



# General Assembly

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## Committee on the Peaceful

### Uses of Outer Space

Forty-eighth session

Vienna, 8-17 June 2005

## Provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session

### I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Statement by the Chairman.
4. General exchange of views.
5. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
6. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
7. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-second session.
8. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session.
9. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
10. Space and society.
11. Space and water.
12. Composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2006-2007.
13. Other matters.
14. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.



## **II. Annotations\***

### **3. Statement by the Chairman**

Following the adoption of the agenda by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and in accordance with the proposed organization of work, the Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Committee that have taken place since its forty-seventh session.

### **4. General exchange of views**

The Committee will begin its substantive work with a general exchange of views. At its forty-seventh session, the Committee, taking into account the invaluable contribution that Karl Doetsch (Canada), Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee during its thirty-eighth to fortieth sessions, had made to the work of the Committee, in particular his role in establishing a mechanism for implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE III, agreed that he should give a special presentation on the scientific and technical aspects of the work of the Committee and the way ahead, at the forty-eighth session of the Committee.<sup>1</sup>

### **5. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes**

In paragraph 35 of its resolution 59/116 of 10 December 2004, the General Assembly requested the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixtieth session, and agreed that during its consideration of the matter, the Committee could consider ways to promote regional and interregional cooperation, based on experiences stemming from the Space Conference of the Americas, and the role space technology could play in the implementation of recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

### **6. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)**

In paragraph 18 of its resolution 59/2 of 20 October 2004, the General Assembly agreed that the Committee should continue to consider at its future sessions, starting with its forty-eighth session, the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III until the Committee considers that concrete results have been achieved.

In paragraph 7 of its resolution 59/2, the General Assembly requested the Committee to examine the contributions 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.

In paragraph 9 of its resolution 59/2, the General Assembly requested the Committee to review at its forty-eighth session, progress made in the work of the

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\* The annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Committee.

ad hoc expert group that was conducting a study on the possibility of creating an international entity to provide for coordination and the means of realistically optimizing the effectiveness of space-based services for use in disaster management.

At its forty-second session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee endorsed the recommendation of its Working Group of the Whole that the Committee should consider how and by what mechanism it could contribute to the high-level plenary meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly (see A/AC.105/848, para. 54, and annex I, para. 13).

## **7. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-first session**

In accordance with paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-second session considered the substantive items outlined below.

### *United Nations Programme on Space Applications*

The report of the Subcommittee on its forty-second session contains a review of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and its activities for 2004 and 2005 (A/AC.105/848, paras. 31-42). The Subcommittee recommended the approval of the proposed programme of activities for the remainder of 2005 (A/AC.105/848, para. 42). The Office for Outer Space Affairs will brief the Committee on the proposed activities for 2006.

In accordance with paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Subcommittee considered the United Nations Programme on Space Applications through its Working Group of the Whole and endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group on the Programme (A/AC.105/848, para. 30, and annex I, paras. 3 and 4).

In paragraph 36 of its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly agreed that the Committee should continue to consider a report on the activities of the International Satellite System for Search and Rescue as a part of its consideration of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications under the agenda item entitled "Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee", and invited Member States to report on their activities regarding the System.

### *Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)*

The deliberations of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on this item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/848, paras. 54-73; see also the annotations for agenda item 6 above).

In accordance with paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Subcommittee requested the Working Group of the Whole to consider this issue. The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group concerning implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (A/AC.105/848, para. 54, and annex I, paras. 5-14).

*Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment*

The deliberations of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on this item at its forty-second session are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/848, paras. 75-84).

*Space debris*

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered this item in accordance with the workplan adopted at its thirty-eighth session (A/AC.105/761, para. 130). The deliberations of the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/848, paras. 86-107).

Pursuant to paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Subcommittee reconvened the Working Group on Space Debris to consider, as necessary, the proposals of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee on space debris mitigation and any related comments that might be received.<sup>2</sup> The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group as contained in its report (A/AC.105/848, para. 95, and annex II).

The Working Group agreed that, to begin its intersessional work, the Working Group on Space Debris should hold an intersessional meeting from 13 to 16 June 2005, during the forty-eighth session of the Committee (A/AC.105/848, annex II, para. 7).

*Use of nuclear power sources in outer space*

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered this item under the workplan adopted at its fortieth session (A/AC.105/804, annex III). The deliberations of the Subcommittee on the item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/848, paras. 109-125).

Pursuant to paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Subcommittee at its forty-second session reconvened its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. The report of the Working Group was endorsed by the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/848, para. 123, and annex III).

The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendation of the Working Group that it should continue intersessional work on the topics described in the multi-year workplan, as amended by the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/848, annex III, para. 8), and noted that the Working Group had agreed to hold its intersessional meeting in Vienna during the forty-eighth session of the Committee.

The Subcommittee also agreed that the Working Group should discuss the documents identified in paragraph 13 of the report of the Working Group, as well as the preliminary list of potential topics for the joint technical workshop on nuclear power sources in outer space, referred to in paragraph 10 of the report of the Working Group.

