived geospatial data, including the development of associated infrastructure and institutional arrangements;

- Promoting voluntary assistance to be rendered at the governmental or institutional levels by States with relevant expertise to countries wishing to develop their own capacity and expertise in the use of space-derived geospatial data;

- Engaging in or expanding international cooperation in the area of space-derived geospatial data and increasing awareness of existing initiatives and data sources;

- Supporting the United Nations in its efforts to access and use geospatial information in its mandated programmes to assist all Member States.

C. "The Future We Want": Framework for action and follow-up

Space-technology-based data in the context of the Rio+20 outcome

14. In its outcome document entitled "The future we want", annexed to the General Assembly resolution 66/288, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development recognized the importance of space-technology-based data, in situ monitoring and reliable geospatial information for sustainable development policymaking, programming and project operations, and noted the relevance of global mapping in that regard.

15. The full text of paragraph 274 of the outcome document reads as follows: "We recognize the importance of space-technology-based data, in situ monitoring and reliable geospatial information for sustainable development policymaking, programming and project operations. In this context, we note the relevance of global mapping, and recognize the efforts in developing global environmental observing systems, including by the Eye on Earth network and through the Global Earth Observation System of Systems. We recognize the need to support developing countries in their efforts to collect environmental data."

Thematic areas and cross-sectoral issues

16. The Rio+20 Conference further recognized that in order to achieve its objective, namely to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development focusing on the themes of a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the institutional framework for sustainable development, it committed to address remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, to address new and emerging challenges and to seize new opportunities through the actions enumerated in this framework for action, which encompassed the following areas of the Rio+20 outcome document as contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 66/288:

- Poverty eradication (paras. 105-107);

- Food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture (paras. 108-118);

- Water and sanitation (paras. 119-124);

- Energy (paras. 125-129);

- Sustainable tourism (paras. 130-131);

- Sustainable transport (paras. 132-133);

- Sustainable cities and human settlements (paras. 134-137);

- Health and population (paras. 138-146);

- Promoting full and productive employment, decent work for all and social protection (paras. 147-157);
- Oceans and seas (paras. 158-177);
- Small island developing States (paras. 178-180);
- Least developed countries (para. 181);
- Landlocked developing countries (para. 182);
- Africa (paras. 183-184);
- Regional efforts (para. 185);
- Disaster risk reduction (paras. 186-189);
- Climate change (paras. 190-192);
- Forests (paras. 193-196);
- Biodiversity (paras. 197-204);
- Desertification, land degradation and drought (paras. 205-209);
- Mountains (paras. 210-212);
- Chemicals and waste (paras. 213-223);
- Sustainable consumption and production (paras. 224-226);
- Mining (paras. 227-228);
- Education (paras. 229-235);
- Gender equality and women's empowerment (paras. 236-244).

17.   The Conference reiterated that each country had primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies, domestic resources and development strategies could not be overemphasized. The Conference acknowledged that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels were essential for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger.

High-level political forum

18.   The Conference decided to establish a universal, intergovernmental, high-level political forum, building on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and subsequently replacing the Commission. The high-level political forum (HLPF) would follow up on the implementation of sustainable development and avoid overlap with existing structures, bodies and entities in a cost-effective manner.

19.   The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/203 of 21 December 2012, recalled that the Commission on Sustainable Development had been serving as the high-level body responsible for sustainable development within the United Nations system, and noted that it was to be replaced by the high-level political forum. The General Assembly further recalled the decision to launch an intergovernmental and open, transparent and inclusive negotiation process under the General Assembly to define the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum with the aim

of convening its first meeting at the beginning of the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly, and, in this regard, called for the negotiations to start as soon as possible and to conclude by May 2013 in order to give enough time to prepare for convening of the first meeting of the high-level political forum at the beginning of the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly.

20. The General Assembly recommended that the Commission on Sustainable Development should hold one last session for a duration of one week at the beginning of May 2013 to, inter alia, make an overall assessment of its work, in particular in relation to the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and to review lessons learned, which would help with the establishment of the high-level political forum and ensure follow-up to the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

21. The 20th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development was tentatively scheduled to take place from 6-10 May 2013, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. In March 2013, Member States decided to postpone the meeting and to organize it back-to-back with the first meeting of the high-level political forum.

