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**Committee on the Peaceful
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Draft report

Chapter II

Addendum

C. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-third session

7. Space-system-based disaster management support

1. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/99, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had considered the agenda item on space-system-based disaster management support in accordance with the three-year workplan adopted at its forty-first session (A/AC.105/823, annex II, para. 15) and amended at its forty-second session (A/AC.105/848, annex II, para. 21). The Committee took note of the discussions of the Subcommittee under that agenda item, as contained in the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/869, paras. 154-176).

2. The Committee noted that Sentinel Asia was a new disaster management initiative that aimed to share disaster information in Asia and the Pacific. The Committee further noted that the first meeting of Sentinel Asia was held in Hanoi in February 2006 and that the second meeting would be held in Bangkok, in cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific as well as space, science and technology related agencies.

3. The Committee noted that the Disaster Monitoring Constellation, a partnership among Algeria, China, Nigeria, Turkey and the United Kingdom, had signed an agreement on 15 November 2005 to join the International Charter "Space and Major Disasters". The Committee further noted that the satellites that were part of the Constellation were providing effective services to users globally, including in the



aftermath of earthquakes in India, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, as well as for the floods caused by Hurricane Katrina in the United States.

4. The Committee noted with satisfaction that a National Tsunami Warning System had been set up in Malaysia and that a disaster early-warning system had also been set up in Thailand.

5. The Committee noted that, in accordance with its agreement at its forty-eighth session,¹ the Subcommittee at its forty-third session had had before it, for its review and for recommendation to the Committee, the study of the ad hoc expert group 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 (A/AC.105/C.1/L.285).

6. The representative of Romania, on behalf of the ad hoc expert group, presented to the Committee the final report of the group (A/AC.105/2006/CRP.13). The ad hoc expert group held a meeting on 8 and 9 June 2006, in accordance with the agreement of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/869, para. 163), to finalize its report to the Committee, including a proposed implementation plan based on the secured commitments of support to be provided by member States to the proposed entity, and to propose a final name for the entity.

7. The Committee commended the ad hoc expert group for the excellent study it had presented to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/C.1/L.285) and the final report that it had prepared for the Committee's consideration and agreed that its final report, as contained in A/AC.105/2006/CRP.13, should be prepared as an addendum to the study. The Committee also expressed its appreciation to the following member States that had made commitments or had indicated that they were considering making commitments of support: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, China, Germany, India, Italy, Morocco, Nigeria, Romania, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and Turkey.

8. The Committee noted that the entity being proposed would contribute to ensuring that all countries and all relevant international and regional organizations had access to and used all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle by being a gateway to space information for disaster management support, a bridge that would connect the disaster management and space communities and a facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening.

9. The Committee agreed that the entity should be implemented as a programme of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (Vienna) under the Director of the Office, as an open network of providers of support. The activities would be planned and carried out in a coordinated manner, initially building upon the commitments made by Austria, China and Germany.

10. Furthermore, the Committee agreed that the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs would be responsible for administrative matters associated with United Nations procedures and overall supervision of the proposed programme. The proposed programme would have an office in Beijing and an office in Bonn,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/60/20 and Corr.1), paras. 57-58.

Germany. The activities described above and in annex 1 of document A/AC.105/2006/CRP.13 would be carried out within the proposed implementation framework presented in annex 2 of document A/AC.105/2006/CRP.13 by the staff that would be assigned to the Beijing office, the Bonn office and to the Office for Outer Space Affairs in Vienna.]

11. The Committee agreed that the programme being proposed should be named the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (SPIDER).

12. The Committee noted that in relation to the indication of support made by Switzerland, due consideration would be given to the possibility of having a liaison office in Geneva that would contribute to disseminating and integrating the work of the programme within the humanitarian response community.

13. The Committee agreed that the proposed programme should work closely with end-users, particularly in developing countries, through the consolidation of a network of regional support offices, taking advantage of the number of commitments made for carrying out its work, and bringing together, in a coordinated manner, the important experience and capabilities being offered, and to be offered, by member States. This would also ensure that regional and national centres of expertise had a strong role in the implementation of the programme's activities in their respective region.

