



# General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
Fifty-sixth session  
Vienna, 12-21 June 2013

### **Provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session\***

#### **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Statement by the Chair.
4. General exchange of views.
5. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
6. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fiftieth session.
7. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-second session.
8. Space and sustainable development.
9. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
10. Space and water.
11. Space and climate change.
12. Use of space technology in the United Nations system.
13. Future role of the Committee.
14. Other matters.
15. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

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\* The present document was not submitted within the period required by the 10-week rule owing to the need to await the finalization of the report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-second session, held from 8 to 19 April 2013.

## **II. Annotations\***

### **1. Opening of the session**

The opening of the fifty-sixth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will take place in the morning of Wednesday, 12 June 2013.

### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

The adoption of the agenda will take place immediately after the opening of the session.

### **3. Statement by the Chair**

Following the adoption of the agenda by the Committee, the Chair of the Committee will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Committee that have taken place since its fifty-fifth session.

### **4. General exchange of views**

The Committee will begin its substantive work with a general exchange of views. As a general rule, statements should not exceed 10 minutes.

### **5. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes**

In paragraph 20 of its resolution 67/113, the General Assembly requested the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, and agreed that during its consideration of the matter the Committee could continue to consider ways to promote regional and interregional cooperation and the role that space technology could play in the implementation of recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

### **6. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fiftieth session**

In accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 67/113, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fiftieth session, considered the following substantive items:

(a) United Nations Programme on Space Applications (see A/AC.105/1038, paras. 28-50, and annex I, paras. 2-3);

(b) Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) (see A/AC.105/1038, paras. 51-59, and annex I, paras. 6-14);

(c) Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment (see A/AC.105/1038, paras. 60-72);

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\* The annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

- (d) Space debris (see A/AC.105/1038, paras. 73-106);
- (e) Space-system-based disaster management support (see A/AC.105/1038, paras. 107-128, and annex I, paras. 4-5);
- (f) Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems (see A/AC.105/1038, paras. 129-155);
- (g) Space weather (see A/AC.105/1038, paras. 156-166);
- (h) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space (see A/AC.105/1038, paras. 167-178, and annex II);
- (i) Near-Earth objects (see A/AC.105/1038, paras. 179-198, and annex III);
- (j) Long-term sustainability of outer space activities (see A/AC.105/1038, paras. 199-225, and annex IV);
- (k) 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 developing countries, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union (see A/AC.105/1038, paras. 226-232);
- (l) Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (see A/AC.105/1038, paras. 233-242).

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

In paragraph 16 of its resolution 67/113, the Assembly agreed that the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, should continue to report to the Committee on their activities.

#### *Near-Earth objects*

The Subcommittee, at its fiftieth session, endorsed the report of the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects, including the recommendations contained therein for an international response to the near-Earth object impact threat (A/AC.105/1038, para. 198, and annex III).

#### *Long-term sustainability of outer space activities*

In accordance with the agreement of the Committee, at its fifty-fifth session in 2012 (A/67/20, para. 348), and as recommended by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fiftieth session in 2013 (A/AC.105/1038, para. 225, and annex IV, para. 12), the work of the Committee at its fifty-sixth session has been scheduled in such a manner as to enable the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities to benefit from interpretation services.

In accordance with the mandate given by the Working Group during the fiftieth session of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1038, annex IV, para. 8), the Working Group will have before it a note by the Secretariat entitled "Compilation of proposed draft guidelines of expert groups A to D of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, as at the fiftieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, held in February 2013" (A/AC.105/1041).

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

The deliberations of the Subcommittee on its agenda item on the draft provisional agenda for its fifty-first session are reflected in the report on its fiftieth session (A/AC.105/1038, paras. 233-242, and annex I, para. 15).

The Subcommittee, at its fiftieth session, agreed on the items to be proposed to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for inclusion in the agenda of the Subcommittee at its fifty-first session (A/AC.105/1038, para. 235).

The Subcommittee noted that the topic for the symposium to be organized in 2014 by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in accordance with the agreement reached by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session, in 2007 (see A/AC.105/890, annex I, para. 24), should be “Commercial applications of GNSS” (A/AC.105/1038, para. 236).