22. On 18 December 2012, the President of the General Assembly appointed Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti (Brazil) and Cesare Maria Ragaglini (Italy) as co-facilitators of the negotiation process to define the format and organizational modalities of the high-level political forum. The co-facilitators convened four open-ended informal meetings on the forum on 30 January, 1 March, 21 March and 11 April 2013, which provided an opportunity for Member States and representative of Major Groups to express their initial views on the main issues concerning the HLPF.

23. An Expert Group Meeting on the High-Level Political Forum was organized on 3-4 April 2013 aiming at providing thinking on the various aspects of the HLPF and its positioning and role in the wider institutional framework for sustainable development by different experts in the area of governance to inform decision makers, United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders.

24. A series of informal meetings of the plenary of the General Assembly are being held to define the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum, with the first four meetings taking place on 23 April, 14 May, 21 May and 10 June 2013.

25. At the second informal meeting, the co-facilitators introduced the zero-draft of the resolution on high-level political forum to allow the exchange of views of the text. The zero-draft suggests that (a) the HLPF will meet at the level of Heads of State and Government and at the level of Ministers, and will be prepared by a Senior Officials Meeting; (b) all meetings of the HLPF and Senior Officials Meeting will be open to all Member States of the United Nations and States members of Specialized Agencies; (c) the HLPF and Senior Officials Meeting will operate on the basis of consensus; (d) the Head of State and Government Meetings of the high-level political forum will be convened every three years for a period of up to two days to be chaired by the President of the General Assembly; the Meetings will provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable

development; and will result in a concise political declaration to be subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly. In the zero-draft it was also proposed that the inaugural Head of State and Government Meetings of the forum would be held during the opening of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, and that the second meeting, on an exceptional basis, would be held at the opening of the seventieth session of the General Assembly in 2015, and subsequent meetings would take place every three years. The first Ministerial Meeting of the HLPF would be held in 2014.

Open Working Group on Sustainable development goals (SDGs)

26. The Rio+20 Conference recognized the importance and utility of a set of sustainable development goals, based on Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which fully respect all the Rio Principles, taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and priorities, are consistent with international law, build upon commitments already made, and contribute to the full implementation of the outcomes of all major summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the Rio+20 outcome document. The Conference resolved that the goals should address and incorporate in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and their inter-linkages.

27. The Conference underscored that sustainable development goals should be action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries, while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. It also recognized that the goals should address and be focused on priority areas for the achievement of sustainable development, being guided by the outcome document. Governments should drive implementation with the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.

28. The Conference resolved to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals that is open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly. The Conference agreed that the open working group should comprise thirty representatives, nominated by Member States from the five United Nations regional groups, with the aim of achieving fair, equitable and balanced geographical representation.

29. On 22 January 2013, the General Assembly adopted decision 67/555, formally entitled "General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals" (document A/67/L.48/Rev.1). The full text of the decision is as follows:

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Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals

The General Assembly, recalling its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in which it endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want":

(a) Decides to establish the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, in accordance with paragraph 248 of the outcome document;

(b) Welcomes the membership of the Open Working Group as designated by the five United Nations regional groups and as listed in the annex to the present decision.

