



**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Fifty-sixth session
Vienna, 12-21 June 2013****Draft report****Chapter II****Recommendations and decisions****D. Space and sustainable development**

1. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “Space and sustainable development”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/113.
2. The representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under the item. Representatives of other member States made statements relating to the item during the general exchange of views.
3. The Committee had before it the following:
 - (a) Discussion paper submitted by Japan entitled “Draft proposed workplan for a mechanism of cooperative deliberation for space and sustainable development: bridging COPUOS and STSC” (A/AC.105/2013/CRP.8);
 - (b) Conference room paper entitled “Rio+20 and beyond” (A/AC.105/2013/CRP.7).
4. The Committee heard the following presentations:
 - (a) Japanese proposal on space and sustainable development, by the representative of Japan;
 - (b) Benefits of space technologies in Burkina Faso: the case of urban planning, by the representative of Burkina Faso;



(c) Spatial information to support Burkina Faso's integral municipalization in the climate change context, by the representative of Burkina Faso.

5. The Committee welcomed paragraph 274 in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", whereby the Conference recognized the importance of space-technology-based data, in situ monitoring and reliable geospatial information for sustainable development policymaking, programming and project operations.

6. The Committee noted the value of space technology, applications and space-derived data and information in contributing to sustainable development, including in the areas of land and water management, marine and coastal ecosystems, health care, climate change, disaster risk reduction and emergency response, navigation, seismic monitoring, natural resources management, biodiversity, agriculture and food security.

7. The Committee agreed to include the consideration of marine and coastal ecosystems as a special theme for discussion under this agenda item.

8. The Committee noted with satisfaction that a side event of the Conference, entitled "Space for sustainable development", had been organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs with the support of the Governments of Austria and Brazil on 19 June 2012 to discuss the contribution of space-based information and technologies to support the implementation of Conference outcomes and actions.

9. The Committee welcomed the conference room paper entitled "Rio+20 and beyond" (A/AC.105/2013/CRP.7), which provided an overview of the process for implementing the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development at the intergovernmental level and outlined the mechanisms for consideration of the post-2015 development agenda.

10. The Committee encouraged member States to liaise nationally with their respective authorities and departments responsible for the intergovernmental processes related to the Conference and the post-2015 development agenda in order to promote the inclusion in those processes of the relevance of space science and technology applications and the use of space-derived geospatial data.

11. The Committee noted that progress towards the achievement of sustainable development goals needed to be assessed and accompanied by targets and indicators, while taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and levels of development, and encouraged the Office for Outer Space Affairs to cooperate with the United Nations regional economic commissions in promoting the use of global, integrated and scientifically based information for sustainable development.

12. The Committee requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to take an active part in the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda and other inter-agency mechanisms for the processes related to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda, within its capacities, in order to promote the inclusion of space-related references and elements in the documentation generated by the United Nations Secretariat under those processes.

13. The Committee noted the discussion paper submitted by Japan (A/AC.105/2013/CRP.8) containing a draft proposed workplan for a mechanism for cooperative deliberation for space and sustainable development involving the Committee and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and further noted that a revised draft proposed workplan would be submitted by Japan to the Subcommittee for consideration at its fifty-first session, in 2014.
14. Some delegations expressed the view that the discussion paper submitted by Japan could serve as a basis for closer interaction between the Committee and the Subcommittee in discussion of the agenda item of the Subcommittee on “Space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda” and the agenda item of the Committee on “Space and sustainable development”.
15. The Committee requested the Secretariat to establish a web page dedicated to the theme “space and sustainable development”, which would contain documents related to the use of space technology for sustainable development.
16. The Committee requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to consider organizing a workshop on space technology for sustainable development in mountainous regions of the Andean countries, to be held in Quito in 2014.
17. The view was expressed that the Committee should make full use of existing tools, including those developed in the framework of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and the Committee On Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), and avoid the establishment of redundant mechanisms.
18. The Committee noted the information provided by States on their actions and programmes aimed at increasing awareness and understanding in society of the applications of space science and technology for meeting development needs.
19. The Committee noted the continued role played by the International Space Station in education and outreach to educational communities worldwide.
20. The Committee noted with satisfaction the large number of outreach activities carried out at the regional level for building capacity through education and training in using space science and technology applications for sustainable development. The Committee noted with appreciation the role played by the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, in space-related education.
21. The Committee took note of a number of space-related conferences, competitions, exhibitions, symposiums and seminars worldwide connecting educators and students and providing them with training and educational opportunities.

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

22. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/113.

23. The representatives of Japan, Mexico, the Russian Federation and the United States made statements under the item.
24. The Committee heard presentations on the following topics under this item:
 - (a) Technology transfer and space business start-up in Italy, by the representative of Italy;
 - (b) Space activities of Saudi Arabia, by the representative of Saudi Arabia;
 - (c) The network for space science and technology development of the National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT), by the representative of Mexico.
25. The Committee took note of the information provided by States on their national practices regarding spin-offs of space technology that had resulted in the introduction of strategies for the management of regional economic development, as well as useful innovations in numerous scientific and practical areas of civil society, such as medicine, biology, chemistry, astronomy, agriculture, geology, cartography, aviation, land and marine transport, land use planning for urban and rural developments, robotics, firefighting, the development of data processing hardware and software, mining, the protection of nature and the production and transportation of energy.
26. The Committee agreed that spin-offs of space technology constituted a powerful engine for technological innovation and growth in both the industrial and service sectors and that they could be beneficially applied to achieve social and economic objectives and the development of national communications infrastructure, as well as be applied in projects aimed at achieving sustainable development.
27. The Committee agreed that spin-offs of space technology should be promoted because they fostered innovative technologies, thus advancing economies and contributing to the improvement of the quality of life.
28. The Committee noted that Governments had successfully involved the private sector and academia in various projects in the area of spin-offs of space technology.
29. The Committee noted that a publication by NASA, *Spinoff 2012*, was available online (<http://spinoff.NASA.gov>).

