

62nd session of COPUOS\_ Statement

Agenda item 12.

Coordinator of the Space and Global Health Network.

Distinguished delegates, distinguished Chair

As it is the first time that the Space and Global Health Network is taking the floor in this session, I would like to congratulate for your able leadership during the session.

On behalf of the coordinator of the Space and Global Health Network, I am pleased to report the summary of the 2024 activities and the conclusions of the two meetings held on February 6th on the margins of the sixty-second session of the Subcommittee. More than 40 participants attended those sessions, including participants from both the space and health sectors, space agencies, academia and international organizations including the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the World Health Organization.

We are happy to share that the first Annual Report of the Space and Global Health Network is now available on the website of the SGH Network but also as a CRP (A/AC.105/C.1/2025/CRP).

The past year was crucial for the Network especially towards our efforts to strengthen the Network and enhance collaboration with various stakeholders. During the recent meetings, the participants acknowledged a significant growth in the Network's activities. As example, the SGH Network held high-level discussions during the Geneva Digital Health Day organized by the gdhub in the margins of the World Health Assembly.

A Space and Global Health Hackathon was organized with our partner, the European Space Agency. An UN/WHO Regional Conference (focused on Americas and the Caribbean) on Space Technology for advancing global health organized with UNOOSA also happened here in Vienna in October 2024.

Importantly, the priorities of work for SGH Network for 2025 were also presented during the first meeting and are centered around two main pillars.

The first priority is focused on strengthening mechanisms and institutions at the national level to facilitate collaboration among stakeholders and promoting interdisciplinary approaches. This priority will involve space agencies, health ministries, research institutions, non-governmental organizations and private sector partners

The second key priority focuses on knowledge and awareness-raising. Education about stakeholders about the diverse applications of space technology in public health will be therefore key to achieve our objective. Importantly, the 2025 priorities are in alignment with the long-term strategy on space and global health for the period 2025–2035 (A/AC.105/C.1/127).

Related to this domain of education, a draft syllabus of the Space and Global Health Curriculum was presented and discussed with members of Taskforce and the other participants and is available for inputs until 24 February 2025.

The syllabus outlines the objectives of an interdisciplinary curriculum in Space and Global Health which aims to examine the intersection of space sciences, technology, and global health.

The discussions emphasized the need to integrate other key considerations in the syllabus such as the legal aspects of applying space technologies for Global Health.

In addition, as stated in a previous report of the meetings of the SGH Network (A/AC.105/C.1/2024/CRP.28), the identification and description of space-based essential health variables (S-EHVs) remain essential. To achieve those objectives, the Network will focus this year to develop a strategic roadmap and methodology of work to guide those efforts.

In the upcoming months, the Space and Global Health Network and in particular its dedicated Taskforce will focus on advancing the work on the space and global health curriculum

Delegations and Members of the Space and Global Health Network are invited to participate and to disseminate the activities of the Network. Relevant institutions or experts can join the network through the signature of the statement of intent (<https://sgh.network/statement-of-intent/>) and submit it to the Coordinator of the Space and Global health Network.

Finally, and importantly, we would like to take the opportunity to warmly thank our partners and especially our colleagues from the Office for Outer Space Affairs and for the Government of Switzerland for their continuous and strong support. A key factor to our success so far.

Thank you very much for your kind attention and I wish you all the best for the rest of this session.