



# General Assembly

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## Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

### **United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response: programme for the period 2007-2009 and workplan for the biennium 2008-2009**

#### **Report of the Secretariat**

1. In its resolution 61/110 of 14 December 2006 the General Assembly 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 to support the full disaster management cycle by being a gateway to space information for disaster management support, serving as a bridge to connect the disaster management and space communities and being a facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening, in particular for developing countries. In the same resolution, the Assembly agreed that the programme should be named the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (SPIDER).
2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the activities of the programme be carried out within the proposed implementation framework presented to the Committee (A/AC.105/873, annex III).
3. The proposed implementation framework designated which of the SPIDER offices would lead and have responsibility for each category of specific activities. Thus, the Beijing office would be responsible for awareness-raising (activity 3), regional and country profiles (activity 5), support to national activities (activity 9) and support to the establishment of national disaster management planning and policies (activity 10). The Bonn office would be responsible for the systematic compilation of relevant information (activity 1), ensuring that relevant information is easily accessible and disseminated to all interested end-users on a “24/7” basis (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) (activity 2), the establishment of communities of practice (activity 6), the management and transfer of knowledge (activity 7) and the



platform for fostering alliances (activity 8). Staff members based in Vienna would be responsible for outreach activities (activity 4) and support to capacity-building (activity 11).

4. Building on the proposed implementation framework, the Office for Outer Space Affairs presented to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session, for its consideration, a proposed SPIDER programme for the period 2007-2009. Subsequently, the Committee, at its fiftieth session, endorsed the proposed programme, as amended.<sup>1</sup>

5. Pursuant to the request made by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session, the Office developed a workplan for the biennium 2008-2009 that was considered by the Committee at its fiftieth session, took into consideration the indication of commitments received for that biennium and built upon the opportunities provided by the network of regional support offices (A/AC.105/890, para. 137 (d)). The Committee endorsed the SPIDER workplan for the biennium 2008-2009, as amended, and agreed that it should be translated into all the official languages of the United Nations.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/62/20)*, para. 144.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 149.

## Annex I

### **United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response: programme for the period 2007-2009**

Mission statement: ensure that all countries have access to and develop the capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle

#### **A. A gateway to space-based information for disaster management support**

**Activity 1. Systematic compilation of relevant information:** define and implement a platform-wide strategy to ensure the identification and compilation of all relevant information on a continuous basis, including ongoing and planned initiatives, case studies and best practices, archived data for disaster studies and capacity-building opportunities (activity to be carried out in close coordination and integration with all other relevant activities)

Targets (Bonn):

- Develop a strategy for identifying relevant information, including ongoing and planned national, regional and international initiatives; case studies and best practices; available archived data for disaster studies and response; relevant outreach activities and capacity-building opportunities; links to all relevant websites; and links to the network of regional support offices
- List sources of information and data and indicate how such information will be acquired and with what frequency
- Define the concept model for the knowledge portal that will store the gathered information (to be carried out in close coordination with all other relevant activities)
- Develop an operational framework for disseminating information (to be carried out in close coordination with activity 2)
- Insert the gathered information in the database via the knowledge portal content management system (see activity 2 below)
- Acquire books and other kinds of publications for use by staff members responsible for the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (SPIDER)

**Activity 2. Ensuring that relevant information is easily accessible and disseminated to all interested end-users on a “24/7” basis (24 hours a day, 7 days a week):** define and implement the knowledge portal, which will ensure that all relevant information is widely available, including by designing and implementing a database management system, maintaining a 24/7 hotline and

preparing periodic e-newsletters and disseminating information through discussion lists

Targets (Bonn):