14. The proposed programme would report to and receive guidance from the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space through the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

15. Concerning programme implications for the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the Committee noted that the additional activities to be carried out by the Office included administrative matters related to the proposed programme, overall coordination of the work carried out by the Beijing and Bonn offices, and taking the lead in implementing specific activities as presented in annex 2 of document A/AC.105/2006/CRP.13. The Committee also noted that resources to be made available to it would enable the Office for Outer Space Affairs to carry out the additional activities while ensuring that those responsibilities would not have a negative impact on the current programme activities of the Office.

16. The Committee noted that the ad hoc expert group had indicated that the proposed programme would require an annual operating budget of approximately \$1.3 million, to cover personnel, facilities (operation and maintenance) and operational costs (A/AC.105/C.1/L.285, para. 84) and that approximately two thirds of those resources were being made available by member States that had confirmed financial and in-kind support for the implementation of the proposed programme, with the remaining one third to be provided by the United Nations. Regarding that complement of support to be provided by the United Nations, the Committee agreed that such resources should be pursued through a re-arrangement of priorities within the framework of the United Nations reform process and should not result in an increase of the total regular budget of the United Nations.

17. The Committee requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to develop a detailed workplan for 2007 and the 2008-2009 biennium to be considered during the forty-fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, taking into consideration the commitments received and in consultation with the representatives of countries that had provided or would be providing commitments, as well as with the representatives of other countries that had indicated their interest in contributing to the development of the workplan.

18. The Committee also requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to continue to secure further support for the proposed programme, both in-kind and cash contributions, and requested that consultations with other relevant initiatives, such as GEOSS, UNOSAT, GMES, the International Charter "Space and Major Disasters" and other relevant initiatives, should be carried out on a continuous basis, to ensure both the increase of support to the proposed programme and the coordination of the work of the proposed programme with all other relevant initiatives.

19. The Committee agreed that the partners implementing the proposed programme should endeavour to initiate activities in January 2007 or as soon as it was practicable in order to enable the proposed programme to begin providing support for disaster management at the earliest possible time.

20. The view was expressed that the proposed programme should keep the number of staff to a minimum, draw its staff from Member States and ensure that United Nations rules and regulations regarding geographical representation of United Nations staff members be enforced.

I. Other matters

21. The representatives of Austria, Algeria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Netherlands, Nigeria, Peru, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under this item.

1. Proposed strategic framework for the programme on the peaceful uses of outer space for the period 2008-2009

22. The Committee had before it for its consideration the proposed strategic framework for the programme on the peaceful use of outer space for the period 2008-2009 as contained in document A/61/6 (Prog.5). The Committee agreed on the proposed strategic framework.

23. The Committee noted that the proposed strategic framework identified the priority areas for supporting the further implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, as contained in the Plan of Action of the Committee (see A/59/174, sect. VI.B), endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 59/2 of 20 October 2004.

2. Composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2008-2009

24. In accordance with the agreement of the Committee at its forty-sixth session,² endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/89 of 9 December 2003³ and pursuant to the measures relating to the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies as endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 52/56 of 10 December 1997, the Committee considered the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2008-2009.

25. The Committee noted the candidature of Ciro Arévalo Yepes (Colombia) and Filipe Duarte Santos (Portugal) for the offices of Chairman and Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the period 2008-2009.

26. The Committee noted the candidature of Aboubekr Seddik Kedjar (Algeria) for the office of Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for the period 2008-2009.

27. The Committee noted the candidature of Vladimír Kopal (Czech Republic) for the office of Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee for the period 2008-2009.

28. In its capacity as Chair of the Group of Asian States, India informed the Committee that a meeting of the Group of Asian States would be held in the near future with the view to reaching an agreement on the candidate for First Vice-Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the period 2008-2009.

3. Future role and activities of the Committee

29. The Committee recalled that, at its forty-eighth session, the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for the period 2001-2003, Karl Doetsch (Canada), had made a special presentation entitled "Observations on activity of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space". The Committee further recalled that, at the same session and on the basis of that presentation, the Chairman of the Committee for the period 2004-2005, Adigun Ade Abiodun (Nigeria), had prepared a non-paper entitled "Planning for future roles and activities of the Committee", for consideration by the Committee.

