



# General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
**Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**  
**Fiftieth session**  
Vienna, 11-22 February 2013

## Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Statement by the Chair.
3. General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities.
4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications.
5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
6. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment.
7. Space debris.
8. Space-system-based disaster management support.
9. Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems.
10. Space weather.
11. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.
12. Near-Earth objects.
13. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities.
14. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of

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developing countries, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.

15. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
16. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

### **Annotations\***

#### **2. Statement by the Chair**

The Chair will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Subcommittee that have taken place since its forty-ninth session. After the statement, the Subcommittee will organize its schedule of work.

#### **3. General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities**

The annual written reports submitted by Member States on their space activities will be made available to the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1025 and Add.1). As a general rule, statements under this agenda item should not exceed 10 minutes in length (see A/AC.105/987, para. 219).

#### **4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications**

In paragraph 12 of its resolution 67/113, the General Assembly endorsed the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2013, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/1011, sects. II and III and annex III) and endorsed by the Committee (A/67/20, para. 89).

The Subcommittee will have before it the report of the Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/1031), covering the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications in 2012 and 2013 and containing a list of States contributing to the Programme. The Subcommittee will also have before it the following reports on training courses, symposiums and workshops organized in the framework of the Programme:

(a) United Nations/Islamic Republic of Iran Regional Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Human Health Improvement, held in Teheran from 23 to 26 October 2011 (A/AC.105/1021);

(b) United Nations/Latvia Workshop on the Application of Global Navigation Satellite Systems, held in Riga from 14 to 18 May 2012 (A/AC.105/1022);

(c) United Nations Expert Meeting on the International Space Station Humanitarian Benefits, held in Vienna on 11 and 12 June 2012 (A/AC.105/1024);

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\* The annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Subcommittee.

(d) United Nations/Austria Symposium on Data Analysis and Image Processing for Space Applications and Sustainable Development: Space Weather Data, held in Graz, Austria, from 18 to 21 September 2012 (A/AC.105/1026);

(e) United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on Space Technologies Applied to the Needs of Humanity: Experience from Cases in the Mediterranean Area, held in Naples, Italy, from 28 to 30 September 2012 (A/AC.105/1028);

(f) United Nations/Ecuador Workshop on the International Space Weather Initiative, held in Quito from 8 to 12 October 2012 (A/AC.105/1030);

(g) United Nations/Japan Nanosatellite Symposium, held in Nagoya, Japan, from 10 to 13 October 2012 (A/AC.105/1032);

(h) United Nations/Chile Workshop on Space Technology Applications for Socioeconomic Benefits, held in Santiago from 12 to 16 November 2012 (A/AC.105/1037).

In paragraph 7 of its resolution 67/113, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee, at its fiftieth session, should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole.

The Working Group of the Whole will consider the item on the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

#### **5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)**

In paragraph 21 of its resolution 67/113, the General Assembly recalled that a number of the recommendations set out in the Plan of Action of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) (A/59/174, sect. VI.B) had been implemented and that satisfactory progress was being made in implementing the outstanding recommendations through national and regional activities.

At the forty-ninth session of the Subcommittee, the Working Group of the Whole noted its multi-year review of the status of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (see A/AC.105/C.1/2010/CRP.5, annex) and agreed that it should not continue reviewing the implementation of those recommendations. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that, at the next session of the Subcommittee, the Working Group should study the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, with a view to discussing ways and means of assisting the Subcommittee and the Committee in future activities that could be considered appropriate in relation to results of that Conference (A/AC.105/1001, annex I, paras. 4 and 5).

The Working Group of the Whole will consider the item on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

**7. Space debris**

In paragraphs 8-10 of its resolution 67/113, the General Assembly considered the issue of space debris.

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat on national research on space debris, safety of space objects with nuclear power sources on board and problems relating to the collision of such space objects with space debris, containing information received by the Secretariat from Member States and international organizations (A/AC.105/C.1/107).

**8. Space-system-based disaster management support**

The Subcommittee will have before it a report on activities carried out in 2012 in the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) (A/AC.105/1027), a report on technical advisory support activities carried out in 2012 in the framework of UN-SPIDER (A/AC.105/1029), a report on the fifth UN-SPIDER international workshop, on strengthening global synergies through knowledge management, portals and networks, held in Bonn, Germany, from 24 to 26 April 2012 (A/AC.105/1023) and a report on the United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Management: Risk Assessment in the Context of Global Climate Change, held in Beijing from 7 to 9 November 2012 (A/AC.105/1033).

