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

**Draft Proposed Work Plan for a mechanism of cooperative  
deliberation for “Space and Sustainable Development”:  
Bridging COPUOS and STSC**

**Discussion paper submitted by Japan**

**I. Purpose of this paper**

1. The Japanese delegation, guided by the discussion paper submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) entitled “Next Phase in Global Governance for Space Research and Utilization” (A/AC.105/2012/CRP.4), distributed a non-paper during the 50th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS (STSC). In that non-paper, the idea to further discuss the ways and means in which space technologies can contribute to sustainable development was presented. The STSC, at its 50th session, agreed to begin consideration of a new agenda item “Space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda”. The STSC also decided to continue consideration of this agenda item as well as a mechanism to substantially connect it to the agenda item “Space and Sustainable Development” of COPUOS. The Japanese delegation consulted with interested delegations regarding effective ways to substantially bridge the discussions between COPUOS and STSC on this matter.

2. In order to establish a concrete way for moving the discussion forward, the Japanese delegation would like to propose a draft work plan for the consideration of the new agenda item of STSC and COPUOS referred to above, to be provided to the Working Group of the Whole of STSC, the Plenary of STSC and the Main Committee. Our hope is to create synergy with the deliberations under the agenda



item on space and sustainable development of the COPUOS Main Committee. (Note: This is a “food for thought” paper for all delegations to consider.)

## II. Expected goal of the work

3. The Japanese delegation would like to share the view that the advantage of COPUOS compared to other space-related international organizations is that COPUOS is a dedicated committee directly reporting to the United Nations General Assembly. Given the nature of COPUOS, consideration should be given to creating and presenting a unified voice within the space community to international communities such as conferences regarding the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other international and national organizations concerning sustainable development.

4. The Japanese delegation is of the view that such a unified voice will affect various areas of policy, including Official Development Aid, data and information accessibility, education and capacity-building, public health and environmental protection.

5. Thus the Japanese delegation would like to propose the following draft work plan for the agenda item “Space and Sustainable Development” of COPUOS. We would like to encourage the Working Group of the Whole of STSC to follow this work plan at the same time, in order to develop a concrete discussion under the agenda item “Space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda” of STSC.

## III. Draft Proposed Work Plan

### 1. Work Package 1: Term 2014-2015 [Awareness-raising, information-gathering and targeting the post-2015 development agenda]

6. Information on developments following up the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and a formulation of the post-2015 development agenda were made available to member States by the Secretariat at the 50th session of STSC in the conference room paper entitled “Rio+20 and beyond” (A/AC.105/C.1/2013/CRP.16). The contributions made by COPUOS to the Rio+20 Conference (A/AC.105/993) demonstrated that direct intervention by member States proved to be more effective for proper reflection of space technologies in the global development agenda. The Japanese delegation would like to invite member States of the Committee to liaise with the suitable sections within their ministries as well as international counterparts to ensure that the new global development agenda gives full recognition to the significance of space technologies, at the level of goals, targets or indicators.

7. Much information has already been provided by Member States, international organizations, or the Secretariat. However such information is usually made available in different documentation over many years and for different purposes under various agenda items. We believe that in order to maximize the information flow related to space technologies and sustainable development, the benefits of

receiving this valuable information should be specified, which would help supporting member States in raising awareness for the contribution of space technologies to sustainable development within the global processes. COPUOS should identify and organize existing information for such discussions.

**2. Work Package 2: Term 2016-2017 [Analysis]**

8. Based on the information collected under Work Package 1, analysis in the context of the post-2015 development agenda should be conducted. Firstly, the information in accordance with space technologies that contribute to sustainable development from the viewpoint of post-2015 development agenda should be categorized. Member States and the Secretariat are invited to provide information regarding the contributions of space technologies to sustainable development.

**3. Work Package 3: Term 2017-2018 [Drafting recommendations to input to non-space United Nations bodies]**

9. After gathering the results of Work Package 1 and 2, drafting of a recommendation for United Nations Member States in order to give full recognition of the importance of space technologies in the post-2015 development framework can be conducted.

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