30. The Committee noted with appreciation that, in accordance with its request, a working paper had been prepared by the Secretariat entitled "Future role and activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" (A/AC.105/L.265), which summarized the presentation, the informal paper and the discussion in the Committee on this matter at its forty-eighth session, and provided substantive elements for consideration by the Committee.

31. The view was expressed that it was important to safeguard the position of the Committee as an important forum for the international community. In that regard, it would be particularly important that space goals be linked to international development goals, and that the work of the Committee be harmonized with the

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/58/20), annex II, paras. 4-9.*

³ Paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 58/89.

work of other United Nations forums, including the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities and the Commission on Sustainable Development.

32. The view was expressed that the Committee should first review the work done and achievements made by the Committee, before embarking on institutionalized long-term planning. There were several major achievements made by the Committee that needed to be taken into account in any discussion on its future role and activities. Among other things, the report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), the report of the Committee on the review of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (A/59/174) and the list of issues for the use of space technology in the reports submitted by the Secretary-General as follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (A/AC.105/2006/CRP.16) were mentioned.

33. The view was expressed that the strong increase in the number of private entities operating in space, as well as the development of new industries involved in space activities, suggested that thought should be given to ensuring that outer space remained accessible to all countries for peaceful purposes. That delegation was of the view that the increased use of outer space and the arrival of new actors, of which a growing number represented private commercial interests, had the potential to generate greater demand for orbital slots and competition, with the potential for friction between competing space actors. It would therefore be important to identify and anticipate where activities might benefit from additional guidelines to ensure the safety and common understanding of how space was used for peaceful purposes.

34. Some delegations expressed the view that it was important for the Committee to study carefully the most appropriate methodology for advancing long-term planning of the future role and activities of the Committee. In that regard, it was essential to review the major trends in broader space activities and in global agendas for sustainable development and bridging the digital divide.

35. The view was expressed that the working paper prepared by the Secretariat should remain on the agenda of the Committee at its fiftieth session, in 2007, and that the Committee could benefit from involving the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee in its further deliberations.

36. The Committee agreed to continue considering the issue of the “future role and activities of the Committee” at its fiftieth session. The Committee further agreed that the Chairman of the Committee could conduct intersessional, open-ended informal consultations with a view to presenting to the Committee a list of elements that could be taken into consideration at its next session. Such elements should be based on the need to look into areas where the Committee and its Subcommittees had made progress and other areas where the Committee might need to focus more attention in the future, taking into account the evolution of space technology and the increased number of stakeholders.

4. New item on the agenda of the Committee

37. The Committee had before it a proposal from the delegation of Brazil to include a new item on the agenda of the Committee, under a multi-year workplan, for the period 2007-2009 (A/AC.105/2006/CRP.15).

38. Some representatives expressed the view that it was of paramount importance for developing countries to develop their own national data infrastructure. Access to reliable space-derived geospatial information would facilitate and promote greater transparency and accountability in Government business and the enhancement of information communication and sustainable development. Those delegations were also of the view that the inclusion of such an item on the agenda of the Committee would be a valuable contribution to the Committee's efforts towards enhancing international cooperation for sustainable development.

39. Other delegations expressed the view that such an agenda item could lead to duplication of efforts and possibly dilute actions undertaken by international and regional institutions, such as the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI), the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas and the Committee on Development Information (CODI). Those delegations believed that it was important to avoid any interference in existing and well-functioning international cooperation efforts.

40. The Committee agreed to include a new item on the agenda of the Committee at its fiftieth session, entitled "International cooperation in promoting the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development", under the multi-year workplan presented below and with the understanding that the workplan could be revised as necessary for 2008 and 2009 at the Committee's fiftieth and fifty-first sessions.

41. The Committee further agreed that in 2007 the Committee would identify existing international forums where countries undertake discussions regarding the implementation of space-derived geospatial data infrastructures, in order to avoid duplication of international cooperative efforts.

