



# General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space  
Fifty-fifth session  
Vienna, 6-15 June 2012**

## **Provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session\***

### **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Election of officers.
4. Statement by the Chair.
5. General exchange of views.
6. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
7. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
8. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-ninth session.
9. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-first session.
10. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
11. Space and society.
12. Space and water.
13. Space and climate change.
14. Use of space technology in the United Nations system.
15. Future role of the Committee.

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\* 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 fifty-first session, held from 19 to 30 March 2012.



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

## **II. Annotations\***

### **3. Election of officers**

In accordance with the decision taken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifty-fourth session and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/71, the Committee will elect Yasushi Horikawa (Japan), Filipe Duarte Santos (Portugal) and Piotr Wolanski (Poland) as its Chair, First Vice-Chair and Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur, respectively, for the period 2012-2013.

At its forty-ninth session, in 2012, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee elected Félix Clementino Menicocci (Argentina) as its Chair for a two-year term of office (A/AC.105/1001, para. 12).

At its fifty-first session, in 2012, the Legal Subcommittee elected Tare Charles Brisibe (Nigeria) as its Chair for a two-year term of office (A/AC.105/1003, para. 1).

### **4. Statement by the Chair**

Following the adoption of the agenda by the Committee and the election of its officers, 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-fourth session.

### **5. General exchange of views**

The Committee will begin its substantive work with a general exchange of views. As a general rule, statements should not exceed 10 minutes.

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

In paragraph 19 of its resolution 66/71, 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-seventh session, and agreed that during its consideration of the matter the Committee could continue to consider ways to promote regional and interregional cooperation and the role space technology could play in the implementation of recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

### **7. 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 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro,

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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.

Brazil, in 2012. In that regard, the Committee will have before it the 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 (A/AC.105/993).

#### **8. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-ninth session**

In accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 66/71, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-ninth session, considered the following substantive items:

(a) United Nations Programme on Space Applications (see A/AC.105/1001, paras. 32-52, and annex I, para. 2);

(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.105/1001, paras. 53-61, and annex I, paras. 3-7);

(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.105/1001, paras. 62-73);

(d) Space debris (see A/AC.105/1001, paras. 74-95);

(e) Space-system-based disaster management support (see A/AC.105/1001, paras. 96-112, and annex I, para. 8);

(f) Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems (see A/AC.105/1001, paras. 113-135);

(g) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space (see A/AC.105/1001, paras. 136-151, and annex II);

(h) Near-Earth objects (see A/AC.105/1001, paras. 152-169, and annex III);

(i) International Space Weather Initiative (see A/AC.105/1001, paras. 170-182);

(j) Long-term sustainability of outer space activities (see A/AC.105/1001, paras. 183-210, and annex IV);

(k) 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.105/1001, paras. 211-221).

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

The Committee will have before it the report on the United Nations/Malaysia Expert Meeting on Human Space Technology, held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, from 14 to 18 November 2011 (A/AC.105/1017), the report on the United Nations/Nigeria Workshop on the International Space Weather Initiative, held in Abuja from 17 to 21 October 2011 (A/AC.105/1018), the report on the United Nations International Meeting on the Applications of Global Navigation Satellite

Systems, held in Vienna from 12 to 16 December 2011 (A/AC.105/1019), and the report of the United Nations/Viet Nam Workshop on Space Technology Applications for Socio-Economic Benefits, held in Hanoi from 10 to 14 October 2011 (A/AC.105/1020).

In paragraph 15 of its resolution 66/71, 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.

*Long-term sustainability of outer space activities*

The Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities agreed that draft working documents of the expert groups should be made available for comments by member States and permanent observers of the Committee, preferably on the margins of and/or during the sessions of the Committee in June 2012 and 2013, and that those working documents should be made available in all official languages of the United Nations, on the understanding that those documents would be submitted to the Secretariat no later than four weeks in advance of the sessions of the Committee (A/AC.105/1001, annex IV, paras. 16 (i) and 17). The Committee will have before it the relevant working documents of expert groups.

The Working Group noted that the Chair of the Working Group and the chairs and co-chairs of the expert groups would hold coordination meetings on the margins of the fifty-fifth session of the Committee, in June 2012. The purpose of those meetings would be to coordinate the work of the expert groups, with emphasis on addressing gaps, identifying cross-cutting issues and avoiding duplication of efforts. The Working Group noted that some of the expert groups could decide to hold joint meetings to address certain cross-cutting issues identified in those coordination meetings (A/AC.105/1001, annex IV, para. 18).