- Include information compiled in the previous activity in a knowledge portal and disseminate it through e-newsletters and discussion lists, and set up a hotline to receive queries and requests for specific information beyond what is available through the knowledge portal
- In order to set up the knowledge portal, manage and administer a communication platform and information technology infrastructure to support all the information technology and communication needs of SPIDER and, once each software package or a new component has been added, reconfigure, maintain and adapt the knowledge portal to provide a reliable service to all partners
- *Technical concept phase*: develop a concept model for the design and implementation of the knowledge portal; consider employing consultants as a cost-effective option for developing and implementing the portal, which should also support the awareness-raising activities, including an e-learning and training component for the capacity-building of national focal points
- *Design*: design a database capable of storing the information gathered in activity 1; study options for an appropriate database management system and identify which option to implement; choose a web application framework, including for the knowledge portal content management system; define hardware specifications for the knowledge portal and the database management system; develop a user-friendly interface for accessing the content of the database; design information and communication functions for the portal (such as discussion boards, e-newsletters, Real Simple Syndication-type news feeds); and develop terms of reference for those parts of the system to be subcontracted
- *Implementation*: acquire hardware; implement and test components (see design phase), including beta testing and quality assurance and control; and manage external consultants as required
- *Basic set-up of the knowledge portal*: set up web database and application servers; install, configure and test software, including by carrying out quality assurance and control; integrate and adapt additional components; configure the workflow; and communicate with software solution developers
- Define a plan for and implement a hotline to be made available on a 24/7 basis
- *Maintenance*: integrate new content and data providers; manage users and backup data; collect further user requirements; define additional portal components to provide new information components; install components; and manage external contractors and consultants
- *Training and documentation*: train providers of content and data; and prepare user manuals

**Activity 3. Awareness-raising:** plan and develop initial and follow-up awareness-raising campaigns, focusing on specific interest groups, such as civil protection

organizations, funding agencies, schoolchildren, news media and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and involving key partners, particularly the national focal points and the humanitarian and emergency response community, including the user community in Geneva

Targets (Beijing):

- Develop an awareness-raising strategy centred on awareness-raising campaigns, which should identify target groups, set out guidelines for preparing campaign material, identify and set out guidelines for involving key partners, particularly national focal points, and establish distribution networks
- Carry out the awareness-raising campaigns defined in the awareness-raising strategy; produce specific publications, displays and education materials; arrange for the wide distribution of the campaign materials and record the experiences gained
- Insert in the knowledge portal (activity 2) specific information on awareness-raising, including an e-training component for building the capacity of national focal points and a disaster-related education database

**Activity 4. Outreach activities:** organize outreach activities, ensure the participation of expert speakers in relevant conferences and meetings and support regional and international seminars and workshops

Targets (Vienna):

- Based on the strategies developed for activities 1 and 6, and in close coordination with all the activities of the programme, a framework and implementation plan for outreach activities should be developed. The document should include four elements: (a) the organization of outreach and awareness-raising workshops and training courses in all regions and in conjunction with the humanitarian community, including the user community in Geneva; (b) the participation in relevant international policymaking and technical conferences, meetings and workshops by providing speakers and awareness-raising materials; (c) the provision of support to allow disaster management practitioners to participate in regional and international technical seminars and workshops organized by staff members responsible for SPIDER and others; and (d) emphasis on the need to channel recommendations and feedback from the participants of those activities to the work of SPIDER, in particular to the strategies developed under activities 1 and 6;
- The following workshops will form the core of the annual effort by SPIDER in the area of outreach: (a) the SPIDER international workshops focusing on bringing together experts and practitioners to enhance horizontal coordination; and (b) regional workshops, focusing on selected themes on issues specific to SPIDER and on strengthening vertical coordination.

**Activity 5. Regional and country profiles:** support the development and compilation of risk-related information at the national level by type of disaster (country profiles); support the development of regional and subregional vulnerability assessments, increasingly incorporating space-based technology solutions to develop the assessments; and, to the extent possible and as part of

activity 9, support national focal points in the development of national vulnerability assessments (activity to be carried out in close coordination with the work carried out by the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and by the country offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP))

Targets (Beijing):

