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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fifty-second session
Vienna, 2-13 February 2015
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
**Space technology for socioeconomic development in the
context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable
Development and the post-2015 development agenda**

**Revised Draft Proposed Work Plan for a mechanism of
cooperative deliberation for “Space and Sustainable
Development”: Bridging COPUOS and STSC¹**

Note by Secretariat

I. Background

1. The Japanese delegation, guided by the discussion paper submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space entitled “Next Phase in Global Governance for Space Research and Utilization” (A/AC.105/2012/CRP.4), distributed a non-paper during the fiftieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee. In that non-paper, the idea to further discuss the ways and means in which space technologies can contribute to sustainable development was presented.

* A/AC.105/C.1/L.341.

¹ The present conference room paper builds upon the text of A/AC.105/C.1/2014/CRP.22 of 13 February 2014 and A/AC.105/2013/CRP.8 of 7 June 2013 prepared under the agenda items on Space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda of the fifty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held in Vienna on 10-21 February 2014, and on Space and sustainable development of the fifty-sixth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held in Vienna on 12-21 June 2013, respectively.



2. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fiftieth session, agreed to begin consideration of a new agenda item entitled “Space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda”. The Subcommittee also decided to continue consideration of this agenda item as well as of a mechanism to substantially connect it to the agenda item “Space and Sustainable Development” of the Committee. The Japanese delegation consulted with interested delegations regarding effective ways to substantially bridge the discussions between the Committee and the Subcommittee on this matter.

3. In order to establish a concrete way for moving the discussion forward and to create synergy with the deliberations under the agenda item on space and sustainable development of the Committee, the Japanese delegation proposed a draft work plan for the consideration of the agenda items of the Subcommittee and the Committee, as contained in the discussion paper submitted by Japan entitled “Draft proposed workplan for a mechanism of cooperative deliberation for ‘space and sustainable development’: bridging the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee” (A/AC.105/C.1/2014/CRP.22).

4. The Working Group welcomed the proposal made by Japan in conference room paper 22 and agreed with its overall objective. The Working Group agreed on the following requirements:

(a) Considering that the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals still had to finalize its proposal for concrete sustainable development goals to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, in 2014, and that the post-2015 development agenda process was yet to become concrete and implementable, the Working Group of the Whole would, at the fifty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in 2015, review the multi-year workplan contained in that conference room paper in order to define a detailed method of work for the period 2015-2019 on the basis of what was expected to be the outcome of those two global processes under the global development agenda;

(b) The goal of that multi-year workplan would be to identify how the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was contributing to the global development agenda, including interaction with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, regional and interregional mechanisms for cooperation in space activities and other institutional frameworks for international space cooperation. The contribution of the Committee to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), contained in document A/AC.105/993, would be the basis for such determination;

(c) The method of work under the multi-year workplan would, against that background, be revisited by the Working Group of the Whole at the fifty-second session of the Subcommittee. The Secretariat was requested to present for the Subcommittee’s fifty-second session, in consultation with the delegation of Japan, a conference room paper outlining a proposed method of work under the multi-year workplan for consideration by the Working Group of the Whole, taking into account the status of the two parallel global processes in New York and the role of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable

Development (Rio+20), in view of the forthcoming sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda process.

5. The Committee, at its fifty-seventh session held in June 2014, endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee at its fifty-first session (A/AC.105/1065, annex I, para. 3) relating to the discussion paper and agreed in that regard that the method of work under the multi-year workplan would be revisited by the Working Group of the Whole at the fifty-second session of the Subcommittee in February 2015.

6. The Committee agreed to request the Secretariat to present for the Subcommittee's fifty-second session, in consultation with the delegation of Japan, a conference room paper outlining a proposed method of work under the multi-year workplan for consideration by the Working Group of the Whole, taking into account the status of the two parallel global processes in New York and the role of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in view of the forthcoming sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda process.

II. Expected goal of the work

7. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as the only United Nations body established to foster international cooperation in peaceful uses of outer space, is uniquely positioned to promote wider application of space science and technology for development. Consideration therefore should be given to creating and presenting a unified voice of the space community to international development communities and relevant international and national organizations concerning the role and impact of space-derived benefits for sustainable development. Such a unified voice will affect various areas of policy, contribute to data and information accessibility in a number of areas, such as education and capacity-building, public health and environmental protection.