Annex

Membership of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

1. Algeria/Egypt/Morocco/Tunisia

2. Ghana

3. Benin

4. Kenya

5. United Republic of Tanzania

6. Congo

7. Zambia/Zimbabwe

8. Nauru/Palau/Papua New Guinea

9. Bhutan/Thailand/Viet Nam

10. India/Pakistan/Sri Lanka

11. China/Indonesia/Kazakhstan

12. Cyprus/Singapore/United Arab Emirates

13. Bangladesh/Republic of Korea/Saudi Arabia

14. Iran (Islamic Republic of)/Japan/Nepal

15. Colombia/Guatemala

16. Bahamas/Barbados

17. Guyana/Haiti/Trinidad and Tobago

18. Mexico/Peru

19. Brazil/Nicaragua

20. Argentina/Bolivia (Plurinational State of)/Ecuador

21. Australia/Netherlands/United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

22. Canada/Israel/United States of America

23. Denmark/Ireland/Norway

24. France/Germany/Switzerland

25. Italy/Spain/Turkey

26. Hungary

27. Belarus/Serbia

28. Bulgaria/Croatia

29. Montenegro/Slovenia

30. Poland/Romania

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30. According to its Programme of Work for 2013-2014, the Open Working Group is scheduled to have 8 meetings. At its first meeting, the Open Working Group decided on its methods of work, including developing modalities to ensure the full involvement of relevant stakeholders and expertise from civil society, the scientific community and the United Nations system in its work, in order to provide a diversity of perspectives and experience, and elected two co-chairs: Macharia Kamau (Kenya) and Csaba Körösi (Hungary).

31. The schedule of the meetings of the Open Working Group is as follows:

1. First session: 14-15 March, 2013

2. Second session: 17-19 April 2013

   (a) Conceptual Issues (1.5 days)

   (b) Poverty Eradication (1.5 days)

3. Third session: 22-24 May, 2013

   (a) Food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, desertification, land degradation and drought (1.5 days)

   (b) Water and sanitation (1.5 days)

4. Fourth session: 17-19 June, 2013

   (a) Employment and decent work for all, social protection, youth and education (1.5 days)

   (b) Health and population dynamics (1.5 days)

5. Fifth session: 25-27 November, 2013

   (a) Sustained and inclusive economic growth, macroeconomic policy questions (including international trade, international financial system and external debt sustainability), infrastructure development (1.5 days)

   (b) Energy (1.5 days)

6. Sixth session: 9-13 December, 2013

   (a) Means of implementation; Global partnership for achieving sustainable development (2 days)

   (b) Needs of countries in special situations, African countries, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS as well as the specific challenges facing the middle-income countries (2 days)

   (c) Human rights, the right to development, global governance (1 day)

7.   Seventh session: 6-10 January, 2014

    (a)   Sustainable cities and human settlements, sustainable transport (2 days)

    (b)   Sustainable consumption and production (including chemicals and waste) (1.5 days)

    (c)   Climate change and disaster risk reduction (1.5 days)

8.   Eighth session: 3-7 February, 2014

    (a)   Oceans and seas, forests, biodiversity (2 days)

    (b)   Promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women's empowerment (1.5 days)

    (c)   Conflict prevention, post-conflict peace-building and the promotion of durable peace, rule of law and governance (1.5 day)

32.   The Open Working Group will submit a report to the General Assembly containing a proposal for sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action.

33.   The Rio+20 Conference recognized that progress towards the achievement of the goals needed to be assessed and accompanied by targets and indicators, while taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and levels of development. The Conference also recognized that there was a need for global, integrated and scientifically based information on sustainable development. In this regard, it requested the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support the regional economic commissions in collecting and compiling national inputs in order to inform this global effort.

Sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda

34.   The Rio+20 Conference underscored that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were a useful tool in focusing achievement of specific development gains as part of a broad development vision and framework for the development activities of the United Nations, for national priority-setting and for mobilization of stakeholders and resources towards common goals. The Conference recognized that process on formulation of Sustainable Development Goals needs to be coordinated and coherent with the processes to consider the post-2015 development agenda.

D.   The post-2015 development agenda and "Realizing the Future We Want for All"

High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

35.   In July 2012, United Nations Secretary-General appointed the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The advisory Panel, comprising 26 members, including representatives of Governments, the private sector, academia, civil society and youth, with the appropriate geographical and gender balance will advise the Secretary-General on the global development agenda beyond 2015.

36. The Secretary-General has appointed three co-chairs: President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia; President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia; and Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom. Other members of the Panel are: Fulbert Gero Amoussouga (Benin), Vanessa Petrelli Corrêa (Brazil), Yingfan Wang (China), Maria Angela Holguin (Colombia), Gisela Alonso (Cuba), Horst Kohler (Germany), Naoto Kan (Japan), H.M. Queen Rania of Jordan (Jordan), Betty Maina (Kenya), Abhijit Banerjee (India), Andris Piebalgs (Latvia), Patricia Espinosa (Mexico), Paul Polman (Netherlands), Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria), Elvira Nabiullina (Russian Federation), Graça Machel (South Africa), Sung-Hwan Kim (Republic of Korea), Gunilla Carlsson (Sweden), Emilia Pires (Timor-Leste), Kadir Topbaş (Turkey), John Podesta (United States of America), Tawakel Karman (Yemen), and Amina J. Mohammed (ex officio). Panelists are members in their personal capacity.

