



The unique organizational aspects of UNISPACE III

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UNISPACE III – The Organization

1996 - Agreement by GA, (res 52/56) to hold UNISPACE III within existing resources, to the extent feasible

- UNISPACE III organized practically within existing resources
- Yet, UNISPACE III was attended by more than 2,500 participants
- 100 States, 30 international organizations and private sector
- Results comparable to those of other UN world conferences



From confrontation to cooperation

- The Russian Federation, and USA joined some human space flight activities, leading to the first stage of the International Space Station
- Rapid developments in technology
- Developing countries began to manufacture and/or launch spacecraft and to provide space-related services.
- Many “spacefaring” countries experienced budget cuts
- Various space-related services and products provided by the private sector.
- Awareness of replacement-staff gap (20 years)



United Nations Reform (1996 – 1999)

- Budget of Conference Services at UNOV reduced by 30%
- Budget of Administration Services reduced by 20%
- OOSA staff reduced by 5%



Revitalization of the work of COPUOS

- 1994 – COPUOS begins to examine its working methods to enhance their efficiency and effectiveness
- 1995 - COPUOS agrees to work with maximum flexibility, with a view to concluding its sessions as early as practicable
- 1996 – COPUOS agrees to use unedited verbatim transcripts, in lieu of costly verbatim records
- 1997 - Legal Subcommittee begins to utilize unedited transcripts in lieu of summary records
- Savings to Conference Services: approximately \$645,000



Revitalization of the work of COPUOS

- Declaration on International Cooperation (1996)
 - Freedom of States to determine all aspects of their international cooperation
 - Cooperation carried out on an equitable and mutually acceptable basis
 - Attention to the benefits and interests of developing countries
 - Recognition of commercial space activities on an equal basis with governments



Background to the special UNISPACE III arrangements

- COPUOS could not reach a agreement to convene UNISPACE III until 1996
- Negotiations affected by criticism of world conferences held by UN in the 1990s.
- 1995 - USA called for a moratorium on world conferences
- COPUOS had to find innovative measures to hold UNISPACE III
- 1996 session, COPUOS agreed to hold a special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, open to all States Members of the United Nations, while keeping the cost within existing resources to the extent feasible.



Background - UNISPACE III arrangements

- 1997 STSC session - agreement on a provisional agenda
 - Sharply focused agenda:
 - scientific knowledge of the Earth and its environment
 - practical applications of space science and technology
 - importance of education and training
 - economic and societal benefits, including commercial benefits
 - international cooperation
 - Objectives, participants, additional components and financial aspects of UNISPACE III
 - GA (res 52/56), on the dates 19 to 30 July 1999, when no meetings of other intergovernmental bodies would be scheduled in Vienna



Member States introduced unique elements for UNISPACE III

- To invite space-related industry and encouraged their active participation
- UNISPACE III should enhance opportunities for youth to participate in space activities
 - Agreement to invite young professionals and university students to organize an activity to provide inputs for UNISPACE III (SGF)
- Need for further coordination among organizations of the UN system in space-related activities
- UNISPACE III should yield concrete results and lead to realistic and feasible follow-up activities to implement its recommendations
 - Recommendations should be sharply focused and limited in number, indicating some well-defined goals that could be achieved within a short period of time



Organizational arrangements

- OOSA as Executive Secretariat
 - Heavy work load but knew work of COPUOS and UNOV
 - Comprehensive proposal on framework- preparation of draft report, and drafts of rules of procedure, indicative schedule of activities, allocation of items to Plenary and Committees
- COPUOS and STSC as Preparatory and Advisory Committees
 - Three sessions each; 3.5 months between their sessions
 - Considered, modified and agreed on all preparatory materials
- Director of OOSA as Executive Secretary – knowledge of UN procedures, experience
- Bureaux – 5 officers of COPUOS and 5 officers from regional groups



Structure of UNISPACE III

- Plenary, two main Committees – to consider all agenda items
- Technical Forum – Participation of youth, industry and civil society
 - 38 workshops, seminars, round tables, special events, Space Generation Forum; open participation (space industry)
 - Results of all activities sent to main Committees for possible inclusion in report of UNISPACE III (**Unique in UN conferences**)
- Space exhibition



Government support

- GA agreed (res 52/56) - level of conference servicing resources of COPUOS for 1998-1999 should remain at the level of the biennium 1996-1997
- 1996 - 1997 level of resources of COPUOS allowed:
 - COPUOS to hold its regular, annual session for 2 weeks
 - STSC to hold its regular, annual session 2 weeks
 - LSC to hold its regular, annual session for three weeks
- Savings in 1998
 - Session of COPUOS was shortened from 2 weeks to 1.5 weeks
 - Session of LSC shortened from 3 to 2 weeks
- Savings in 1999
 - COPUOS sessions shortened to 3 days
 - STSC session shortened to 1 weeks
 - LSC shortened to 1 week
- **Total savings: 1.5 weeks in 1998 and 4.5 weeks in 1999**



Conference servicing needs

- 1996 – COPUOS agreed that the duration of the Conference should be up to 2 weeks
- 1997 - COPUOS agreed on no more than two simultaneous meetings
 - OOSA estimated that the minimum resources needed for UNISPACE III would be equivalent to resources required to service two bodies for 2 weeks
 - Meeting resources saved in 1998-1999 should be sufficient to cover the minimum need for UNISPACE III and one more additional body for a few days (Technical Forum)



Redeployment of regular budget resources and volunteer work

- Programme on the peaceful uses of outer space (OOSA)
 - \$50,000 to hire 7 temporary General Service staff and one consultant, (4 days to 5 weeks), and overtime costs of GS staff
 - \$63,500 from the regular fellowship Budget for air travel and living expenses for 22 participants from developing countries
 - OOSA was assisted by six volunteers and six interns
- Division of Administrative and Common Services (UNOV)
 - \$75,000 in support services (security and safety, computer cabling and communications, general operation of the conference site)
 - Documentation and other meeting services (not quantified)
 - IMS and the UNSSS, made available their staff for the entire Conference.