F. Space and water

30. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled "Space and water", in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/113.
31. The representatives of Algeria, Brazil, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Switzerland and the United States made statements under the item. A statement was also made by the representative of Chile on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by other member States.

32. In the course of the discussion, delegations reviewed national and cooperative water-related activities, giving examples of national programmes and bilateral, regional and international cooperation.
33. The Committee noted that water-related issues were becoming some of the most critical environmental problems facing humankind, often entailing political implications, and that conservation and proper utilization of existing water resources were of paramount importance for sustaining life on Earth. In that connection, space-derived data could support policymakers in making informed decisions on water resources management.
34. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/154, had declared 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation, which reflected the growing awareness of and concern regarding water-related issues.
35. The Committee noted the large number of space-borne platforms that addressed water-related issues and that space-derived data were used extensively in water management. The Committee also noted that space technology and applications, combined with non-space technologies, played an important role in addressing most water-related issues, including understanding and observation of global water cycles and unusual climate patterns, mapping of water courses, monitoring and mitigation of the effects of floods, droughts and earthquakes and improvement of the timeliness and accuracy of forecasts.
36. The Committee noted with satisfaction the successful completion of the United Nations/Pakistan International Workshop on Integrated Use of Space Technologies for Food and Water Security, held in Islamabad from 11 to 15 March 2013, and noted that the workshop provided a valuable platform for scientists, researchers and subject experts from around the world to share experiences on agricultural and water issues in different regions of the world.
37. The Committee also noted with satisfaction the successful completion of the workshop on remote sensing in the context of floods in Santo Domingo from 13 to 17 May 2013. The programme was organized by UN-SPIDER in cooperation with the National Emergency Commission of the Dominican Republic and provided a valuable capacity-building opportunity for experts in the region on the prevention and mitigation of disasters and effective responses thereto.
38. The Committee noted that the Asian Water Cycle Initiative was an initiative developing an information system of systems to promote the implementation of integrated water resources management through data integration and sharing as a basis for appropriate decision-making on national water policies in 20 Asian countries, and that the experiences acquired from the Initiative would also be useful in the implementation of the African Water Cycle Coordination Initiative.
39. The Committee noted the activities of the Antares regional network for water management, created to study the long-term changes in coastal ecosystems in sites around Latin America, distinguishing changes caused by natural variability from those caused by external perturbations (anthropogenic effects).
40. The Committee noted with satisfaction the plans to hold the third international conference on the use of space technology for water management, which would be

jointly organized in Rabat in 2014 by the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, the Government of Morocco, PSIPW and ISNET.

H. Use of space technology in the United Nations system

41. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “Use of space technology in the United Nations system”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/113.

42. The representatives of Japan and the Russian Federation made statements under the item. The observer for ESCAP also made a statement. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

43. The Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs made a statement informing the Committee about the outcomes of the thirty-third session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, hosted by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva from 12 to 14 March 2013. The Committee had before it the report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on that session (A/AC.105/1043).

44. The Committee welcomed with appreciation the special report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on the use of space technology within the United Nations system for agricultural development and food security (A/AC.105/1042). The Committee recalled that previous special reports of the Inter-Agency Meeting included the note by the Secretariat, prepared in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa and in consultation with members of the Inter-Agency Meeting, entitled “Space benefits for Africa: contribution of the United Nations system” (A/AC.105/941), and the special report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on the use of space technology within the United Nations system to address climate change issues (A/AC.105/991).

45. The Committee welcomed the agreement of the Inter-Agency Meeting that the report of the Secretary-General on coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system for the period 2014-2015, to be prepared in 2014, should address the post-2015 development agenda, giving attention to the issue of resilience and building on the previous reports of the Secretary-General.

46. The Committee agreed that the use of the abbreviation “UN-Space” would increase the visibility of the Inter-Agency Meeting and further strengthen the role of the inter-agency mechanism.

47. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the tenth open informal session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities was organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction on 12 March 2013 in Geneva, focusing on the theme of “Space and disaster risk reduction: planning for resilient human settlements” (see A/AC.105/2013/CRP.9). The Committee noted the timeliness of the open informal session in view of the overall importance of the concept of resilience, and encouraged member States to continue to actively participate in the open informal sessions of the Inter-Agency Meeting.

48. The Committee noted the cooperative efforts between member States and United Nations entities to promote the use of space technology to resolve global issues faced by humanity. In that connection, the Committee took note of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017, adopted by ESCAP at its sixty-ninth session.

49. The Committee noted that the thirty-fourth session of the Inter-Agency Meeting should be held in March 2014, in conjunction with a meeting of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group, in view of the synergies between the two inter-agency coordination mechanisms. The Committee noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in its function as the secretariat of the Inter-Agency Meeting, would identify, in consultation with the co-chairs of the Working Group, the host of the thirty-fourth session of the Meeting.

50. The view was expressed that the Committee should cooperate with the World Meteorological Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization in harmonization of procedures and formats for communicating information on space weather to air carriers and passengers.