III. Draft Proposed Work Plan

1. Phase 1: 2014-2015 — Awareness-raising, information-gathering and targeting the post-2015 development agenda

8. The General Assembly, in its resolutions on the peaceful uses of outer space (resolutions 67/113, 68/75 and 69/85), has expressed its conviction of the need to promote the use of space technology towards implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration and contributing to the post-2015 development agenda process. The objective of work during this phase is therefore to promote the reflection of the contribution of space technology in the documents relating to the follow-up to Rio+20 and the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda.

9. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space made a contribution to the Rio+20 Conference on harnessing space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development (A/AC.105/993). The Rio+20 process demonstrated that direct intervention by member States proved to be more effective for proper reflection of space technologies in the global development agenda.

10. The Committee, at its fifty-seventh session in 2014, 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. Information on developments following up the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and a formulation of the post-2015 development agenda were continuously made available to member States by the Secretariat in the conference room papers A/AC.105/C.1/2013/CRP.16 and CRP.17, A/AC.105/C.1/2014/CRP.21 and A/AC.105/2014/CRP.15.

12. In resolution 69/85, operative paragraph 25, the General Assembly reiterates the need to promote the benefits of space technology and its applications in the major United Nations conferences and summits for economic, social and cultural development and related fields, and recognizes that the fundamental significance of space science and technology and their applications for global, regional, national and local sustainable development processes should be promoted in the formulation of policies and programmes of action and their implementation, including through efforts towards achieving the objectives of those conferences and summits, including implementing the Millennium Declaration and contributing to the post-2015 development agenda process.

13. In the same resolution, operative paragraph 26, the Assembly encourages Member States, to that end, to promote the inclusion in those conferences, summits and processes of the relevance of space science and technology applications and the use of space-derived geospatial data.

14. The established goals, targets and indicators of the global development processes will be reviewed and examples of international mechanisms for cooperation established under the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in increasing awareness of the benefits of space science and technology applications to meet the established goals and targets for global development, will be developed. In the annex to this document there is provided a table which may serve as guidance for listing such mechanisms and frameworks.

2. Phase 2: 2016-2017 — Analysis

15. Following the adoption of the sustainable development goals in 2014 and the planned adoption of the post-2015 development agenda in 2015, the Committee and the Subcommittee will engage in consideration of the contribution of space technology to the attainment of the new global agenda under the agenda item of the Scientific and Technical 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 the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on Space and sustainable development. Member States will be encouraged to provide, during the sessions of the Committee and the Subcommittee, information regarding the contributions of space technologies to implementing global development processes and the international mechanisms being used for cooperation among States and international organizations.

3. Phase 3: 2018-2019 — Drafting recommendations on harnessing space technology for the attainment of the new global development agenda

16. Building on the work undertaken in phases 1 and 2, a set of recommendations will be developed to increase awareness of international mechanisms for cooperation to facilitate an enhanced application of space science and technology for the attainment of sustainable development goals and objectives of the post-2015 development framework.

Annex

Tentative draft review of international mechanisms for cooperation under the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in increasing awareness of the benefits of space science and technology applications to meet the established goals and targets for global development

The following tentative table serves as a sample for discussion.

The established goals, targets and indicators of the global development processes will be reviewed and examples of international mechanisms for cooperation under the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in increasing awareness of the benefits of space science and technology applications to meet the established goals and targets for global development, will be developed.

The following table may serve as guidance for listing such mechanisms and frameworks.

A. Rio+20 Outcome (resolution 66/288)

Para. 44 We acknowledge the role of civil society and the importance of enabling all member of civil society to be actively engaged in sustainable development. We recognize that improved participation of civil society depends upon, inter alia, strengthening access to information and building civil society capacity and an enabling environment. We recognize that information and communications technology is facilitating the flow of information between government and the public. In this regard, it is essential to work towards improved access to information and communications technology, especially broadband networks and services, and bridge the digital divide, recognizing the contribution of international cooperation in this regard.