*Space-system-based telemedicine*

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item in accordance with the workplan adopted by the Committee at its forty-sixth

session.<sup>3</sup> The deliberations of the Subcommittee on the item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/848, paras. 127-138).

*Near-Earth objects*

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered this item in accordance with the three-year workplan adopted at its forty-first session (A/AC.105/823, annex II, para. 18). The deliberations of the Subcommittee on the item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/848, paras. 140-153).

*Space-system-based disaster management support*

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered this item in accordance with the three-year workplan adopted at its forty-first session (A/AC.105/823, annex II, para. 15). The deliberations of the Subcommittee on the item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/848, paras. 155-173).

*Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries*

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continued its consideration of this agenda item as a single issue/item for discussion. The deliberations of the Subcommittee on the item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/848, paras. 175-180).

*Support to proclaim the year 2007 International Geophysical and Heliophysical Year*

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered this agenda item as a single issue/item for discussion. The deliberations of the Subcommittee on the item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/848, paras. 182-192).

*Draft provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee*

In accordance with paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee requested its Working Group of the Whole to consider a draft provisional agenda for its forty-third session. The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole concerning the draft provisional agenda, as contained in its report (A/AC.105/848, para. 194, and annex I, para. 23).

The Working Group of the Whole recalled the agreement to continue the practice of alternating each year the organization of the symposium by the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) with the symposium to strengthen the partnership with industry. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that, in 2006, the symposium to strengthen the partnership with industry would be organized and the symposium by COSPAR and IAF would be suspended. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that the next symposium to strengthen the partnership with industry should address synthetic aperture radar missions and their applications. The Working Group of the Whole

also agreed that that symposium should be held on the afternoon of the first day of the forty-third session of the Subcommittee and that the full time available to the Subcommittee on that afternoon should be used for the symposium (A/AC.105/848, annex I, paras. 24 and 25).

#### **8. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session**

In accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session considered the substantive items below.

##### *Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space*

The Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item. The deliberations of the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/850, paras. 25-38).

In accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on this agenda item. The Subcommittee agreed that it would be premature for the Working Group to meet during that session, as Member States and international organizations needed time to respond to the letters sent to them concerning the five United Nations treaties on outer space and to the recommendation of the Assembly, in its resolution 59/115 of 10 December 2004, concerning voluntary submission by Member States of information on their current practices regarding on-orbit transfer of ownership of space objects. The Subcommittee therefore agreed to suspend the Working Group and to reconvene it at the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee, in 2006. The Subcommittee agreed that it would also review at its forty-fifth session the need to extend the mandate of the Working Group beyond that session (A/AC.105/850, paras. 29 and 30). The Subcommittee agreed that the working paper submitted by Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, entitled "Questionnaire on possible options for future development of international space law" (A/AC.105/C.2/L.259) could be discussed by the Working Group on this agenda item (A/AC.105/850, para. 146).

##### *Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law*

The Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item. The deliberations of the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/850, paras. 40-53).

##### *Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union*

The Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item. The deliberations of the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/850, paras. 55-70).

In accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Legal Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on this item only to consider matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space. The Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/850, para. 69, and annex I).

*Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space*

The Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item as a single issue/item for discussion. The deliberations of the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/850, paras. 72-81).

*Examination of the preliminary draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment, opened for signature at Cape Town, South Africa, on 16 November 2001*

The Legal Subcommittee considered this item as a single issue/item for discussion. The Subcommittee considered two sub-items under this agenda item: (a) considerations relating to the possibility of the United Nations serving as supervisory authority under the future protocol; and (b) considerations relating to the relationship between the terms of the future protocol and the rights and obligations of States under the legal regime applicable to outer space. The deliberations of the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/850, paras. 83-117).

In accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Legal Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on this item. The Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/850, para. 116 and annex II).

The open-ended ad hoc working group on the question of the appropriateness of the United Nations serving as the supervisory authority under the future protocol on matters specific to space assets prepared a draft report for the Working Group on this item. Following extensive consideration of the draft report in the Working Group, a final text entitled "Report of the Working Group on the question of the appropriateness of the United Nations serving as the supervisory authority under the future protocol on matters specific to space assets" was adopted by the Working Group and was reproduced in an annex to its report to the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/850, annex II, para. 8, and appendix I).

*Practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects*

The Legal Subcommittee continued to consider this agenda item in accordance with the workplan adopted by the Committee at its forty-sixth session.<sup>4</sup> The deliberations of the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/850, paras. 119-131).

In accordance with the workplan and pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 59/116, the Subcommittee established a working group on this item. The Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/850, para. 130, and annex III).

*Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-fifth session*

The deliberations of the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/850, paras. 133-149). The Subcommittee agreed on the items to be proposed to the Committee for inclusion in the agenda of the Subcommittee at its forty-fifth session, as contained in its report (A/AC.105/850, para. 144).