- A strategy should be defined and implemented that will contribute to the development and compilation of risk-related information at the national level by type of disaster (country profiles) and that will support the development of regional and subregional vulnerability assessments by increasingly incorporating space-based technology solutions. The strategy should take into consideration the need to work together with national focal points to develop national vulnerability assessments. Country profiles will be developed using a grid that organizes information by type of disaster and the degree of vulnerability to disasters of a given geographical area;
- A database that will contain and make available all contact information for the network of practice and the network of regional support offices should be defined, developed and maintained. The database will be made available to all staff members involved in SPIDER and will include information on the networking and contacts made by each person in the database;
- The network of practice will include end-users and practitioners identified as relevant to the objectives of SPIDER who are interested in working together for the implementation of the activities. The contact information of those end-users and practitioners who consent to sharing such information will be made available through the knowledge portal;
- The network of regional support offices will include all institutions that have agreed to participate in and to contribute to SPIDER activities by providing financial contributions, human resources, satellite data, regional capacity-building means and other forms of in-kind contributions.

## **B. A bridge to connect the disaster management and space communities**

**Activity 6. Establishment of communities of practice:** support existing communities of practice and contribute to the establishment of new ones, thus bringing together the space-based technology and disaster management communities (activity to build on the work being carried out by the secretariat of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) in the implementation of the 10-year workplan of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS))

Targets (Bonn):

- Compile and maintain an inventory of existing and planned communities of practice having the potential to bring together the space-based technology and disaster management communities
- Develop and implement a concept document defining a platform strategy that will support the consolidation and establishment of communities of practice and that will define the support to be provided to the communities of practice

and include guidelines for how relevant national organizations can support communities of practice in their countries

**Activity 7. Management and transfer of knowledge:** develop a knowledge management and transfer framework and implement specific activities that will contribute to the transfer of knowledge (case studies, best practices, definition of user requirements), involving the participants of the established network of practice in the compilation of a knowledge base

Targets (Bonn):

- Develop a knowledge management and transfer framework and implement specific activities that will contribute to the transfer of knowledge (case studies, best practices, definition of user requirements); develop the framework in such a way that it focuses on identifying and gathering knowledge, practical know-how, expertise and best practices, in particular capturing and making such assets available to all end-users; develop a knowledge base that will also include the refinement of user requirements and definition of best practices; manage and transfer the knowledge while the database is being developed; and involve the established network of practice and the established communities of practice in this process
- Include activities such as the identification and implementation of projects through the national focal points in activity 9 together with the network of regional support offices and other relevant partners and projects such as the Center for Satellite Based Crisis Information of the German Aerospace Center, the Humanitarian Global Mapping Services (RESPOND) and the United Nations Organization Satellite (UNOSAT); and also include the development of a knowledge management and transfer framework that will support the needs of the humanitarian and emergency response community, including the user community in Geneva
- Publish in hardcopy case studies and best practices for distribution in developing countries

**Activity 8. Platform for fostering alliances:** ensure the harmonization of the various initiatives that are contributing to helping developing countries access and use space-based technologies for disaster management and risk reduction, in other words, horizontal coordination; develop guidelines to assist national focal points in the implementation of a vertical coordination strategy; and ensure SPIDER participation in relevant forums and coordination with relevant programmes, including GEO, the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security, the secretariat of the ISDR including the Advisory Group of the Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning, the Global Platform of Disaster Risk Reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,<sup>3</sup> the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Charter on Cooperation to Achieve the Coordinated Use of Space Facilities in the Event of Natural or Technological Disasters (also known as the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters) and other relevant activities

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<sup>3</sup> A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

