



# General Assembly

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## Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Fiftieth session

Vienna, 6-15 June 2007

### Provisional agenda for the fiftieth 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-fourth session.
8. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-sixth session.
9. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
10. Space and society.
11. Space and water.
12. International cooperation in promoting the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development.
13. Other matters.
14. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

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\* The present document was not submitted within the period required by the 10-week rule due to the finalization date of the report on the forty-sixth session of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee, held from 26 March to 5 April 2007.



## **II. Annotations\***

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

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

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

The Committee will begin its substantive work with a general exchange of views.

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

In paragraph 36 of its resolution 61/111 of 14 December 2006, 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 sixty-second session, and agreed that during its consideration of the matter, the Committee could continue to consider ways to promote regional and interregional cooperation based on experiences stemming from the Space Conference of the Americas, the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development and the role that 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 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 the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) until the Committee considered that concrete results had been achieved.

In paragraph 37 of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction that the Committee had established a closer link between its work to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development by contributing to the thematic areas addressed by the Commission.

At its forty-ninth session, the Committee agreed that the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should, during the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, conduct the first review of the draft concise document relating to the issues to be addressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development in the period 2008-2009.<sup>1</sup> The Working Group of the Whole noted that the Secretariat would prepare a revised version of the draft concise text and include

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

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 20 and corrigendum (A/61/20 and Corr.1)*, para. 64.

any contributions that member States of the Committee, entities of the United Nations system and other organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee might make by 30 March 2007 for consideration by the Committee at its fiftieth session.

In paragraph 38 of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly agreed that the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat should be invited to participate in the sessions of the Committee to inform it how it could best contribute to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and that the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat should participate in the sessions of the Commission to raise awareness and promote the benefits of space science and technology for sustainable development.

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

In accordance with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 61/111, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session considered the substantive items outlined below.

##### *United Nations Programme on Space Applications*

The report of the Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session contains a review of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and its activities for 2006 and 2007 (A/AC.105/890, paras. 31-41). The Subcommittee recommended the approval of the proposed programme of activities for 2007 (A/AC.105/890, para. 41). The Office for Outer Space Affairs will brief the Committee on the proposed activities for 2008.

In accordance with paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 61/111, the Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group of the Whole, which considered, among other things, the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Working Group, including its consideration of the Programme on Space Applications (A/AC.105/890, para. 30 and annex I, paras. 3 and 4).

In paragraph 19 of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly agreed that the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, should continue to report to the Committee on their activities on an annual basis.

In paragraph 42 of its resolution 61/111, 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 at its forty-fourth session on its agenda item on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/890, paras. 55-67).

In accordance with paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 61/111, the Subcommittee requested the Working Group of the Whole to consider the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III. The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group concerning the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (A/AC.105/890, para. 56 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-fourth session are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/890, paras. 68-78).

*Space debris*

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session considered its agenda item on space debris in accordance with the workplan adopted at its forty-second session (A/AC.105/848, annex II, para. 6). The deliberations of the Subcommittee on space debris at its forty-fourth session are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/890, paras. 79-101).

At its forty-third session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had agreed that the draft space debris mitigation guidelines prepared by the Working Group on Space Debris would be circulated at the national level in 2006 to secure consent for approval of the guidelines by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session (A/AC.105/869, para. 103). The Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session adopted its space debris mitigation guidelines (A/AC.105/890, para. 99 and annex IV).

*Use of nuclear power sources in outer space*

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session considered its agenda item on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space in accordance with the workplan adopted at its fortieth session, in 2003 (A/AC.105/804, annex III) and amended at its forty-second session, in 2005 (A/AC.105/848, annex III). The deliberations of the Subcommittee on this item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/890, paras. 102-114).

Pursuant to paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 61/111, the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth 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.105/890, para. 112 and annex II).

At the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, the Working Group had updated and finalized its report entitled "Development of an international technically based framework of goals and recommendations for the safety of planned and currently foreseeable nuclear power source applications in outer space" (A/AC.105/C.1/L.289/Rev.1).

The Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session endorsed the recommendation of the Working Group that, in order to prepare and publish the safety framework for nuclear power source applications in outer space, a partnership be established between the Subcommittee and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) by means of a joint expert group, consisting of representatives of the Subcommittee and of IAEA. In that connection, the Subcommittee endorsed a new workplan proposed by the Working Group for the period 2007-2010 (A/AC.105/890, para. 113).

#### *Near-Earth objects*

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session considered its agenda item on near-Earth objects in accordance with the workplan adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-first session (A/AC.105/823, annex II, para. 18) and amended at its forty-second session (A/AC.105/848, annex I, para. 20).

The deliberations of the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session on its agenda item on near-Earth objects are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/890, paras. 115-125 and annex III).