*Draft provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee*

The deliberations of the Subcommittee on its agenda item on the draft provisional agenda for its fiftieth session are reflected in the report on its forty-ninth session (A/AC.105/1001, paras. 222-230, and annex I, paras. 9-10).

The Subcommittee, at its forty-ninth 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 fiftieth session (A/AC.105/1001, para. 224).

The Subcommittee noted that the topic for the symposium to be organized in 2013 by the International Astronautical Federation, in accordance with the agreement reached by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session, in 2007 (A/AC.105/890, annex I, para. 24), should be considered by the Committee at its fifty-fifth session under the agenda item on the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-ninth session. (A/AC.105/1001, para. 225).

## 9. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-first session

In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 66/71, the Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-first session, considered the following substantive items:

- (a) Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space (see A/AC.105/1003, paras. 34-55, and annex I);
- (b) Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law (see A/AC.105/1003, paras. 56-64);
- (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.105/1003, paras. 65-87, 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.105/1003, paras. 88-104);
- (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.105/1003, paras. 105-116);
- (f) Capacity-building in space law (see A/AC.105/1003, paras. 117-135);
- (g) General exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures (see A/AC.105/1003, paras. 136-158);
- (h) General exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space (see A/AC.105/1003, paras. 159-172, 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-second session, in 2013, would review the need to extend the mandate of the Working Group beyond that period (A/AC.105/1003, para. 36, and annex I, para. 11).

### *General exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space*

The Subcommittee recommended that the Committee, at its fifty-fifth session, consider the recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space contained in the appendix to the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/1003, annex III), and to decide in which form the text should be submitted to the General Assembly, as recommended by the Working Group (A/AC.105/1003, para. 165, and annex III, para. 6 and appendix).

The Committee will have before it the report of the Working Group on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space on the work conducted under its multi-year workplan (A/AC.105/C.2/101).

*Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-second 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-second session are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/1003, paras. 175-194).

The Subcommittee, at its fifty-first 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-second session (A/AC.105/1003, para. 180).

**10. 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-fourth session are reflected in its report (A/66/20, paras. 219-227).

**11. Space and society**

The deliberations of the Committee on its agenda item on space and society at its fifty-fourth session are reflected in its report (A/66/20, paras. 228-238).

**12. Space and water**

The deliberations of the Committee on its agenda item on space and water at its fifty-fourth session are reflected in its report (A/66/20, paras. 239-247).

**13. Space and climate change**

The deliberations of the Committee on its agenda item on space and climate change at its fifty-fourth session are reflected in its report (A/66/20, paras. 248-259).

**14. 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-fourth session are reflected in its report (A/66/20, paras. 260-269).

The Committee will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system: directions and anticipated results for the period 2012-2013 — the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development (A/AC.105/1014) and the report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on its thirty-second meeting (A/AC.105/1015).

**15. Future role of the Committee**

The deliberations of the Committee on its agenda item on the future role of the Committee at its fifty-fourth session are reflected in its report (A/66/20, paras. 270-279).

The Committee agreed to continue its consideration of the item at its fifty-fifth session, in 2012, for one year only, and to consider submissions

under the item, including a proposed update of the working paper contained in document A/AC.105/L.278 (A/66/20, para. 279).

## 16. Other matters

The deliberations of the Committee on its agenda item on other matters at its fifty-fourth session are reflected in its report (A/66/20, paras. 280-307).

### *Composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2014-2015*

In paragraph 11 of its resolution 58/89, the General Assembly endorsed the agreement reached by the Committee on the future composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies (A/58/20, annex II, paras. 5-9), on the basis of the measures relating to the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies (see A/52/20, annex I and A/58/20, annex II, appendix III) which had been endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 52/56.

In accordance with the measures relating to the future composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, the Committee should reach agreement at its fifty-fifth session on all the officers of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the term of office 2014-2015.

The Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-first session, noted that the African States had nominated Azzedine Oussedik (Algeria) for the office of Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the period 2014-2015 (A/AC.105/1003, para. 21).