## Targets (Bonn):

- SPIDER will contribute to the coordination of efforts by ensuring the harmonization of initiatives that help developing countries access and use space-based technologies for disaster management and risk reduction (horizontal coordination). SPIDER will work with and contribute to existing and future international and regional initiatives, contributing directly to their implementation by enhancing coordination among all United Nations initiatives involving humanitarian and emergency response, as well as risk reduction and disaster management.
- In order to take advantage of the existing initiatives referred to above, national institutions must work in a coordinated manner (vertical coordination). SPIDER will define and disseminate a vertical coordination framework guideline that could be followed by national focal points and other interested national institutions (as part of activity 9) and that will improve the coordination and degree of interaction among relevant national authorities, scientific institutions, organizations implementing and providing space-based solutions, humanitarian, environmental and civil protection actors and the space community, thus promoting synergy and avoiding duplication of activities and efforts.
- A horizontal coordination framework should be defined and implemented. Relevant international and regional initiatives that could work together and coordinate their activities should be identified. Representatives of those initiatives should be invited to participate in an annual international workshop.
- A coordination framework with all United Nations initiatives should be defined and implemented. A framework should be proposed for coordination with European Union and other relevant international initiatives. An annual meeting of United Nations agencies and European Union and other relevant international initiatives should be promoted.
- Collect information on the needs of end-users as a way of contributing to GEOSS and to the implementation of a “virtual constellation” for disaster management.

### C. A facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening

**Activity 9. Support to national activities:** support the implementation of risk reduction and emergency response activities and projects identified in conjunction with designated national focal points (activity to be carried out in close coordination with the work carried out by the secretariat of ISDR and by UNDP country offices)

## Targets (Beijing):

- Work with Member States to ensure that they nominate national focal points, keep the list of nominated national focal points updated and insert the information in the contact database
- Carry out technical advisory missions to meet with national focal points and representatives of relevant institutions; and discuss training needs and institutional strengthening mechanisms during the technical advisory missions



- Contribute to the definition of national action plans with national focal points, keeping in mind the national platforms for disaster reduction
- Assist national focal points in the implementation of a vertical coordination strategy

**Activity 10. Support to the establishment of national disaster management planning and policies:** contribute, at the request of the relevant national focal points, to the definition of disaster management planning and policies with regard to the use of space-based technologies

Targets (Beijing):

- Contribute, at the request of the relevant national focal points, to the definition of disaster management planning and policies with regard to the use of space-based technologies and to the establishment of links between risk assessment and economic development strategies for poverty alleviation (activity to be carried out in close coordination with the secretariat of ISDR and others involved in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action)
- Collect information on relevant national disaster management plans that build on space-based technology solutions
- Collect examples of national disaster management policies that include the use of space-based technology solutions
- Develop templates of national disaster management plans and policies that take into consideration space-based technologies and that can be used as guidelines by countries developing similar plans; and support countries in developing their plans and policies, specifically with regard to the incorporation of space-based technology solutions and in coordination with ISDR
- Carry out technical advisory missions to those countries and contribute to the development of national disaster management planning and policies
- Promote the vertical coordination strategy guideline developed for activity 8

**Activity 11. Support to capacity-building:** capacity-building and the strengthening of institutional arrangements at all levels are the key to increasing the ability of organizations and individuals to effectively use space-based services for disaster preparedness, response and recovery. Those activities will include compiling information relevant to capacity-building opportunities and the facilitation of capacity-building also among practitioners and end-users. Activity 11 will contribute to the development of a proposed curriculum, working with the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, and other national and regional centres of excellence to train end-users and strengthen national institutions

Targets (Vienna):

- Develop a capacity-building framework specific to disaster management activities that will make available e-learning opportunities, to be implemented and maintained by one or more partners of the network of regional support offices
- Develop a database of training opportunities for using space-based solutions in disaster management
- Develop curricula for the use of space-based solutions for disaster management and emergency response
- Promote the realization of short- and long-term training courses in the centres of excellence, including courses that will benefit the humanitarian and emergency response community, among others the user community in Geneva

#### **D. Liaison office in Geneva**

The SPIDER liaison office in Geneva will contribute to the dissemination and integration of the work of the programme in the disaster reduction and humanitarian response communities in Geneva.