**9. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status**

In paragraph 37 of its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly requested the Committee to continue to consider, at its forty-eighth session, its agenda item entitled “Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status”.

**10. Space and society**

In paragraph 38 of its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly requested the Committee to continue to consider, at its forty-eighth session, its agenda item entitled “Space and society” under the special theme for the focus of discussions for the period 2004-2006 entitled “Space and education”, in accordance with the workplan adopted by the Committee.<sup>5</sup>

According to the workplan, at its forty-eighth session the Committee will (a) hear presentations by member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental entities on the latest developments in space applications to enhance educational opportunities, in particular for women and girls; (b) examine the availability and affordability of space-based services and systems for providing educational opportunities in developing countries; (c) identify ways in which space can benefit medicine in rural areas; (d) identify possible impediments to expanding the use of such space-based services and systems in developing countries; (e) discuss possible solutions to eliminate those impediments, giving particular attention to programmes in developing countries; and (f) develop a plan of action, including possible implementation of small projects.

**11. Space and water**

In paragraph 39 of its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly agreed that the Committee should continue to consider, at its forty-eighth session, its agenda item entitled “Space and water” and urged entities of the United Nations system and invited other intergovernmental entities dealing with issues relating to the use and management of water resources as well as space agencies to contribute to the work of the Committee by, inter alia, sharing their experience in the use of space-related technology for water resources management.

**12. Composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2006-2007**

In paragraph 43 of its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly agreed that the Committee should reach agreement on all the officers of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2006-2007, and that, for that purpose, the Committee should include in the agenda of its forty-eighth session an item on the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for that period.

**13. Other matters**

*Participation in the work of the Committee*

In paragraph 45 of its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly requested the Committee to consider ways to improve participation in its work by member States



and entities with observer status, with a view to agreeing at its forty-eighth session on specific recommendations in that regard.

*New areas and mechanisms of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space*

In paragraph 51 of its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly requested the Committee to identify and consider new areas and mechanisms of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space to strengthen multilateralism, in accordance with the preamble to that resolution, and to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixtieth session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future.

*Symposium*

In paragraph 40 of its resolution 59/116, the General Assembly agreed that a symposium on space and archaeology should be held during the forty-eighth session of the Committee.

*Other matters*

The Committee may wish to discuss other matters as appropriate.

*Notes*

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/59/20 and Corr. 1)*, para. 268.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 141 and 144.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, *Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/58/20)*, para. 138.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 199.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 239.

## Annex

## Indicative schedule of work\*

| <i>Date</i>               | <i>Agenda item</i> | <i>Morning</i>  | <i>Agenda item</i> | <i>Afternoon</i>  |
|---------------------------|--------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| Wednesday,<br>8 June 2005 | 1                  | Opening of the session  | 4                  | General exchange of views   |
|                           | 2                  | Adoption of the agenda  | 5                  | Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes                 |
|                           | 3                  | Statement by the Chairman   |                    |   |
|                           | 4                  | General exchange of views   |                    |   |
| Thursday,<br>9 June 2005  | 4                  | General exchange of views   | 4                  | General exchange of views   |
|                           | 5                  | Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes                 | 5                  | Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes                 |
|                           | 6                  | Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III                           | 6                  | Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III                           |
| Friday,<br>10 June 2005   | 6                  | Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III                           | 6                  | Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III                           |
|                           | 7                  | Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-second session | 7                  | Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-second session |
|                           | 8                  | Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session                    | 8                  | Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session                    |
| Monday,<br>13 June 2005   | 6                  | Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III                           | 7                  | Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-second session |
|                           | 7                  | Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-second session |                    |   |
|                           | 8                  | Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session                    |                    | Symposium on space and archaeology  |
| Tuesday,<br>14 June 2005  | 7                  | Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-second session | 8                  | Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session                    |

\* At its thirty-eighth session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that member States would continue to be provided with an indicative schedule of work, which would be without prejudice to the actual timing of consideration of specific agenda items (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/50/20)*, para. 169 (b)).

| <i>Date</i>                | <i>Agenda item</i> | <i>Morning</i>  | <i>Agenda item</i> | <i>Afternoon</i>  |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---|--------------------|---|
|                            | 8                  | Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session    | 9                  | Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status |
|                            | 9                  | Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status | 10                 | Space and society   |
| Wednesday,<br>15 June 2005 | 9                  | Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status | 10                 | Space and society   |
|                            | 10                 | Space and society   | 11                 | Space and water   |
|                            | 11                 | Space and water   | 12                 | Composition of the bureaux                                      |
|                            | 13                 | Other matters   | 13                 | Other matters   |
| Thursday,<br>16 June 2005  | 10                 | Space and society   | 11                 | Space and water   |
|                            | 11                 | Space and water   | 12                 | Composition of the bureaux                                      |
|                            | 12                 | Composition of the bureaux                                      | 13                 | Other matters   |
|                            | 13                 | Other matters   |                    |   |
| Friday,<br>17 June 2005    | 14                 | Report of the Committee to the General Assembly                 | 14                 | Report of the Committee to the General Assembly                 |