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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Fifty-fourth session
Vienna, 1-10 June 2011

Provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session*

I. Provisional agenda

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2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Statement by the Chair.
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-eighth session.
8. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fiftieth session.
9. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
10. Space and society.
11. Space and water.
12. Space and climate change.
13. Use of space technology in the United Nations system.
14. Future role of the Committee.

* The present document was not submitted within the period required by the 10-week rule owing to the need to await the finalization of the report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fiftieth session, held from 28 March to 8 April 2011.



15. Other matters.
16. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

II. Annotations*

1. Opening of the session

The opening of the fifty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will take place in the morning of Thursday, 2 June 2011.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The adoption of the agenda will take place immediately after the opening of the session.

3. Statement by the Chair

Following the adoption of the agenda by the Committee, the Chair of the Committee will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Committee that have taken place since its fifty-third session.

4. General exchange of views

The Committee will begin its substantive work with a general exchange of views. As a general guideline, statements under this item should last no longer than 10 minutes.

The Committee will have before it a note by the Secretariat entitled "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space: activities of Member States" (A/AC.105/977/Add.2 and 3).

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

In paragraph 34 of its resolution 65/97, 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-sixth 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 Conferences of the Americas and the African Leadership Conferences 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 paragraph 35 of its resolution 65/97, the General Assembly invited the Committee to consider how it could contribute to the objectives of the

* 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.

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012.

The Committee will have before it for its consideration a conference room paper entitled “Draft contribution of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development: harnessing space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development”.

The Committee will have before it the report of the Committee on international cooperation in promoting the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development (A/AC.105/973). This document constitutes the final report under the agenda item on international cooperation in promoting the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development (see A/65/20, paras. 285-295).

7. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-eighth session

In accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 65/97, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-eighth session, considered the following substantive items:

(a) United Nations Programme on Space Applications (see A/AC.105/987, paras. 30-53, and annex I, paras. 2 and 3);

(b) Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) (see A/AC.105/987, paras. 54-64, and annex I, paras. 4-11);

(c) Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth’s environment (see A/AC.105/987, paras. 65-75);

(d) Space debris (see A/AC.105/987, paras. 76-96);

(e) Space-system-based disaster management support (see A/AC.105/987, paras. 97-114, and annex I, paras. 12 and 13);

(f) Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems (see A/AC.105/987, paras. 115-134);

(g) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space (see A/AC.105/987, paras. 135-150, and annex II);

(h) Near-Earth objects (see A/AC.105/987, paras. 151-165, and annex III);

(i) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including 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, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union (see A/AC.105/987, paras. 202-209);

(j) International Space Weather Initiative (see A/AC.105/987, paras. 166-177);

(k) Long-term sustainability of outer space activities (see A/AC.105/987, paras. 178-201, and annex IV).

United Nations Programme on Space Applications

The Committee will have before it the report on the United Nations/United Arab Emirates/United States of America Workshop on Applications of Global Navigation Satellite Systems, held in Dubai from 16 to 20 January 2011 (A/AC.105/988).

In paragraph 17 of its resolution 65/97, the 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.

Space-system-based disaster management support

The Committee will have before it for its consideration a conference room paper containing a revised workplan of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) for the biennium 2012-2013 taking into consideration the level of resources committed to the programme by Member States for the biennium 2012-2013 (see A/AC.105/987, annex I, para. 13).

Long-term sustainability of outer space activities

The Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities agreed that expert groups should be established in the intersessional period. The Working Group therefore requested the Secretariat to invite member States of the Committee and intergovernmental organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee to nominate suitable experts to participate in the expert groups. The Working Group agreed that those expert groups should be established and their chairs or co-chairs identified by the end of April 2011, with a view to reporting on the progress made to the Committee at its fifty-fourth session, in June 2011. The Working Group agreed that the revised text of document A/AC.105/C.1/L.307 should be transmitted to all member States of the Committee as document A/AC.105/C.1/L.307/Rev.1, inviting member States to provide comments by the end of April 2011, with a view to adopting the terms of reference and methods of work of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities at the fifty-fourth session of the Committee, in 2011 (A/AC.105/987, annex IV, paras. 10-12).

The Committee will have before it for consideration the working paper submitted by the Chair of the Working Group entitled "Terms of reference and methods of work of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee" (A/AC.105/C.1/L.307/Rev.1).

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

The deliberations of the Subcommittee on its agenda item on the draft provisional agenda for its forty-ninth session are reflected in the report on its forty-eighth session (A/AC.105/987, para. 210, and annex I, para. 18).

The Subcommittee, at its forty-eighth session, agreed on the items to be proposed to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for inclusion in the agenda of the Subcommittee at its forty-ninth session (A/AC.105/987, para. 212).

The Working Group of the Whole recommended that consultations among interested member States, permanent observer organizations and the Office for Outer Space Affairs be held during the fifty-fourth session of the Committee, in June 2011, to consider events to be held during the forty-ninth session of the Subcommittee to mark the fortieth anniversary of the launch of Landsat-1 (A/AC.105/987, annex I, para. 22).

8. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fiftieth session

In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 65/97, the Legal Subcommittee, at its fiftieth session, considered the following substantive items:

(a) Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space (see A/AC.105/990, paras. 29-43, and annex I);

(b) Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law (see A/AC.105/990, paras. 44-53);

(c) 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 (see A/AC.105/990, paras. 54-73, and annex II);

(d) Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (see A/AC.105/990, paras. 74-89);

(e) 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 (see A/AC.105/990, paras. 90-103);

(f) Capacity-building in space law (A/AC.105/990, paras. 104-120);

(g) General exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures (see A/AC.105/990, paras. 121-142);

(h) General exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space (see A/AC.105/990, paras. 143-153, and annex III).

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

The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendation that the mandate of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space be extended for one additional year. It was agreed that the Subcommittee, at its fifty-first session, in 2012, would review the need to extend the mandate of the Working Group beyond that period (A/AC.105/990, para. 42).

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

The deliberations of the Legal Subcommittee on its agenda item on proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-first session are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/990, paras. 154-202).

The Subcommittee, at its fiftieth session, agreed on the items to be proposed to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for inclusion in the agenda of the Subcommittee at its fifty-first session (A/AC.105/990, para. 159).

The Subcommittee agreed that informal consultations should be held among interested delegations on the margins of the fifty-fourth session of the Committee to continue the discussions on organizational matters (A/AC.105/990, para. 196).

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

The deliberations of the Committee on its agenda item entitled “Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status” at its fifty-third session are reflected in its report (A/65/20, paras. 233-241).

10. Space and society

The deliberations of the Committee on its agenda item on space and society at its fifty-third session are reflected in its report (A/65/20, paras. 242-258).

At its fifty-third session, the Committee agreed that, as recommended by the Working Group of the Whole at the forty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/958, para. 55, and annex I, para. 9), the issue of promoting the greater participation of young people in space science and technology would be considered by the Committee under the item “Space and society” (A/65/20, para. 257).

11. Space and water

The deliberations of the Committee on its agenda item on space and water at its fifty-third session are reflected in its report (A/65/20, paras. 259-266).

12. Space and climate change

The deliberations of the Committee on its agenda item on space and climate change at its fifty-third session are reflected in its report (A/65/20, paras. 267-274).

13. Use of space technology in the United Nations system

The deliberations of the Committee on its agenda item on the use of space technology in the United Nations system at its fifty-third session are reflected in its report (A/65/20, paras. 275-284).

The Committee will have before it the special report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on the use of space technology within the United Nations system to address climate change issues (A/AC.105/991) and the report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on its thirty-first meeting (A/AC.105/992).

14. Future role of the Committee

The deliberations of the Committee at its fifty-third session with respect to including on its agenda a new item on the future role of the Committee are reflected in its report (see A/65/20, paras. 336, 337 and 339).

At its fifty-third session, the Committee noted with appreciation the working paper by the Chair of the Committee for the period 2008-2009 entitled "Towards a United Nations space policy" (A/AC.105/L.278) and agreed to include a new item entitled "Future role of the Committee" on the agenda for its fifty-fourth session, for one year only, to enable the Committee to consider that paper further (A/65/20, para. 337). In paragraph 28 of its resolution 65/97, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction that the working paper would be considered by the Committee at its fifty-fourth session.

The Committee will have before it for its consideration document A/AC.105/L.278.

15. Other matters

The deliberations of the Committee on its agenda item on other matters at its fifty-third session are reflected in its report (A/65/20, paras. 296-339).

Composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2012-2013

The current status of nominations for the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2012-2013 is reflected in the report of the Committee on its fifty-third session (A/65/20, paras. 301-303) and in paragraphs 36-38 of General Assembly resolution 65/97.

Membership of the Committee

The Legal Subcommittee, at its fiftieth session, noted the application of Azerbaijan for membership in the Committee (A/AC.105/990, para. 7). The Committee will have before it for consideration the application of Azerbaijan for membership in the Committee.

Observer status

The Committee, at its fifty-third session, took note of the application of the Association of Remote Sensing Centres in the Arab World. The Committee agreed to invite the Association to participate in its fifty-fourth session, as well as in the sessions of the Subcommittees in 2011, with a view to the Association's provision of additional written information, and that a decision on its application would be made by the Committee at that session (A/65/20, paras. 309-310).

Additional written information on the request for observer status of the Association of Remote Sensing Centres in the Arab World was made available to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-eighth session (A/AC.105/C.1/2011/CRP.18 and Add.1) and to the Legal Subcommittee at its fiftieth session (A/AC.105/C.2/2011/CRP.11). The Committee will have before it for its consideration the documentation submitted with respect to this application.