Targets (Geneva):

- Hold regular meetings with the risk reduction and humanitarian and emergency response communities in Geneva to raise awareness of the work of SPIDER (linked to activity 3)
- Facilitate these communities' access to space-related data and products to support their work and provide feedback on the specific needs and expectations of those communities to staff members involved in SPIDER (linked to activity 5)
- Ensure that representatives of various Geneva-based agencies participate in the global outreach activities promoted by SPIDER (linked to activity 4)
- Provide input for the preparation of specific awareness-raising material targeting those specific user communities and promote the distribution of the material (linked to activity 3)
- Contribute to the compilation of information to be included in the SPIDER knowledge portal (for example, reports, case studies, best practices, announcements) (linked to activities 1 and 7)
- Identify capacity-building needs and carry out and support capacity-building activities (linked to activity 11)

## Annex II

### **United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response: workplan for the biennium 2008-2009**

Mission statement: ensure that all countries have access to and develop the capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle

#### **A. A gateway to space-based information for disaster management support**

**Activity 1. Systematic compilation of relevant information:** define and implement a platform-wide strategy to ensure the identification and compilation of all relevant information on a continuous basis, including ongoing and planned initiatives, case studies and best practices, archived data for disaster studies and capacity-building opportunities (activity to be carried out in close coordination and integration with all other relevant activities)

Activities for 2008:

- Staff members and experts of the network of the regional support offices to gather relevant information, post it on the website of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (SPIDER) and distribute it through periodic e-newsletters and Real Simple Syndication feeds (activity 2)
- Implement the strategy for identifying and compiling relevant information
- Finalize the concept for the knowledge portal (activity 2)
- Acquire publications, including books

Activities for 2009:

- Staff members and experts of the network of the regional support offices to gather relevant information, post it on the SPIDER website and distribute it through periodic e-newsletters and Real Simply Syndication feeds (activity 2)
- Revise and update the strategy for identifying and compiling relevant information
- Acquire publications, including books

**Activity 2. Ensuring that relevant information is easily accessible and disseminated to all interested end-users on a “24/7” basis (24 hours a day, 7 days a week):** define and implement a knowledge portal, which will ensure that all relevant information is widely available, including by designing and implementing a database management system, maintaining a 24/7 hotline and preparing periodic e-newsletters and disseminating information through discussion lists

Activities for 2008:

- Finalize the concept model and the specifications and develop the implementation plan (including a maintenance plan) for the knowledge portal concept management system (technical concept phase); based on the model of the knowledge portal presented in 2007, design an appropriate database (design phase) and develop and beta test the prototype of the knowledge portal content management system; and consider quality assurance and quality control issues during all phases of the development and implementation of the system
- Carry out maintenance of information technology and communication infrastructure
- Publish periodic e-newsletters
- Promote the dissemination of information by electronic means, including through Real Simple Syndication news feeds
- Based on the agreed plan (concept development), make available a 24/7 hotline

Activities for 2009:

- Implement the knowledge portal; purchase the necessary hardware and software; develop training and documentation material; train staff in how to use and maintain the portal; and test components
- Promote use of the knowledge portal within the disaster management and space communities and encourage those communities to contribute to the portal
- Maintain the system by adding new content and data providers, manage users and back up data
- Collect information on additional user requirements, identify additional portal components and provide new information components on the basis of the collected information
- Carry out maintenance of information technology and communication infrastructure
- Publish periodic e-newsletters
- Promote the dissemination of information by electronic means, including through Real Simple Syndication news feeds
- Make available a 24/7 hotline

**Activity 3. Awareness-raising:** plan and develop initial and follow-up awareness-raising campaigns, focusing on specific interest groups, such as civil protection organizations, funding agencies, schoolchildren, news media and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and involving key partners, particularly the national focal points and the humanitarian and emergency response community, including the user community in Geneva

## Activities for 2008:

- Finalize the awareness-raising strategy and implement the specific activities defined in the strategy
- Carry out two awareness-raising campaigns that also target the user community in Geneva, producing specific publications, displays and educational material, disseminating the campaign material widely and recording the experiences gained
- Take advantage of SPIDER workshops to discuss prototypes of awareness-raising material and obtain feedback on how to target different groups
- Continue to contribute information to the knowledge portal (activity 2), ensuring that the information inserted in the portal takes into consideration and reflects the specific needs of awareness-raising activities