Redeployment of regular budget resources and volunteer work

- UNIS, Vienna and DPI, New York
 - \$117,500 and \$84,000, respectively for promotional activities and services for the media and press
 - DPI also seconded a Professional staff member to assist OOSA during the Conference.
- UNIDO, IAEA and CTBTO provided 10 conference-servicing staff during UNISPACE III



Support by member States, space agencies and the private sector

Austria - Provided support in cash and in kind (a role similar to that of a host country)

- Rented the necessary space at the Austria Center Vienna for the Conference
- Extended the secondment of a staff member for one more year beyond the normal duration of two years under the Associate Expert programme
- Co-sponsored several activities of the Technical Forum
- Providing financial assistance to 60 participants from developing countries to the Space Generation Forum



Support by member States, space agencies and the private sector

- Three experts, for durations between 1 and 5 months, were seconded by the NASDA of Japan, NOAA of the USA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France
- Cash and in-kind contributions were provided by the United Kingdom, the CNES of France, BNSC, ESA, AIAA, Austrian Aerospace, Austrian Airlines, Austrospace, the Boeing Company, Imax Filmtheater, Iridium, Lockheed Martin Space Operations, Mobilkom Austria, Optikhaus Binder and Saab Ericsson Aerospace
- ESA co-sponsored all the Regional Preparatory Conferences



Elements of success – substantive aspects

- MS of COPUOS supported work of OOSA
- Document A/CONF.184/PC/L.4 included proposals on structure of the Conference, composition of the bureau, schedule of work, rules of procedure and participation of industry and youth
- Clear guidelines and constructive comments provided by MS facilitated the preparation and revision of the draft report of UNISPACE III
- Cooperative and constructive atmosphere - Advisory and Preparatory Committees reviewed the revised the draft report, approximately 400 paragraphs, 4 times
- Entire text of the draft report, including the politically sensitive draft Vienna Declaration, agreed by the Preparatory Committee before the Conference began



Participation of civil society: inputs by NGOs, industry and young people

- UNISPACE III benefited from in-depth discussion of highly technical issues at workshops, seminars and other meetings organized by space agencies and other space-related organizations within the framework of the Technical Forum
- Some of the proposals made in those meetings were incorporated into the report of the Conference as part of its recommendations, including in the Vienna Declaration
- Many of the recommendations made within the Technical Forum are now implemented



Summary – Organizing a global conference with limited resources

- Commitment by all member States when work carried out on the basis of consensus
- Competent conference secretariat to prepare essential conference documents
 - Relevant agencies of member States and relevant international organizations should provide inputs for such documents
 - Member States and international organizations may assist the conference secretariat by seconding experts
 - Experts should join the secretariat at least three months before the conference
- Capacity of the secretariat can be significantly augmented by interns and volunteers



Summary – Organizing a global conference with limited resources

- The number of bodies to be provided with conference services and the minimum number of teams of interpreters required should be determined at least two years before the conference
- Desirable to have an estimate of the number of participants, and preferably also for each body of the conference, one year to six months in advance
- Important to avoid holding the conference in periods when other intergovernmental meetings are scheduled (enhance the ability of the secretariat to make conference arrangements, in particular staff redeployment and the rental of space and technical equipment, at the lowest possible cost)



Summary – Organizing a global conference with limited resources

- Voluntary contributions in cash and in kind from member States and institutions are crucial to meet conference requirements for additional activities that are not envisaged when the framework of the conference is determined
- When a conference budget is very limited, voluntary contributions will be the source of resources for producing conference publications and other activities providing publicity for the conference
- Such contributions may also be crucial in complementing financial assistance to developing countries to participate in the conference



Summary – Organizing a global conference with limited resources

- Strengthening partnership with NGOs is an overarching goal of the UN
- Some NGOs have large international memberships and can contribute to publicizing the conference
- NGOs should be invited at an early stage in the preparations. It is important to integrate their input into the substantial work of the conference
 - In addition to the establishment of SGAC, many participants in the SGF are now middle level managers in space-related organizations



Conclusions

- Possible to reduce costs substantially if preparatory work for the conference is absorbed by the existing intergovernmental and secretariat bodies
- Curtailing the regular activities of those bodies in the years preceding the conference could also contribute to reducing the costs
 - Specially if conference resources not used by those bodies are utilized by meetings of other bodies that would otherwise require additional conference resources
 - If regular activities are curtailed to achieve savings in the resources to service a conference, the total level of budgetary resources should not be reduced as a result of the reduced level of regular activities
 - This would requires well coordinated actions between the intergovernmental body and the secretariat



Conclusions

- If the level of UN budgetary resources for administrative services, in particular conference services, continues to decrease, redeployment of such resources to service conferences in the future will not be feasible
- If there is no separate conference budget, it is critical to ensure that minimum requirements for organizing the conference are covered within existing resources. In order to identify the level of resources to meet the absolute requirements and to achieve the necessary savings in existing resources, early planning for the conference is essential
- Voluntary contributions would make up the difference between minimum and desired requirements



Thank you