**7. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-second session**

In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 67/113, the Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-second session, considered the following substantive items:

(a) Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space (see A/AC.105/1045, paras. 32-50);

(b) Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law (see A/AC.105/1045, paras. 51-59);

(c) Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union (see A/AC.105/1045, paras. 60-80);

(d) National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space (see A/AC.105/1045, paras. 81-93);

(e) Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (see A/AC.105/1045, paras. 94-106);

(f) Examination and review of the developments concerning the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Space Assets (see A/AC.105/1045, paras. 107-114);

(g) Capacity-building in space law (see A/AC.105/1045, paras. 115-133);

(h) General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (see A/AC.105/1045, paras. 134-160);

(i) Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space (see A/AC.105/1045, paras. 161-174);

(j) Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-third session (see A/AC.105/1045, paras. 175-200).

*Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space*

The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendation that the mandate of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space be extended for one additional year (A/AC.105/1045, para. 34, and annex I, para. 14).

*National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space*

In accordance with the agreement of the Committee at its fifty-fifth session (A/67/20, para. 252), the Subcommittee, at its fifty-second session, considered the revised draft set of recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space (A/AC.105/C.2/L.289). The Subcommittee agreed on the text of the set of recommendations, as amended, and recommended that the text be submitted as a separate draft resolution for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session (A/AC.105/1045, para. 84, and annex III).

*Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-third session*

The deliberations of the Legal Subcommittee on its agenda item on proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-third session are reflected in its report (see A/AC.105/1045, paras. 177-194).

The Subcommittee, at its fifty-second session, agreed on the items to be proposed to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for inclusion in the agenda of the Subcommittee at its fifty-third session (see A/AC.105/1045, paras. 186-187).

The Subcommittee agreed that the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law should again be invited to organize a symposium, to be held during its fifty-third session (A/AC.105/1045, para. 189).

The Subcommittee noted the proposal by Japan, co-sponsored by Austria, Canada, France, Nigeria and the United States of America, that the Subcommittee should include on its agenda a new item entitled "General exchange of information on practices in relation to non-legally binding instruments for outer space activities" (see A/AC.105/C.2/L.291). The Subcommittee noted that the delegation of Japan would conduct further consultations with a view to submitting a revised version of the proposal for consideration by the Committee at its fifty-sixth session, in June 2013 (A/AC.105/1045, paras. 179-182).

## **8. Space and sustainable development**

The Committee agreed that under the agenda item "Space and sustainable development" the following thematic areas, among others, could be considered: the use of space science and technology applications for socioeconomic development

and sustainable development; the outcomes of Rio+20; and education and capacity-building (A/67/20, para. 346).

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fiftieth session, agreed that the agenda item on the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) be renamed as “Space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda” (A/AC.105/1038, para. 238).

The Working Group of the Whole, at the fiftieth session of the Subcommittee, recommended that the modalities of a mechanism for closer interaction between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Committee on the two processes (Rio+20 and the post-2015 development agenda) should be further elaborated by the Committee at its fifty-sixth session. The aim of such a mechanism could be to provide a platform for the sharing of information on actions taken by member States of the Committee and the Office for Outer Space Affairs in their involvement to promote the role of space technology applications and use of space-derived geospatial data in those processes (A/AC.105/1038, annex I, paras. 8-11).

**9. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status**

The deliberations of the Committee on its agenda item entitled “Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status” at its fifty-fifth session are reflected in its report (A/67/20, paras. 261-267).

**10. Space and water**

The deliberations of the Committee on its agenda item on space and water at its fifty-fifth session are reflected in its report (A/67/20, paras. 279-289).

**11. Space and climate change**

The deliberations of the Committee on its agenda item on space and climate change at its fifty-fifth session are reflected in its report (A/67/20, paras. 290-302).

**12. Use of space technology in the United Nations system**

The deliberations of the Committee on its agenda item on the use of space technology in the United Nations system at its fifty-fifth session are reflected in its report (A/67/20, paras. 303-312).

