



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
10 February 2020

Original: English

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fifty-seventh session
Vienna, 3–14 February 2020**

Report of the Working Group on Space and Global Health

1. In accordance with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution [74/82](#), the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fifty-seventh session, convened its Working Group on Space and Global Health.
2. From 4 to 13 February 2020, the Working Group held three meetings, with Antoine Geissbühler (Switzerland) as Chair.
3. The Working Group had before it the note by the Secretariat entitled “Responses to the set of questions regarding policies, experiences and practices in the use of space science and technology for global health” ([A/AC.105/C.1/117](#), [A/AC.105/C.1/117/Add.1](#) and [A/AC.105/C.1/117/Add.2](#)).
4. The Working Group noted that, in addition to the meetings that the Working Group had held during the present session of the Subcommittee with the benefit of interpretation services, the Chair and interested delegations had held extensive informal consultations on the margins of the session.
5. The Working Group also noted that three presentations had been delivered in the context of the informal consultations, namely, on “Geographic information system-enabled global crisis management solution – a knowledge translation from Australia to Canada”, “Optimizing the allocation of health resources through realistic geospatial modelling” and on the wiki resource being developed by the University of Koblenz-Landau under the mandate of the Working Group.
6. The Working Group further noted that the informal consultations had enabled experts to discuss the responses received to the questions regarding policies, experiences and practices in the use of space science and technology for global health, identify possible gaps in national, regional and international capacities in using space science and technology and their applications for global health, and review mechanisms to facilitate the sharing of information, strengthen capacity-building and foster new synergies between the space and health sectors.
7. The Working Group found that the responses received so far to the questionnaire contained in document [A/AC.105/1202](#), annex III, appendix II, provided rich and useful information that would guide the Working Group further in shaping its recommendations to the Subcommittee. In this regard, the information that had been collected should be organized, as it covered many areas, with a view to establishing a globally accessible platform to enhance the sharing of information, best practices, tools and capacity-building resources in the area of space and global health.



8. The Working Group noted that many respondents to the questionnaire had pointed to the fact that the process of responding to the set of questions had enabled constructive discussions at the national level between the space and health sectors. It was nevertheless also noted that there was a need to encourage further coordination with ministries responsible for public health in responding to the set of questions. In this regard, it would be important to receive more responses in order to gather a broad collection of information that would further support the Working Group in developing concrete recommendations under its mandate.
9. The Working Group agreed that the Office for Outer Space Affairs should send a letter to the World Health Organization to inform it of the work of the Working Group and of the importance of receiving additional responses to the questionnaire.
10. The Working Group recommended that public health and medical experts be included in delegations to the sessions of the Subcommittee in order to broaden the basis for constructive work by the Working Group.
11. The Working Group discussed contributions to the work of the Working Group on the “Space2030” Agenda of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in accordance with its mandate, and presented to the Bureau of that Working Group a text for consideration.
12. In accordance with the multi-year workplan of the Working Group ([A/AC.105/1202](#), annex III, appendix I), the Working Group requested the Secretariat to invite further contributions to the questionnaire contained in the appendix to the present Working Group report.
13. The Working Group also requested the Secretariat to continue to invite States members of the Committee to provide the details of national points of contact for the Working Group.
14. At its [...] meeting, on [...] February, the Working Group adopted the present report.

Appendix

Questions regarding policies, experiences and practices in the use of space science and technology for global health

1. Please describe existing or planned formal cooperative agreements and other institutional arrangements (memorandums of understanding, letters of agreement, frameworks of collaboration, etc.) between the health sector and other sectors directly involved in space activities at the national level.
2. Please provide recommendations regarding the establishment of a dedicated platform for effective coordination among United Nations entities, other international organizations and relevant actors on space and global health issues.
3. Please describe existing or planned policy-enabled environmental and governance mechanisms for removing barriers to the effective use of space-based technologies in support of global health.
4. Please describe existing or planned policies on open data-sharing and participatory approaches to developing and improving access to geospatial information relevant to global health.
5. Please describe existing or planned efforts related to the geotagging of all assets relevant to health systems, including health information systems.
6. Please describe existing or planned intersectoral coordination and cooperation for effective international, regional, national and subnational capacity-building activities relevant to the application of space science and technology in the field of global health.
7. Please describe existing or planned mechanisms to engage educational institutions and other capacity-building mechanisms in motivating young health professionals to acquire skills and abilities required to efficiently use advantages provided by space technology, science and applications at an early stage in their careers.
8. Please describe existing or planned mechanisms to better integrate space-derived data and information into decision-making processes related to global health, and to harmonize and share such data.
9. Please describe how space technology and applications are integrated into health-related emergency planning and management and disaster management plans.
10. Please describe key activities, reference documents and plans relevant to the topic "Space for global health".
11. Please provide an overview of existing and planned practices and initiatives in the current uses of space (technology, applications, practices and initiatives) in support of global health and identify gaps, if any, in the following areas:
 - (a) Telemedicine and tele-health;
 - (b) Tele-epidemiology and environmental health;
 - (c) Space life sciences;
 - (d) Disaster and health emergency management;
 - (e) Other.