Pursuant to paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 61/111, the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session established a working group on near-Earth objects. The Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects, including the workplan of the Working Group for the period 2008-2010 (A/AC.105/890, para. 125 and annex III).

#### *Space-system-based disaster management support*

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered at its forty-fourth session its 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) and amended at its forty-second session (A/AC.105/848, annex I). The deliberations of the Subcommittee on this item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/890, paras. 126-142).

The Subcommittee noted with satisfaction that in paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 61/110 of 14 December 2006, the Assembly had decided to establish a programme within the United Nations to provide universal access to all countries and all relevant international and regional organizations to all types of space-based information and services relevant to disaster management.

The Subcommittee noted that in paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 61/110, the Assembly had agreed that the programme should be named the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (SPIDER), and that it should be implemented as a programme of the Office for Outer Space Affairs under the Director of the Office.

The Subcommittee agreed that, among the steps that the Office for Outer Space Affairs should take in implementing the new programme, the Office would prepare a report presenting a summary of the background for the establishment of SPIDER for consideration by the Committee at its fiftieth session (A/AC.105/890, para. 137 (f)).

*International Heliophysical Year 2007*

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session considered its agenda item on International Heliophysical Year 2007 in accordance with the three-year workplan adopted at its forty-second session (A/AC.105/848, annex I). The deliberations of the Subcommittee on this item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/890, paras. 143-158).

*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*

Pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 61/111, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session continued its consideration of this agenda item as a single issue/item for discussion. The deliberations of the Subcommittee on this item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/890, paras. 159-167).

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

Pursuant to paragraphs 10 and 13 of General Assembly resolution 61/111, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session requested its Working Group of the Whole to consider a draft provisional agenda for its forty-fifth 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.105/890, para. 170 and annex I, para. 22).

The Working Group of the Whole agreed on a new approach to scheduling the annual symposium of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and the symposium to strengthen the partnership with industry (the industry symposium). Accordingly, the industry symposium, organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, would be held every other year. In the years when the industry symposium would not be held, COSPAR and IAF would alternate in organizing a symposium.

The Working Group of the Whole agreed that, in 2008, the industry symposium would be organized and that the topic for the symposium should be "Space industry in emerging space nations". The Working Group of the Whole also agreed that that symposium should be held during the first week of the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/890, annex I, paras. 24 and 25).

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

In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 61/111, the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-sixth session considered the substantive items below.

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

The Legal Subcommittee at its forty-sixth session continued its consideration of the agenda item on the status and application of the five United Nations treaties on

outer space. The deliberations of the Subcommittee on that item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/891, paras. 32-46).

In accordance with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 61/111, the Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space. The report of the Working Group was endorsed by the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/891, para. 44 and annex I).

The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendation that the mandate of the Working Group be extended for one additional year. It was agreed that the Subcommittee, at its forty-seventh session, in 2008, would review the need to extend the mandate of the Working Group beyond that period (A/AC.105/891, para. 45).

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

The Legal Subcommittee at its forty-sixth session continued its consideration of the agenda item on information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law. The deliberations of the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/891, paras. 47-62).

*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 at its forty-sixth session continued its consideration of this item of its agenda. The deliberations of the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/891, paras. 63-90).

Pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 61/111, the Legal Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space. The Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/891, para. 89 and annex II).

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

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/111, the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-sixth session continued its consideration of its agenda item on the review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space as a single issue/item for discussion. The Subcommittee agreed that the item should remain on the agenda for its forty-seventh session. The deliberations of the Subcommittee on that item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/891, paras. 91-100).

*Examination and review of the developments concerning the draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment*

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/111, the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-sixth session considered as a single issue/item for discussion, the examination and review of the developments concerning the draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment. The

Subcommittee agreed that the item should remain on the agenda for its forty-seventh session. The deliberations of the Subcommittee on that item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/891, paras. 101-118).

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

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/111, the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-sixth session continued to consider its agenda item on the practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects, in accordance with the workplan agreed upon by the Subcommittee at its forty-second session (A/AC.105/805, para. 136). The deliberations of the Subcommittee on that item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/891, paras. 119-132).

In accordance with the workplan and pursuant to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 61/111, the Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on the Practice of States and International Organizations in Registering Space Objects. The Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/891, para. 128 and annex III).

The Subcommittee expressed its appreciation for the work carried out by the Working Group during the period 2005-2007. In particular, the Subcommittee expressed its satisfaction with the results achieved by the Working Group, in the form of elements of conclusions of the Working Group (A/AC.105/891, annex III, appendix). The Subcommittee was of the view that those elements of conclusions provided an important incentive for enhancing adherence to the Registration Convention and for establishing common practices for States and international organizations to follow in registering space objects (A/AC.105/891, para. 130).