## Activities for 2009:

- Revise and update the awareness-raising strategy as needed and implement the specific activities defined in the strategy
- Carry out two awareness-raising campaigns, producing specific publications, displays and educational material, disseminating the campaign material widely and recording the experiences gained
- Take advantage of SPIDER workshops to discuss prototypes of awareness-raising material and obtain feedback on how to target different groups
- Continue to contribute information to the knowledge portal (activity 2), ensuring that the information inserted in the portal takes into consideration and reflects the specific needs of awareness-raising activities

**Activity 4. Outreach activities:** organize outreach activities, ensure the participation of expert speakers in relevant conferences and meetings and support regional and international seminars and workshops

## Activities for 2008:

- Carry out the activities defined for 2008 in the framework and implementation plan for outreach activities, which include the activities below
- Ensure the participation of expert speakers in at least five relevant conferences and meetings aimed at promoting SPIDER activities
- Support at least three regional and international seminars and workshops by helping participants from developing countries meet their travelling costs
- Organize at least three workshops, training courses, expert meetings or seminars. Of these, at least one should be a regional workshop that brings together national focal points and at least two should be international workshops that promote the coordination of initiatives and the strengthening of the network of regional support offices and that contribute to bridging the gap between the disaster management and the space communities
- Organize at least one workshop, expert meeting or symposium for the benefit of the user community in Geneva

Activities for 2009:

- Carry out the activities defined for 2009 in the framework and implementation plan for outreach activities, which include the activities below
- Ensure the participation of expert speakers in at least five relevant conferences and meetings aimed at promoting SPIDER activities
- Support at least three regional and international seminars and workshops by helping participants from developing countries meet their travelling costs
- Organize at least three workshops, training courses, expert meetings or seminars. Of these, at least one should be a regional workshop that brings together national focal points and at least two should be international workshops that promote the coordination of initiatives and the strengthening of the network of regional support offices and that contribute to bridging the gap between the disaster management and the space communities
- Organize at least one workshop, expert meeting or symposium for the benefit of the user community in Geneva

**Activity 5. Regional and country profiles:** support the development and compilation of risk-related information at the national level by type of disaster (country profiles); support the development of regional and subregional vulnerability assessments, increasingly incorporating space-based technology solutions to develop the assessments; and, to the extent possible and as part of activity 9, support national focal points in the development of national vulnerability assessments (activity to be carried out in close coordination with the work carried out by the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and by the country offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP))

Activities for 2008:

- Finalize the strategy for the compilation of country profiles and regional and subregional vulnerability assessments
- Once the strategy has been finalized, meet the target for 2008 of working with 10 national focal points to compile risk-related information by type of disaster for the preparation of country profiles, with a focus on the incorporation and use of space-based technologies
- Promote the development of regional and subregional vulnerability assessments using space-based solutions
- Maintain and update the database that should include contact information for the national focal points, the network of practice and the network of regional support offices

Activities for 2009:

- Meet the target for 2009 of working with 20 national focal points to compile risk-related information by type of disaster for the preparation of country profiles, with a focus on the incorporation and use of space-based technologies
- Promote the development of regional and subregional vulnerability assessments using space-based solutions

- Maintain and update the database that should include contact information for the national focal points, the network of practice and the network of regional support offices

## **B. A bridge to connect the disaster management and space communities**

**Activity 6. Establishment of communities of practice:** support existing communities of practice and contribute to the establishment of new ones, thus bringing together the space-based technology and disaster management communities (activity to build on the work being carried out by the secretariat of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) in the implementation of the 10-year workplan of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS))

Activities for 2008:

- Finalize a concept document defining a platform strategy that will support the consolidation and establishment of communities of practice and will also define the support to be provided to the communities of practice and include guidelines for relevant national organizations on how to support national communities of practice
- Maintain updated the inventory of existing and planned communities of practice
- Provide support to existing communities of practice as determined in the concept document