The Committee, at its fifty-third session, agreed that the Secretariat should contact the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations of the Economic and Social Council to verify the application process and the duration of the procedure for granting consultative status with the Council (A/65/20, para. 313). The Committee will have before it information in that regard.

Organizational matters

The Committee, at its fifty-third session, requested the Secretariat to present to the Legal Subcommittee at its fiftieth session and the Committee at its fifty-fourth session, for their consideration, a detailed proposal to discontinue the use of unedited transcripts. The use of digital recordings should be assessed (A/65/20, para. 320).

In accordance with the request made by the Committee at its fifty-third session, the Legal Subcommittee, at its fiftieth session, considered a working paper submitted by the Secretariat containing a proposal to discontinue the use of unedited transcripts by the Subcommittee and the Committee, starting with their sessions in 2012 (A/AC.105/C.2/L.282). The Subcommittee recommended that the use of unedited transcripts should be discontinued, starting in 2012, in accordance with that proposal (A/AC.105/990, para. 198). The Committee will have before it for its consideration the working paper containing the proposal to discontinue the use of unedited transcripts (A/AC.105/C.2/L.282).

The Committee, at its fifty-third session, recommended that open-ended informal consultations be held among interested member States in the margins of the sessions of the Committee and its Subcommittees in 2011, with a view to proposing further measures to rationalize and optimize the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. The Committee agreed to continue reviewing its organizational matters at its fifty-fourth session, in 2011 (A/65/20, paras. 318 and 319).

The considerations on organizational matters made by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-eighth session are reflected in its report on that session (A/AC.105/987, paras. 214-222), and the considerations made by the Legal Subcommittee at its fiftieth session are reflected in its report on that session (A/AC.105/990, paras. 176-198).

The Committee, at its fifty-third session, agreed to include the names of regional groups in the paragraphs listing the speakers under each agenda item in the reports of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies (A/65/20, para. 325). The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-eighth session, recommended to the Committee to extend the provisions contained in paragraph 325 of the report of the Committee to the Group of 77 and China and other interregional groups (A/AC.105/987, para. 223).

Panel discussion to be held at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly

In paragraph 42 of its resolution 65/97, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction that a panel discussion on space and emergencies was held at United Nations Headquarters on 12 October 2010, and agreed that a panel discussion should be held at the sixty-sixth session of the Assembly on a topic to be selected by the Committee, taking into account the panel discussions held on climate change, food security, global health and emergencies.

Other matters

The Committee may wish to discuss matters in addition to those listed above, as appropriate.

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Commemorative segment on 1 June 2011

The Committee, at its fifty-third session, recalled its agreement at its fifty-second session, in 2009, to celebrate at its fifty-fourth session, scheduled to be held from 1 to 10 June 2011, the fiftieth anniversary of the first session of the Committee and the fiftieth anniversary of the first human space flight (A/65/20, para. 326).

The Committee agreed that the first day of its fifty-fourth session should be dedicated to the commemoration of the two anniversaries to enable representation at the highest level (A/65/20, para. 329).

The Committee also agreed that as from Thursday, 2 June 2011, the work of its session would follow the usual pattern (A/65/20, para. 333).

In paragraph 44 of its resolution 65/97, the General Assembly welcomed the fact that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space would celebrate at its fifty-fourth session the fiftieth anniversary of the Committee and the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight.

The Committee will have before it for its consideration during the commemorative segment on 1 June a draft declaration contained in a working paper submitted by the Chair of the Committee entitled "Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of Human Space Flight and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" (A/AC.105/L.283/Rev.1).

Annex

Indicative schedule of work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifty-fourth session*

The schedule of work laid out below is a general guide to the dates and times when items will be addressed during the course of the session. The consideration of all items can be advanced, extended or delayed, depending on the requirements of the members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and any organizational constraints faced during the course of the session.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Wednesday, 1 June 2011		Commemorative segment		Commemorative segment
Thursday, 2 June 2011	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 Chair		
	4	General exchange of views	8	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fiftieth session
Friday, 3 June 2011	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
	8	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fiftieth session	8	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fiftieth session
Monday, 6 June 2011	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-eighth session	7	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-eighth session
	10	Space and society	10	Space and society
Tuesday, 7 June 2011	6	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III	11	Space and water
	7	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-eighth session	12	Space and climate change
			13	Use of space technology in the United Nations system
			14	Future role of the Committee
	10	Space and society		
	15	Other matters		
Wednesday, 8 June 2011	9	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status	9	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status
	11	Space and water	11	Space and water

* At its thirty-eighth session, the Committee 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>
	12	Space and climate change	12	Space and climate change
	13	Use of space technology in the United Nations system	13	Use of space technology in the United Nations system
Thursday, 9 June 2011	9	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status	14	Future role of the Committee
	14	Future role of the Committee	15	Other matters
	15	Other matters	16	Report of the Committee to the General Assembly
Friday, 10 June 2011	16	Report of the Committee to the General Assembly	16	Report of the Committee to the General Assembly