The Working Group of the Whole will consider space-system-based disaster management support.

**9. Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems**

In paragraph 15 of its resolution 67/113, the General Assembly noted with appreciation that the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems had held its seventh meeting in Beijing from 5 to 9 November 2012.

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the Seventh Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (A/AC.105/1035) and a report on activities carried out in 2012 in the framework of the workplan of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (A/AC.105/1034).

**10. Space weather**

The Subcommittee, at its forty-ninth session, noted the conclusion of the item entitled "International Space Weather Initiative" and agreed that an item entitled "Space weather" should be introduced as a regular item on the agenda of the Subcommittee, in order to allow member States of the Committee and international organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee to exchange views on national, regional and international activities related to space weather research with a view to promoting greater international cooperation in that area. The Subcommittee noted that it could, through that item, serve as an important advocate for efforts to close existing gaps in the space weather research field (A/AC.105/1001, para. 226).

**11. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space**

In paragraph 7 of its resolution 67/113, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

The Subcommittee will have before it a paper submitted by China entitled "Workshop on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space: discussion on the safety of space nuclear power sources in outer space" (A/AC.105/C.1/L.319) and a joint statement by representatives of the Russian Federal Space Agency and the State Atomic Energy Corporation "Rosatom" at the seminar of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space: current and planned applications, and challenges (A/AC.105/C.1/L.320).

**12. Near-Earth objects**

In paragraph 7 of its resolution 67/113, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on Near-Earth Objects.

The Working Group will continue its work according to the multi-year workplan for the period 2012-2013 (A/AC.105/987, annex III, para. 9).

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing information on research in the field of near-Earth objects carried out by Member States, international organizations and other entities (A/AC.105/C.1/106). The Subcommittee will also have before it the final report of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects (A/AC.105/C.1/L.330) and the draft recommendations of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects for an international response to the near-Earth object impact threat (A/AC.105/C.1/L.329).

**13. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities**

In paragraph 7 of its resolution 67/113, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

The Working Group will continue its work in accordance with the workplan under that item for 2013 (A/66/20, annex II, para. 23).

A workshop on experiences and practices in the conduct of sustainable space activities will be held on the afternoon of 14 February 2013, with simultaneous interpretation, in accordance with the workplan for 2013.

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat (A/AC.105/C.1/104) containing information on experiences and practices related to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities provided pursuant to the terms of reference and methods of work of the Working Group (A/66/20, annex II).

**15. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**

In accordance with an agreement reached by the Committee at its forty-second session, discussion under the item on the draft provisional agenda for the Subcommittee should include identification of subjects to be dealt with as single

issues/items for discussion or under the multi-year workplans. This item will be considered by the Working Group of the Whole. The proposal for the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Subcommittee will be submitted to the Committee at its fifty-sixth session, in 2013.

*Symposium*

In accordance with the agreement reached by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session, in 2007 (A/AC.105/890, annex I, para. 24), and at its forty-ninth session, in 2012 (A/AC.105/1001, para. 225), and by the Committee at its fifty-fifth session, in 2012 (A/67/20, para. 195), a symposium organized by the International Astronautical Federation on the topic of “Overview of studies and concepts for active orbital debris removal” will be held on the afternoon of 11 February 2013.

*Organizational matters*

At its fifty-fourth session, the Committee endorsed the recommendations made by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-eighth session (A/AC.105/987, paras. 216-220) and by the Legal Subcommittee at its fiftieth session (A/AC.105/990, paras. 194 and 196-198) concerning the improvement and optimization of methods of work of those subsidiary bodies.

The Committee agreed to apply to the organization of its work the same methods as proposed by the Scientific and Technical and Legal Subcommittees. In that regard, the Committee agreed that:

- (a) Maximum flexibility should be applied in the scheduling of items;
- (b) As a general rule, statements should not exceed 10 minutes, and scientific and technical presentations should be closely linked to the agenda items of the Committee and should not exceed 15 minutes in duration. The Chair should remind delegations in cases of time being exceeded, as appropriate;
- (c) Member States and observers of the Committee should communicate to the Secretariat their wish to make scientific and technical presentations, and the item under which the presentation is to be made, before the start of the session, in order to optimize the plan of work of the session. A list of presentations should be made available to all delegations on the first day of the session, for possible updating, and should be closed by the adjournment of the last plenary meeting of that day. Speaking notes for such presentations should be provided to facilitate simultaneous interpretation (A/66/20, para. 298).