The Subcommittee agreed that the appendix to the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/891, annex III), together with the first six preambular paragraphs contained in paragraph 18 of document A/A.105/C.2/L.266, constituted the basis for a draft resolution for submission to the General Assembly, to be agreed upon at the fiftieth session of the Committee (A/AC.105/891, para. 131).

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

The deliberations of the Subcommittee at its forty-sixth session on this item of its agenda are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/891, paras. 133-143). The Subcommittee agreed on the items to be proposed to the Committee for inclusion in the agenda of the Subcommittee at its forty-seventh session, as contained in its report (A/AC.105/891, para. 138).

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

In paragraph 43 of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly requested the Committee to continue to consider, at its fiftieth session, its agenda item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status".

**10. Space and society**

In paragraph 44 of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly requested the Committee to continue to consider, at its fiftieth session, under its agenda item



entitled “Space and society”, the special theme for the focus of discussions for the period 2004-2006 “Space and education”, in accordance with the workplan adopted by the Committee at its forty-sixth session.<sup>2</sup>

According to the workplan and the agreement of the Committee at its forty-ninth session, the Committee at its fiftieth session will undertake the following actions: (a) develop specific, concrete action plans for incorporating outer space into education, enhancing education in space, expanding space tools for education and ensuring that space-based services contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal on access to education; and (b) prepare a brief document on the role of space in education, as well as the link between space and education, for transmission to the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.<sup>3</sup>

#### **11. Space and water**

In paragraph 45 of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly agreed that the Committee should continue to consider, at its fiftieth session, its agenda item entitled “Space and water”.

#### **12. International cooperation in promoting the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development**

In paragraph 48 of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly agreed that the Committee should consider, at its fiftieth session, a new item entitled “International cooperation in promoting the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development”, under a multi-year workplan, adopted by the Committee at its forty-ninth session.<sup>4</sup> According to the workplan, the Committee at its fiftieth session will hear presentations by member States and observers, regional and international organizations and informal coordination groups, such as the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, the secretariat of the Group on Earth Observations, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, on their respective activities related to space-derived geospatial information for sustainable development.

#### **13. Other matters**

##### *Future role and activities of the Committee*

In paragraph 47 of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction that the Committee had agreed to consider, at its fiftieth session, under its agenda item entitled “Other matters”, the issue of the future role and activities of the Committee and noted that the Chairman of the Committee could conduct intersessional, open-ended informal consultations with a view to presenting to the

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., *Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/58/20)*, para. 239.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., *Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 20 and corrigendum (A/61/20 and Corr.1)*, paras. 245 and 260.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., paras. 301-303.

Committee a list of elements that could be taken into consideration at its next session.

*Membership of the Committee*

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session took note of the application by Switzerland for membership in the Committee. The Subcommittee also heard a statement by the observer for Bolivia on that State's application for membership in the Committee (A/AC.105/890, para. 4). The Committee at its fiftieth session will take a decision on these requests.

*Observer status*

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session took note of the request by the European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere for permanent observer status with the Committee (A/AC.105/890, para. 6). The Legal Subcommittee at its forty-sixth session took note of the request by the African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing for permanent observer status with the Committee (A/AC.105/891, para. 7).

The Committee at its fiftieth session will take a decision on each of those requests.

*Symposium*

In paragraph 46 of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly agreed that a symposium on space and water should be held during the fiftieth session of the Committee. The symposium will be held on the afternoon of 11 June 2007.

*Panel on space exploration activities*

In paragraph 49 of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly agreed that a panel on space exploration activities, including the participation of the private sector, should be convened during the fiftieth session of the Committee. The panel will be held on the afternoon of 6 June 2007.

*Other matters*

The Committee may wish to discuss matters other than those listed above, as appropriate.

## Annex

## Indicative schedule of work\*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Wednesday, 6 June 2007	1	Opening of the session	4	General exchange of views
	2	Adoption of the agenda		Panel on space exploration activities
	3	Statement by the Chairman		
	4	General exchange of views		
Thursday, 7 June 2007	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, 8 June 2007	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	7	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session
	7	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session	8	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-sixth session
Monday, 11 June 2007	7	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session	7	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session
	8	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-sixth session	9	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status
	9	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status		Symposium on space and water
Tuesday, 12 June 2007	8	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-sixth session	8	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-sixth session
	9	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status	11	Space and water
	10	Space and society	12	Use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development
	13	Other matters		

\* 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)).

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<i>Date</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Wednesday, 13 June 2007	10	Space and society	10	Space and society
	11	Space and water	11	Space and water
	12	Use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development	12	Use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development
	13	Other matters	13	Other matters
Thursday, 14 June 2007	12	Use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development	13	Other matters
	13	Other matters		
Friday, 15 June 2007	14	Report of the Committee to the General Assembly	14	Report of the Committee to the General Assembly

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