37. The work of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda will inform the work of the intergovernmental Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals in order to ensure both processes are mutually reinforcing, and the High-Level Panel will advise the Secretary-General on how the SDGs relate to the broader post-2015 development agenda.

38. The High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda is scheduled to have 5 meetings. The first four meetings were held on 25 September 2012 in New York, 31 October-2 November 2012 in London, 30 January-1 February 2013 in Monrovia, and 25-27 March 2013 in Bali. The final meeting took place on 28-30 May 2013 in New York.

39. The output of the Panel is a report to the Secretary-General entitled "A new global partnership: eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development",[2] which outlines five transformational shifts, applicable to both developed and developing countries alike, including a new Global Partnership as the basis for a single, universal post-2015 agenda that will deliver this vision for the sake of humanity. The Panel presented its report to the Secretary-General on 30 May 2013. The report will serve as a key input to the Secretary-General's report to the special event to follow up on efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and to discuss the possible contours of the post-2015 development agenda to be organized by the President of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly in September 2013.

United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda (UNTT)

40. Within the United Nations system, in order to initiate preparation for the formulation of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, the target date for the Millennium Development Goals and following on the outcome of the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations Secretary-General established in September 2011 the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda to support United Nations system-wide preparations in consultation with all stakeholders. The Task Team is co-chaired by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development

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[2] www.post2015hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/UN-Report.pdf.

Programme and brings together senior experts from over 50 United Nations entities and international organizations to provide system-wide support to the post-2015 consultation process, including analytical input, expertise and outreach.

41. The first report prepared by the United Nations System-wide Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda, entitled "Realizing the future we want for all: Report to the Secretary-General", was published in June 2012 and serves as a first reference for the broader consultations on the post-2015 development agenda to take place. As a supplement, participating entities of the United Nations System Task Team have prepared a number of "think pieces" on thematic issues central to this report. These notes are available from www.un.org/millenniumgoals/beyond2015.shtml and may also serve as references for further consultations on the post-2015 development agenda.

42. There are many areas covered in that report where space-based technologies and data are of crucial importance, for example paragraph 73, which acknowledges that improved scientific understanding and knowledge-sharing on climate change, natural hazards, the space environment and natural resource limits will be necessary for effective policymaking for sustainable development, as well as paragraph 79, which brings to attention the importance of improved access to geographical information and geospatial data and the building of capacities to use scientific information for more accurate environmental and social impact assessments and more informed decision-making at all levels.

43. In September 2012, the following United Nations system groups were established under the framework of the United Nations System-wide Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda:

1. Technical Support Team on SDGs;

2. Working Group on Global Partnership for Development;

3. Working Group on Monitoring and Target Setting (in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Expert Group (IAEG) on MDG Indicators).

44. In February 2013, a Working Group on Financing for Sustainable Development has been set up under the UNTT to identify issues and develop thinking for the sustainable financing strategy.

45. In broad terms, the Technical Support Team on SDGs is responsible for: (i) preparation of the initial input of the United Nations system to the intergovernmental Open Working Group on sustainable development goals, drawing, inter alia, on consultations with national Governments (including via a questionnaire sent to all Member States); (ii) provision of additional inputs and any other technical support at the request of the Open Working Group. The UNTT's first report to the Secretary-General, "Realizing the Future We Want for All", was among the key documents shared with the Open Working Group at the outset.

46. The Technical Support Team prepared the following issues briefs in support of the sessions of the Open Working Group (the briefs are available from the website of the United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/ under Documents in the Sustainable development goals section).