Activities for 2009:

- Update, as needed, the concept document that defines the platform strategy, which, in turn, will support the consolidation and establishment of communities of practice
- Maintain updated the inventory of existing and planned communities of practice
- Provide support to existing communities of practice as determined in the updated concept document

**Activity 7. Management and transfer of knowledge:** develop a knowledge management and transfer framework and implement specific activities that will contribute to the transfer of knowledge (case studies, best practices, definition of user requirements), involving the participants of the established network of practice in the compilation of a knowledge base

Activities for 2008:

- Finalize a framework for the management and transfer of knowledge
- Prepare a publication containing case studies and best practices for distribution to developing countries
- Jointly lead GEOSS task CB-07-02 on knowledge sharing for improved disaster management and emergency response

Activities for 2009:

- Finalize a framework for the management and transfer of knowledge
- Distribute and make available the published volume of case studies and best practices
- Jointly lead GEOSS task CB-07-02 on knowledge sharing for improved disaster management and emergency response

**Activity 8. Platform for fostering alliances:** ensure the harmonization of the various initiatives that are contributing to helping developing countries access and use space-based technologies for disaster management and risk reduction, in other words, horizontal coordination; develop guidelines to assist national focal points in the implementation of a vertical coordination strategy; and ensure SPIDER participation in relevant forums and coordination with relevant programmes, including GEO, the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security, the secretariat of the ISDR including the Advisory Group of the Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning, the Global Platform of Disaster Risk Reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,<sup>4</sup> the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Charter on Cooperation to Achieve the Coordinated Use of Space Facilities in the Event of Natural or Technological Disasters (also known as the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters) and other relevant activities

Activities for 2008:

- Finalize and disseminate a set of guidelines for use by national focal points to improve vertical coordination
- Ensure SPIDER participation in relevant forums and coordination with relevant programmes
- Finalize and implement a horizontal coordination framework; identify relevant international and regional organizations capable of working together to ensure the coordination of activities; and invite those organizations to participate in the SPIDER international workshop
- Finalize and implement a coordination framework with all United Nations initiatives; and take advantage of the annual Charter coordination meeting, which brings together entities from the entire United Nations system, to promote the framework
- Finalize a proposal for a coordination framework with European Union and other relevant international entities; and promote a meeting at which representatives of United Nations agencies and European Union and other relevant international initiatives may discuss the proposal
- Jointly lead GEOSS task DI-06-09 on the use of satellites for risk management

Activities for 2009:

- Revise, as needed, and then disseminate a set of guidelines for use by national focal points to improve vertical coordination

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<sup>4</sup> A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.



- Ensure SPIDER participation in relevant forums and coordination with relevant programmes
- Revise, as needed, and then implement a horizontal coordination framework; and invite relevant international and regional entities to participate in the SPIDER international workshop
- Revise, as needed, and then implement a coordination framework with all United Nations initiatives; and take advantage of the annual Charter coordination meeting, which brings together entities from the entire United Nations system, to promote the framework
- Promote a meeting of representatives of United Nations agencies and European Union and other relevant international initiatives to ensure the continuous coordination of activities
- Jointly lead GEOSS task DI-06-09 on the use of satellites for risk management

### **C. A facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening**

**Activity 9. Support to national activities:** support the implementation of risk reduction and emergency response activities and projects identified in conjunction with designated national focal points (activity to be carried out in close coordination with the work carried out by the secretariat of ISDR and by UNDP country offices)

Activities for 2008:

- Follow up with Member States to ensure the nomination of national focal points and update the list of national focal points (insert the contact information in the database)
- Contribute to the definition of national action plans together with national focal points, keeping in mind the national platforms for disaster risk reduction to be implemented in five countries by 2008; and help national focal points to identify partners that could contribute to the implementation of specific activities or actions defined in the national action plans
- Assist national focal points in implementing a vertical coordination strategy

Activities for 2009:

- Follow up with Member States to ensure the nomination of national focal points and update the list of national focal points (insert the contact information in the database)
- Contribute to the definition of national action plans together with national focal points, keeping in mind the national platforms for disaster risk reduction to be implemented in 10 countries by 2009; and help national focal points to identify partners that could contribute to the implementation of specific activities or actions defined in the national action plans
- Assist national focal points in implementing a vertical coordination strategy

**Activity 10. Support to the establishment of national disaster management planning and policies:** contribute, at the request of the relevant national focal points, to the definition of disaster management planning and policies with regard to the use of space-based technologies

Activities for 2008:

- Maintain a list of relevant national disaster management plans that build on space-based technology solutions
- Maintain a list of examples of national disaster management policies that include the use of space-based technology solutions
- Define guidelines that focus on how space-based technology solutions contribute to national disaster management plans and policies in countries developing such frameworks
- Support five countries in developing of such plans and policies based on the defined guidelines
- Carry out one technical advisory mission to each of those countries and contribute to the development of national disaster management planning and policies

Activities in 2009:

- Maintain a list of relevant national disaster management plans that build on space-based technology solutions
- Maintain a list of examples of national disaster management policies that include the use of space-based technology solutions
- Revise, as needed, guidelines that focus on how space-based technology solutions contribute to national disaster management plans and policies in countries developing such frameworks
- Support 10 countries in developing such plans and policies based on the guidelines
- Carry out one technical advisory mission to each of those countries and contribute to the development of national disaster management planning and policies

**Activity 11. Support to capacity-building:** capacity-building and the strengthening of institutional arrangements at all levels are the key to increasing the ability of organizations and individuals to effectively use space-based services for disaster preparedness, response and recovery. Those activities will include compiling information relevant to capacity-building opportunities and the facilitation of capacity-building also among practitioners and end-users. Activity 11 will contribute to the development of a proposed curriculum, working with the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, and other national and regional centres of excellence to train end-users and strengthen national institutions.

Activities for 2008:

- Finalize a capacity-building framework specific to disaster management activities that will build on existing capacity-building opportunities and those opportunities made available by the network of regional support offices
- Finalize a database of training opportunities for using space-based solutions in disaster management, to be made available through the knowledge portal
- Coordinate with identified partners the development of a proposal for curricula for the use of space-based solutions for disaster management and emergency response
- Finalize a proposal for making available e-learning opportunities while keeping in mind existing facilities in the United Nations and elsewhere; and include in the proposal an implementation plan for making the e-learning opportunities available

Activities for 2009:

- Revise, as needed, the capacity-building framework specific to disaster management activities; and implement specific activities including the promotion of short- and long-term training courses in the centres of excellence, including courses that will benefit the humanitarian and emergency response community, among others the user community in Geneva
- Maintain updated a database of training opportunities for using space-based solutions in disaster management, to be made available through the knowledge portal
- Promote and disseminate, together with identified partners, the curricula for the use of space-based solutions for disaster management and emergency response
- Make available e-learning opportunities while keeping in mind existing facilities in the United Nations and elsewhere, as determined in the implementation plan to be proposed in 2008

#### **D. Liaison office in Geneva**

The SPIDER liaison office in Geneva will contribute to the dissemination and integration of the work of the programme within the disaster reduction and humanitarian response communities in Geneva.

Activities for 2008:

- Organize a SPIDER workshop in Geneva
- Organize a joint GEO-United Nations workshop on themes concerning GEOSS and the role of SPIDER in Geneva
- Coordinate with the offices in Beijing, Bonn and Vienna the development of support for awareness-raising efforts for Geneva-based entities
- Provide constant input for and support to the SPIDER knowledge portal

Activities for 2009:

- Organize a SPIDER workshop in Geneva
  - Begin a series of case studies, in collaboration with, in particular, the secretariat of ISDR, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on good practices in disaster management and vulnerability reduction using space applications and other relevant organizations
  - Organize a symposium on best practises in space applications for disaster management and vulnerability reduction in Geneva to present and review case studies
  - Insert data collected during the above activities in the knowledge portal
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