- Permanent observers from civil society
- OOSA website
- Regional Centres
- Space Applications Programme workshops
- OOSA Fellowships
- [...]

Para. 48 We recognize the important contribution of the scientific and technology community to sustainable development. We are committed to working with and fostering collaboration among the academic, scientific and technological community, in particular in developing countries, to close the technological gap between developing and developed countries and strengthen, the science-policy interface as well as to foster international research collaboration on sustainable development.

- Regional Centres
- Space Applications Programme workshops
- Technical Advisory Services
- UN-SPIDER
- Technical presentations at sessions of COPUOS and its Subcommittees
- [...]

Para. 78 Strengthen United Nations system-wide coherence and coordination, while ensuring appropriate accountability to Member States by, inter alia, enhancing coherence in reporting and reinforcing cooperative efforts under existing inter-agency mechanisms and strategies to advance the integration of the three dimension of sustainable development within the United Nation system, including through exchange of information (see para. 93).

- UN-Space
- Observer status of United Nations specialized agencies and other United Nations entities to COPUOS
- Mechanisms of COPUOS, STSC, LSC Working Groups, such as LTS expert groups, STSC expert groups on space weather and global health
- [...]

Para. 132 We note that transportation and mobility are central to sustainable development. Sustainable transportation can enhance economic growth and improve accessibility. Sustainable transport achieves better integration of the economy while respecting the environment. We recognize the importance of the efficient movement of people and goods, and access to environmentally sound, safe and affordable transportation as a means to improve social equity, health, resilience of cities, urban-rural linkages and productivity of rural areas. In this regard, we take into account road safety as part of our efforts to achieve sustainable development.

- ICG and related workshops
- Promotion of space based geospatial technology and applications
- Remote Sensing Principles
- Space Benefits Declaration
- [...]

Para. 133 We support the development of sustainable transport systems including energy efficient multi-modal transport systems, notably public, mass transportation systems, clean fuels and vehicles ... We also recognize that the special development needs of landlocked and transit developing countries need to be taken into account while establishing sustainable transit transport system. We acknowledge the need for international support to developing countries in this regard.

- ICG and related workshops
- Promotion of space based geospatial technology and applications
- Remote Sensing Principles

- Space Benefits Declaration
- [...]

Para. 272 We recognize the importance of strengthened national, scientific and technological capacities for sustainable development. This can help countries, especially developing countries to develop their own innovative solutions, scientific research and new environmentally sound technologies with the support of the international community. To this end, we support building science and technology capacity, with both women and men as contributors and beneficiaries, including through collaboration among research institutions, universities the private sector, governments, non-governmental organizations and science.

- Regional Centres
- Space Applications Programme workshops
- Technical Advisory Services
- Technical presentations
- [...]

Para. 274 We recognize the importance of space-technology-based data, in situ monitoring and reliable geospatial information for sustainable development policymaking, programming and project operation. In this context we note the relevance of global mapping and recognize the efforts in developing global environmental observing system, including by the Eye on Earth Network and through the Global Earth Observation System of Systems. We recognize the need to support developing countries in their efforts to collect environment data.

- Remote Sensing Principles
- Regional Centres
- Space Applications Programme workshops
- Promotion of geospatial technology and applications
- UN-SPIDER
- OOSA participation in GEO
- [...]

Para. 276 We recognize the need to facilitate informed policy decision-making on sustainable development issues and, in this regard to strength the science-policy interface.

- Regional Centres
- Space Applications Programme workshops
- Technical Advisory Services
- Observer status (IGO/NGO/United Nations entities)
- UNISPACE I, II, III Conferences
- [...]

Para. 277 We emphasize the need for enhanced capacity-building for sustainable development and, in this regard we call for the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation. We reiterate the importance of human resource development including training, the exchange of experience and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building which involves strengthening institutional capacity, including planning, management and monitoring capacities.

- Regional Centres
- Space Applications Programme workshops
- Technical Advisory Services
- UN-SPIDER
- [...]

B. Sustainable Development Goals

[...]

C. Post-2015 development Summit outcome

[...]