(a) Conceptual Issues[3] (Second session of the Open Working Group (OWG-2))

(b) Poverty Eradication[4] (OWG-2)

(c) Food Security and Nutrition[5] (OWG-3)

(d) Sustainable agriculture[6] (OWG-3)

(e) Desertification, land degradation and drought[7] (OWG-3)

(f) Water and sanitation[8] (OWG-3)

(g) Employment and decent work[9] (OWG-4)

(h) Social protection[10] (OWG-4)

(i) Education and culture[11] (OWG-4)

(j) Health and sustainable development[12] (OWG-4)

(k) Population dynamics[13] (OWG-4)

47. The Technical Support Team will continue preparing issues briefs to support the future sessions of the Open Working Group. The Office for Outer Space Affairs made contributions to the issues briefs on Conceptual issues; Sustainable agriculture; Desertification, land degradation and drought; Water and sanitation; and Health and sustainable development.

48. The Working Group on Global Partnership for Development was vested with the task of further elaborating on the characteristics of the global partnership for development that will be required for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. It aimed at broadening the understanding of the means of implementation of a post-2015 development agenda. The Working Group has developed a synthesis report entitled "A renewed global partnership for development",[14] published in March 2013. The report served as an input to the March meeting of the High Level Panel held in Bali, which focused extensively on global partnerships.

49. The Working Group on Monitoring and Target Setting (in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Expert Group on MDG Indicators) undertook a systemic evaluation of the lessons learned from the MDG monitoring framework, in terms of target setting and data availability, to inform the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda. As part of this assessment exercise, the Working

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[3] http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1729tstissuesconceptual2.pdf.

[4] http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1728tstissuespoverty.pdf.

[5] http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1804tstissuesfood.pdf.

[6] http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1802tstissuesagriculture.pdf.

[7] http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1803tstissuesdldd.pdf.

[8] http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1801tstissueswater.pdf.

[9] http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/18330406tstissuesemploywork.pdf.

[10] http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/18320406tstissuesocprot.pdf.

[11] http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/18290406tstisuesedcult.pdf.

[12] http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/18300406tstissueshealth.pdf.

[13] http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/18310406tstissuespopdyn.pdf.

[14] http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/report2.shtml.

Group produced a report entitled "Numerical aspects of target setting, development of statistical capacities and the selection of robust monitoring indicator". The objective of the report is to make a technical contribution to the discussion about the monitoring framework of the post-2015 development agenda. In the report, the Working Group offered its views on the experience in working with statistics and indicators to monitor the MDGs, and on the feasibility of monitoring new targets which may be agreed, taking advantage of innovative approaches to indicators where available.

50. The Working Group on Financing for Sustainable Development will produce a think piece to inform the ongoing deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda, as well as the soon to be established intergovernmental expert committee on a sustainable development financing strategy, as mandated by the Rio+20 outcome document. The Working Group is co-chaired by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and UNDP. At present, the co-chairs are coordinating the inputs of the focal points from United Nations entities into different background papers that will serve as the basis of the think piece (or "umbrella paper"). Issues that are being looked at include (i) financial needs for sustainable development; (ii) challenges in raising private sector resources for financing sustainable development and creating a role for the public sector to provide an enabling policy environment; (iii) blended financing; and (iv) the variety of national, regional and international public sources for sustainable development finance. A first draft of the think piece should be ready for review by the UNTT by the end of July 2013. After their finalization, the background papers and the think piece will be shared more widely, including with the intergovernmental expert committee.

51. UNTT members contribute to the preparation of the annual reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on accelerating progress towards the MDGs and initial recommendations on the post-2015 development agenda. In this process, UNTT members provided inputs and thinking to the second annual report on Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (A/67/257) prepared for the 67th General Assembly and published in August 2012. The report includes an analysis of MDG progress and progress on MDG 8 on the global partnership for development. It features a set of recommendations for inclusive and equitable growth to further accelerate MDG progress, focusing primarily on jobs and employment. Lastly the report summarizes the Secretary-General's initial recommendations on the post-2015 development agenda and some suggestions on the way forward.

52. The third annual report of the Secretary-General on accelerating progress towards the MDGs and initial recommendations on the post-2015 development agenda will assess progress and shortcomings in MDG achievement, including MDG 8 on the global partnership for development. It will outline best practices and policies to further MDG achievement. The report will assess the lessons learned from the MDGs and their implications for the post-2015 agenda, and provide an overview of the current post-2015 processes, including the inter-governmental process on sustainable development goals, outline a United Nations system-wide vision for the post-2015 development agenda and discuss the need for a renewed global partnership for development and a strong monitoring and accountability

framework. The report will put forward some recommendations on next steps necessary to define the post-2015 agenda in 2015.