The Committee, at its fifty-fourth session, noted that the Eastern European States had nominated Elöd Both (Hungary) for the office of Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for the period 2014-2015 (A/66/20, para. 287).

### *Membership of the Committee*

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee, at their respective sessions in 2012, noted the applications for membership in the Committee of Costa Rica and Jordan (A/AC.105/1001, para. 4, and A/AC.105/1003, para. 11), and of Armenia (A/AC.105/1003, para. 11). The Committee will have before it for consideration those applications for membership in the Committee.

### *Observer status*

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee, at their respective sessions in 2012, noted the application for permanent observer status with the Committee of the following international non-governmental organizations: Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics (A/AC.105/1001, para. 9, and A/AC.105/1003, para. 12) and Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation (A/AC.105/1003, para. 12). The Committee will have before it for consideration those applications for permanent observer status with the Committee.

*Organizational matters*

In accordance with the request made by the Committee at its fifty-third session, the Legal Subcommittee, at its fiftieth session, and the Committee, at its fifty-fourth 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 respective sessions in 2012 (A/AC.105/C.2/L.282) and recommended that the use of unedited transcripts should be discontinued, starting from their sessions in 2012, in accordance with that proposal (A/AC.105/990, para. 198, and A/66/20, para. 297).

The Committee, at its fifty-fourth session, endorsed the recommendations made by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-eighth session (A/AC.105/987, paras. 216-220) and the Legal Subcommittee at its fiftieth session (A/AC.105/990, paras. 194 and 196-198) concerning the improvement and optimization of methods of work of those subsidiary bodies. The Committee agreed to apply to the organization of its work the same methods as proposed by the Scientific and Technical and Legal Subcommittees. In that regard, the Committee agreed (see A/66/20, para. 298) that:

(a) Maximum flexibility should be applied in the scheduling of items;

(b) As a general rule, statements should not exceed 10 minutes, and scientific and technical presentations should be closely linked to the agenda items of the Committee and should not exceed 15 minutes in duration. The Chair should remind delegations in cases of time being exceeded, as appropriate;

(c) Member States and observers of the Committee should communicate to the Secretariat their wish to make scientific and technical presentations, and the item under which the presentation is to be made, before the start of the session, in order to optimize the plan of work of the session. A list of presentations should be made available to all delegations on the first day of the session, for possible updating, and should be closed by the adjournment of the last plenary meeting of that day. Speaking notes for such presentations should be provided to facilitate simultaneous interpretation.

The considerations on organizational matters made by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-ninth session are reflected in the report of the Working Group of the Whole (A/AC.105/1001, annex I, para. 10) and the considerations made by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-first session are reflected in its report on that session (A/AC.105/1003, paras. 195-210).

*Other matters*

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



## Annex

## Indicative schedule of work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifty-fifth 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, 6 June 2012	1	Opening of the session		Special panel on the fortieth anniversary of the Landsat programme and the worldwide evolution of remote sensing from space
	2	Adoption of the agenda		
	3	Election of officers		
	4	Statement by the Chair		
	5	General exchange of views		
Thursday, 7 June 2012	5	General exchange of views	5	General exchange of views
	6	Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes	6	Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes
	8	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-ninth session Technical presentations	8	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-ninth session Technical presentations
Friday, 8 June 2012	5	General exchange of views	9	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-first session
	6	Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes	12	Space and water
	8	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-ninth session Technical presentations	13	Space and climate change  Technical presentations
Monday, 11 June 2012	9	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-first session	9	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-first session
	12	Space and water	12	Space and water
	13	Space and climate change Technical presentations	13	Space and climate change Technical presentations

\* 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>
Tuesday, 12 June 2012	14	Use of space technology in the United Nations system	14	Use of space technology in the United Nations system
	15	Future role of the Committee	15	Future role of the Committee
	16	Other matters Technical presentations	16	Other matters Technical presentations
Wednesday, 13 June 2012	14	Use of space technology in the United Nations system	7	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III
	15	Future role of the Committee	10	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status
	16	Other matters Technical presentations	11	Space and society Technical presentations
Thursday, 14 June 2012	7	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III	7	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III
	10	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status	10	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status
	11	Space and society Technical presentations	11	Space and society Technical presentations
Friday, 15 June 2012	17	Report of the Committee to the General Assembly	17	Report of the Committee to the General Assembly