Workplan

2007

- Presentations by member States and observers, regional and international organizations and informal coordination groups on their respective activities related to space-derived geospatial information for sustainable development. These could include the United Nations regional centres for space science and technology education, GEO, CEOS, UNESCO, FAO, etc.

2008

- Expert presentations on experiences in the establishment of appropriate national infrastructure for space-derived geospatial data collection, processing and application, including human resource training, technical infrastructure and financial requirements, and institutional arrangements.

2009

- Evaluation of the activities undertaken within the United Nations system that are directly related to the use of space-derived geospatial information for sustainable development and consideration of ways to highlight the links existing among those activities and the means to give them stronger international recognition.

- Drafting of a report containing recommendations on ways and means to foster international cooperation with a view to building up national infrastructure to use space-derived geospatial data.

42. The Committee agreed that any recommendations or conclusions resulting from the workplan would be in accordance with the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of all States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries (General Assembly resolution 51/122, annex).

5. Observer status

43. The Committee noted that the Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, a non-governmental organization, had applied for permanent observer status with the Committee and that the related correspondence and the constitution of the organization had been made available during the current session of the Committee (A/AC.105/2006/CRP.14).

44. The Committee recalled its decision, at its thirty-third session, in 1990, that non-governmental organizations requesting observer status with the Committee should have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and should, as part of their programmes, be concerned with matters falling within the competence of the Committee. The Committee also recalled that such organizations should be recognized international non-profit organizations, have an established headquarters, an executive officer and a constitution or statutes, a copy of which should be before the Committee at the time that a request for observer status was considered.

45. While the Committee noted the interest of the Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy in the work of the Committee, it decided not to recommend the granting of permanent observer status to the Centre in view of the fact that it was not clearly established that the Centre's activities were sufficiently concerned with matters falling within the competence of the Committee. The Secretariat was requested to inform the Centre of the Committee's decision.

6. Report of the Secretary-General

46. The Committee noted that, in paragraph 32 of General Assembly resolution 60/99, the Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-first session, through the Committee, a report on the inclusion of the issue of the use of space technology in the reports submitted by the Secretary-General to the major United Nations conferences and summits for economic, social and cultural development and related fields, and inclusion of that issue in the outcomes and commitments of those conferences and summits..

47. The Committee had before it a conference room paper containing a list of reports issued by the Secretary-General and outcome documents of major global conferences and summits, prepared and adopted from 2002 to 2006, which contained references to the uses of space technology (A/AC.105/2006/CRP.16).

48. The Committee agreed that the information contained in that document should be transmitted to the Office of the Secretary-General for submission to the Assembly at its sixth-first session.

7. Symposium

49. As agreed during the forty-eighth session of the Committee, a symposium entitled “Space and forests” was held on 12 June 2006 to demonstrate the opportunities offered for monitoring and managing forests through space technologies and international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The moderator for the symposium was L. Beckel (Austria).

50. The following presentations were made during the symposium: “Global assessment and monitoring of forests” by A. Branthomme (FAO); “Global TREES Project: monitoring global forest cover change through collaboration and partnership” by A. Belward (European Commission); “Applications of remote sensing data in forestry” by E. Csató (Hungary); “Space technology for monitoring and managing forests in Nigeria” by A. Salami (Nigeria); and “Forest area monitoring in Thailand with the use of satellite imagery” by J. Wichawutipong (Thailand).

51. The Committee noted with appreciation that the symposium had offered great insights and expertise on various applications of space technology for monitoring and managing forests, which were not covered during the consideration of other items on the agenda of the Committee.

52. The Committee agreed that a symposium on space and water should be held during the fiftieth session of the Committee.

8. Panel on space activities

53. The Committee agreed that a panel on space activities, including the participation of the private sector, should be held during the fiftieth session of the Committee.

9. 50th anniversary of the space age

54. The Committee noted with appreciation that Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations would be organizing and holding a number of national, regional and international events to commemorate the launch into outer space of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik I, on 4 October 1957. In that context, the Russian Federation informed the Committee on the planning of events during 2007.