E. United Nations inter-agency coordination for promoting the use of space science and technology for sustainable development — use of space-derived geospatial data

53. The Rio+20 outcome document demands dedicated efforts of United Nations entities to mainstream sustainable development in their work. To ensure a coordinated response from the United Nations system, the United Nations Secretary-General, in a letter addressed to the executive heads of United Nations system organizations, called for joint actions to respond to mandates explicitly addressed to the United Nations system in Rio+20.

Secretary-General's report on the coordination of space-related activities (2012-2013)

54. The use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development within the United Nations system has been discussed in the framework of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities. In particular, the thirty-second session of the Inter-Agency Meeting, organized jointly by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (the secretariat of the Meeting) and the World Food Programme from 7 to 9 March 2012 in Rome, Italy, finalized the report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system: directions and anticipated results for the period 2012-2013 — the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development (A/AC.105/1014). The Committee, at its fifty-fifth session in June 2012, welcomed with appreciation the report and noted the recommendations for increasing the use of space-derived geospatial data within the United Nations system, contained in paragraph 86 (a)-(f) of that report, whereby he use of space-derived geospatial data within the United Nations system could be increased by addressing gaps and bottlenecks through the following:

(a)   Raising awareness of the benefits of space-derived geospatial data;

(b)   Understanding and meeting the requirements of United Nations entities in terms of data discovery, data access and technical capabilities for information processing;

(c)   Developing the overall capabilities of the United Nations entities relying on space-derived geospatial data in support of their operations;

(d)   Using existing coordination mechanisms, such as the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) and the United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI), and existing United Nations support mechanisms, such as UN-SPIDER, UNITAR/UNOSAT, to the maximum extent possible, taking into account emerging and innovative sources of information;

(e)   Promoting partnerships with the private sector, academia and Government agencies;

(f) Establishing, in a timely manner and where required, informal coordination mechanisms on the use of space-derived geospatial data on specific thematic areas on a voluntary basis.

Open informal session on 12 March 2013 on resilience of human settlements: urban planning, land use and rural development

55. The 33rd session of the United Nations Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities was held from 12 to 14 March 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland, hosted by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). On Tuesday, 12 March 2013, a full-day open informal session with participation of Member States was organized on a theme related to space and disasters in the context of land use and urban planning. The open informal session aimed at promoting dialogue among United Nations entities, Member States and other stakeholders by demonstrating examples of how the United Nations system responds to this overall theme.

56. The two-panel session focused on central concepts of resilience in human settlement, namely urban planning, land use planning and rural development, and looked into common perspectives for the development of sustainable spatial data infrastructures. The morning panel discussed a wider use of geospatial data in urban planning for enhanced resilience of cities. The afternoon panel reviewed challenges and opportunities in mainstreaming space technology in land use planning and rural development strategies for effective disaster management. The Rapporteur report, containing the summary of the Open Informal Session, is available as A/AC.105/2013/CRP.9.

57. The open informal session provided a forum to draw upon the Making Cities Resilient campaign, founded by UNISDR in May 2010 in collaboration with twenty partners, and an opportunity to reflect on the views of the United Nations system in light of the preparation for the fourth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Geneva from 19 to 23 May 2013. The fourth session of the Global Platform aimed to continue the momentum into a durable and sustained effort from all actors (Governments, NGOs and civil society, international agencies and organizations, academic and technical institutions, and the private sector) to take shared responsibility in reducing risks and reinforcing resilience in communities.

58. The focus on the use of space technology and its applications to enhance resilience to disasters in the context of land use and urban planning as the theme for this open informal session of the Inter-Agency Meeting reflects a mounting recognition for the important role of space-derived data and information in making informed decisions for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

59. The theme of the open informal session also accords with the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference, which recognized the economic and social significance of good land management, including soil, and its contribution to economic growth, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and food security, eradicating poverty, women's empowerment, addressing climate change and improving water availability.