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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Scientific and Technical Subcommittee Sixty-first session Vienna, 29 January—9 February 2024

## **Draft report**

Addendum

## X. Space and global health

- 1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 78/72, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 13, entitled "Space and global health".
- 2. The representatives of Argentina, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Switzerland, Thailand and the United States made statements under agenda item 13. The Coordinator of the Space and Global Health Network also made a statement under the item. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.
- 3. The Subcommittee heard the following scientific and technical presentations:
- (a) "Australian conduits in digital health for sustained development with artificial intelligence", by the representative of Australia;
- (b) "Revolutionizing dengue outbreak management: AI-driven space application in a smart city platform the Brazilian case", by the representative of Brazil.
- 4. The Subcommittee had before it the following:
- (a) Report on the United Nations/World Health Organization International Conference on Space and Global Health, held in Geneva from 1 to 3 November 2023 (A/AC.105/1306);
- (b) Conference room paper entitled "Space and Global Health Network: 2023 annual report and plan of activities 2024" (A/AC.105/C.1/2024/CRP.29);
- (c) Conference room paper entitled "Report on the meetings of the Space and Global Health Network held on the margins of the sixty-first session of the Subcommittee" (A/AC.105/C.1/2024/CRP.33).
- 5. The Subcommittee noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 78/72, requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to strengthen, within existing resources, capacity-building and networking in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, through regional technical cooperation projects, and to support field projects for strengthening collaboration between the space and global health sectors as an efficient strategy for making better use of space science and technology







for access to global health for beneficiary States and taking better advantage of opportunities offered by bilateral or multilateral collaboration, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 77/120, entitled "Space and global health".

- 6. In that regard, the Subcommittee noted with satisfaction that the United Nations/World Health Organization International Conference on Space and Global Health had been co-organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the Government of Switzerland and the Space and Global Health Network and with the support of ESA, as the first major operational activity since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 77/120, and that it had been attended by major stakeholders in the field of space and global health. The Subcommittee noted that participants in the Conference had recommended, inter alia, the creation of a short-term action plan and a longer-term strategy for the implementation of actions supporting the General Assembly resolution on space and global health.
- 7. The Subcommittee heard a status report by the Coordinator of the Space and Global Health Network and noted that two meetings of the Network had been held on 5 and 6 February 2024 on the margins of the sixty-first session of the Subcommittee, at which the Coordinator had also presented the Network's plan of activities for 2024, which included, among other activities:
- (a) A special session on space and global health and a workshop on interoperability during the Geneva Digital Health Day, held on the sidelines of the Geneva Health Forum in May;
- (b) A hackathon on health and Earth observation, organized at the end of May in cooperation with ESA;
- (c) Activities on space and global health during the AI for Life conference in December.
- 8. The Subcommittee expressed its appreciation to the Office for Outer Space Affairs for facilitating the work of the Space and Global Health Network within existing resources.
- 9. The Subcommittee noted a broad array of activities relevant to space and global health in areas such as telemedicine, space life sciences, space technologies, tele-epidemiology and disaster management, including responses to epidemics and heat risks, as well as activities undertaken through space-based research, including at the International Space Station.
- 10. The Subcommittee acknowledged the contribution of space science, space data, space technology and space applications to the prevention and control of diseases, the promotion of human health and welfare, the addressing of global health issues, the monitoring of air and water pollution, the advancement of medical research, the advancement of health practices and the provision of health-care services to individuals and communities, including in rural areas with limited access to health care.
- 11. The view was expressed that there was a need to improve, in an equitable and sustainable manner, intersectoral coordination and cooperation to carry out effective capacity-building activities at all levels related to the application of space science and technology in the field of global health.

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