The Working Group of the Whole will consider organizational matters.

## Annex

### Organization of work

1. The work of the Subcommittee has been scheduled so as to afford the working groups that will be reconvened under items 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 13 and 15 the maximum amount of time available.
2. The number of statements to be made under item 3, entitled “General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities”, at each meeting may be limited, as necessary, in order to allow sufficient time for other agenda items to be considered as planned for each meeting.
3. Technical presentations will be scheduled in accordance with the criteria established by the Committee at its fifty-fourth session, in 2011 (A/66/20, para. 298), and as reflected above in the annotations to item 15 of the provisional agenda.
4. An indicative schedule of work is provided below. The indicative schedule of work is a general guide to the dates and times when items will be addressed during the session. The consideration of all items can be advanced, extended or delayed, depending on the requirements of the members of the Committee and any organizational constraints faced in the course of the session.

### Indicative schedule of work\*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
<b>Week of 11-15 February 2013</b>		
Monday, 11 February	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Statement by the Chair Item 3. General exchange of views	Symposium organized by the International Astronautical Federation to provide an overview of studies and concepts for active orbital debris removal
Tuesday, 12 February	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 7. Space debris Item 11. Nuclear power sources <sup>b</sup> Technical presentations	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 7. Space debris Item 11. Nuclear power sources <sup>b</sup> Technical presentations
Wednesday, 13 February	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 7. Space debris Item 11. Nuclear power sources <sup>b</sup> Technical presentations	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 10. Space weather Item 13. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities <sup>d</sup> Technical presentations

\* At its thirty-eighth session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that member States would continue to be provided with an indicative schedule of work, which would be without prejudice to the actual timing of consideration of specific agenda items (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/50/20)*, paras. 168 and 169 (b)).

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Thursday, 14 February	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 10. Space weather Item 13. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities <sup>d</sup> Technical presentations	Workshop organized by the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities <sup>d</sup>
Friday, 15 February	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 10. Space weather Item 13. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities <sup>d</sup> Technical presentations	Item 5. UNISPACE III <sup>a</sup> Item 9. Global navigation satellite systems Item 12. Near-Earth objects <sup>c</sup> Technical presentations
<b>Week of 18-22 February 2013</b>		
Monday, 18 February	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 9. Global navigation satellite systems Item 12. Near-Earth objects <sup>c</sup> Technical presentations	Item 5. UNISPACE III <sup>a</sup> Item 9. Global navigation satellite systems Item 12. Near-Earth objects <sup>c</sup> Technical presentations
Tuesday, 19 February	Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>a</sup> Item 5. UNISPACE III <sup>a</sup> Item 8. Disaster management support <sup>a</sup> Technical presentations	Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>a</sup> Item 6. Remote sensing Item 8. Disaster management support <sup>a</sup> Technical presentations
Wednesday, 20 February	Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>a</sup> Item 6. Remote sensing Item 8. Disaster management support <sup>a</sup> Technical presentations	Item 6. Remote sensing Item 14. Geostationary orbit Item 15. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Subcommittee <sup>a</sup> Technical presentations
Thursday, 21 February	Item 14. Geostationary orbit Item 15. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Subcommittee <sup>a</sup> Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities Technical presentations	Item 14. Geostationary orbit Item 15. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Subcommittee <sup>a</sup> Adoption of the report of the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects Adoption of the report of the Working Group of the Whole Technical presentations
Friday, 22 February	Item 16. Report to the Committee	Item 16. Report to the Committee



<sup>a</sup> The Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 67/113, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of items 4, 5, 8 and 15. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee will resume its consideration of those items on Thursday, 21 February, in order to endorse the report of the Working Group.

<sup>b</sup> The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 67/113, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 11. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 21 February, in order to endorse the report of the Working Group.

<sup>c</sup> The Working Group on Near-Earth Objects, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 67/113, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 12. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 21 February, in order to endorse the report of the Working Group.

<sup>d</sup> The Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 67/113, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 13 and will hold a Workshop in accordance with its terms of reference and methods of work (A/66/20, annex II, para. 23). The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 21 February, in order to endorse the report of the Working Group.

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