The Committee will have before it the special report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, entitled “Space for agriculture development and food security” (A/AC.105/1042), and the report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on its thirty-third meeting (A/AC.105/1043).

**13. Future role of the Committee**

The deliberations of the Committee on its agenda item on the future role of the Committee at its fifty-fifth session are reflected in its report (A/67/20, paras. 313-323).

#### 14. Other matters

The deliberations of the Committee under its agenda item on other matters at its fifty-fifth session are reflected in its report (A/67/20, paras. 324-350).

##### *Composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2014-2015*

The composition of the bureaux for the period 2014-2015 is reflected in the report of the Committee on its fifty-fifth session (A/67/20, paras. 327-332), and in paragraphs 27-29 of Assembly resolution 67/113.

##### *Membership of the Committee*

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee, at their respective sessions in 2013, noted the applications for membership in the Committee submitted by Ghana (A/AC.105/1038, para. 10, and A/AC.105/1045, para. 10) and Belarus (A/AC.105/1045, para. 10). The Committee will have before it for consideration those applications for membership in the Committee.

##### *Observer status*

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee, at their respective sessions in 2013, noted the application of the Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology for permanent observer status with the Committee (A/AC.105/1038, para. 11, and A/AC.105/1045, para. 11). The Committee will have before it for consideration that application for permanent observer status with the Committee.

##### *Organizational matters*

The Committee, at its fifty-fourth session in 2011, agreed (see A/66/20, para. 298) 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.

##### *Other matters*

The Committee may wish to discuss matters in addition to those listed above, as appropriate.

*A half-day event entitled “Space: building the future today”*

At its fiftieth session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee recalled the agreement of the Committee (see A/67/20, para. 347) to organize at the fifty-sixth session of the Committee, in 2013, a half-day event entitled “Space: building the future today” to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the first space flight by a woman, Valentina Tereshkova, and to address the contribution of women to space activities (A/AC.105/1038, paras. 239-241).



## Annex

## Indicative schedule of work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifty-sixth session\*

The schedule of work laid out below is a general guide to the dates and times when items will be addressed during the course of the session. The consideration of all items can be advanced, extended or delayed, depending on the requirements of the members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and any organizational constraints faced during the course of the session.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Wednesday, 12 June 2013	1	Opening of the session		Special panel entitled "Space: building the future today" to mark the 50th anniversary of the first space flight by a woman and to address the contribution of women to space activities
	2	Adoption of the agenda		
	3	Statement by the Chair		
	4	General exchange of views		
Thursday, 13 June 2013	4	General exchange of views	4	General exchange of views
	5	Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes	5	Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes
	7	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-second session Technical presentations	7	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-second session Technical presentations
Friday, 14 June 2013	4	General exchange of views	4	General exchange of views
	5	Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes	6	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fiftieth session <sup>a</sup>
	7	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-second session Technical presentations	14	Other matters  Technical presentations
Monday, 17 June 2013	6	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fiftieth session <sup>a</sup>	6	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fiftieth session <sup>a</sup>
	8	Space and sustainable development	8	Space and sustainable development
	9	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status Technical presentations	9	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status  Technical presentations

\* At its thirty-eighth session, the Committee 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)*, para. 169 (b)).

<i>Date</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Tuesday, 18 June 2013	8	Space and sustainable development	10	Space and water
	9	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status	11	Space and climate change
	10	Space and water Technical presentations	12	Use of space technology in the United Nations system Technical presentations
Wednesday, 19 June 2013	10	Space and water	11	Space and climate change
	11	Space and climate change	12	Use of space technology in the United Nations system
	12	Use of space technology in the United Nations system Technical presentations	13	Future role of the Committee Technical presentations
Thursday, 20 June 2013	13	Future role of the Committee	13	Future role of the Committee
	14	Other matters Technical presentations	14	Other matters Technical presentations
	15	Report of the Committee to the General Assembly	15	Report of the Committee to the General Assembly

<sup>a</sup> The Working Group of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities will have interpretation services (see A/67/20, para. 348).