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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
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Vienna, 11-20 June 2014
Space and sustainable development

**Update on the recent developments in the context of the
United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and
the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

**I. Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable
Development**

High-level political forum

1. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 20-22 June 2012, 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.
2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013, defined the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and decided that the meetings of the forum shall be convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council.
3. The General Assembly further decided that the meetings of the forum under the auspices of the General Assembly shall be convened every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government for a period of two days, at the beginning of the session of the Assembly, as well as on other occasions, on an exceptional basis, upon a decision by the Assembly, under the chairmanship of the President of the Assembly.



4. It was also decided that the meetings of the forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council shall be convened annually by the President of the Council for a period of eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment to be held in the framework of the substantive session of the Council, building on and subsequently replacing the annual ministerial review as from 2016. Such meetings shall have a thematic focus reflecting the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, in line with the thematic focus of the activities of the Council and consistent with the post-2015 development agenda; and shall follow up and review progress in the implementation of all the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, as well as their respective means of implementation, improve cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on sustainable development programmes and policies, promote the sharing of best practices and experiences relating to the implementation of sustainable development and, on a voluntary basis, facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, and promote system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies.

5. The high-level political forum adopts negotiated political declaration to be submitted for the consideration of the Assembly. The forum replaces the Commission on Sustainable Development.

6. The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development held its first meeting on Tuesday, 24 September 2013. The meeting was held under the auspices of the General Assembly and gathered Presidents, Prime Ministers, senior officials and representatives of stakeholders. The outcome of the meeting is a summary of the President of the General Assembly (A/68/588).

7. The second meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development will be held from Monday, 30 June, through Wednesday, 9 July 2014. The ministerial meeting of the forum will be held from 7 to 9 July 2014. The eight-day meeting will be held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The meeting is convened by the President of ECOSOC, who coordinates with the bureau of ECOSOC and of the Second and Third Committee of the General Assembly. The theme for the forum for 2014 will be “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and charting the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals”.

Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

8. One of the main outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, was the agreement by Member States to launch a process to develop a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs).

9. The Rio+20 outcome document stated that the SDGs should be limited in number, aspirational and easy to communicate. The goals should address in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and be coherent with and integrated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015. A 30-member Open Working Group (OWG) of the General Assembly, established on

22nd of January 2013 by decision 67/555 (see A/67/L.48/rev.1) of the General Assembly, is tasked with preparing a proposal on the SDGs.

10. As of today, the Open Working Group has completed its stock-taking phase, comprising eight sessions held from March 2013 to February 2014. The consensus-building stage comprises five sessions scheduled as follows: 9th session (3-5 March 2014); 10th session (31 March-4 April 2014); 11th session (5-9 May 2014); 12th session (16-20 June 2014); and 13th session (14-18 July 2014).

11. As a follow-up to the eleventh session of the Open Working Group, the OWG Co-Chairs, Mr. Macharia Kamau (Kenya) and Mr. Csaba Kőrösi (Hungary), sent to all Permanent Missions in New York the draft chapeau of the proposed sustainable development goals and targets for consideration. The chapeau is contained in the annex to the present conference room paper, and is also accessible from http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/3770chapeau_clean.pdf.

12. The Co-Chairs also shared the “zero draft” of goals and targets, containing 17 focus areas, in preparation for the 12th session to be held in June. The text is available online at <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>. Informal consultations are scheduled on 9-11 June 2014 for an initial sounding of delegations’ views on the zero draft. During the informal consultations, Member States will have an opportunity to consult on the proposed goals, their targets and means of implementation contained in the zero draft.

II. Post-2015 Development Agenda

13. In 2014, preparations intensify to conceptualize a common vision for a global development for all peoples beyond the year 2015.

14. During the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly, the President of the Assembly, H.E. Dr. John W. Ashe, and his team have been working to promote greater engagement with Member States and all relevant stakeholders through a process defined as “The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage!”

15. In order to encourage the global community to work toward building consensus and elaborating concrete action for the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, a number of high-level meetings and thematic debates took place.

16. In close collaboration with Member States and other stakeholders, the President of General Assembly and his team convened three thematic debates on:

- The role of partnerships (on 9-10 April 2014);
- Ensuring stable and peaceful societies (on 24-25 April 2014); and
- Water, sanitation and sustainable energy in the post-2015 development agenda (on 18-19 February 2014).

17. In addition, the President of General Assembly hosted the following high-level events:

- Contributions of women, the young and civil society to the post-2015 development agenda (on 6-7 March 2014);
- Human rights and the rule of law in the post-2015 development agenda (on 17-18 June 2014); and
- Contributions of South-South, triangular cooperation, and ICT for development to the post-2015 development agenda (on 20-21 May 2014).

18. The summary of the key messages that emerged from the General Assembly High-Level Event on Contributions of South-South, triangular cooperation, and ICT for development to the post-2015 development agenda is available at www.un.org/en/ga/president/68/pdf/sts/2014_5_23_Key_messages_HLE_on_NS_S_S_TICT4D.pdf.

19. The outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (A/RES/68/6) in its paragraph 26 concludes that the “final phase of the intergovernmental work will culminate in a summit at the level of Heads of States and Governments in September 2015 for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda”.

III. Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space)

20. The 34th session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space), was held on 13-14 May 2014 in New York. UN-Space met back-to-back with UNGIWG (United Nations Geographical Information Working Group), a UN-wide network of professionals working in the fields of cartography and geographic information science. An open informal session on the theme “Engaging space tools for development on Earth – contribution of space technology and applications to the post-2015 Development Agenda” was held on 14 May 2014 with participation of Member States.

21. The report of the Secretary-General on Coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system: directions and anticipated results for the period 2014-2015 — addressing the post-2015 development agenda, report of the Inter-Agency meeting on its 34th session, and a Summary report of the open informal session are available under the symbol numbers A/AC.105/1063, A/AC.105/1064 and A/AC.105/2014/CRP.16, respectively.