

20 June 2024

English only

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space  
Sixty-seventh session  
Vienna, 19–28 June 2024  
Item 7 of the provisional agenda\*  
Report of the Scientific and Technical  
Subcommittee on its sixty-first session**

**Report on the meetings of the Space and Global Health  
Network held on the margins of the sixty-seventh session of  
the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

1. At its sixty-fifth session, in 2022, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space endorsed the agreement that the Space and Global Health Network should provide annual reports to the Subcommittee through its Coordinator ([A/77/20](#), para. 168 and [A/AC.105/1258](#), para. 249 and Annex IV, para. 7 (d)). In 2023, at its sixtieth session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee agreed to invite the Network to participate as an observer in the sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees ([A/AC.105/1279](#), para. 238).
2. As part of its work, the Space and Global Health Network held two meetings, in hybrid format, on the 19 June 2024 on the margins of the sixty-seventh session of the Committee. More than 30 participants attended, including participants from both the space and health sectors, space agencies, academia and international organizations including the Office for Outer Space Affairs.
3. The objectives were (i) to discuss the progress of the implementation of the activities of the annual work plan shared during the sixty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and (ii) to advance on the Space and Global Health Curriculum through its dedicated taskforce.
4. The following points were discussed:
  - (a) A Draft long-term strategy on space and global health for the period 2025–2035 ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.417](#)) was presented by the Coordinator and available in all six official languages of the United Nations for further comments from the members States of the Committee;
  - (b) The outcomes of the Geneva Digital Health Day held on 30 May 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland, in the margins of the seventy-seventh World Health Assembly and organized by the Geneva Digital Health Hub (gdhub) and co-sponsored with the World Health Organization were discussed. Over 600 participants (in person and online) attended the event with over 50 sessions and 70 speakers. A dedicated track on Space and Global Health included high-level speakers on diverse topics (use of

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\* [A/AC.105/L.337](#).



remote sensing data emergency healthcare services in resource-limited settings, surveillance for climate-sensitive diseases etc.). The opportunity was also given to share the mission and strategy of the Space and Global Health Network and to emphasize the need to continue our efforts to strengthen the collaboration between space and global health actors. The conclusions of those sessions will be published in the annual report on Sciences and Technology trends of the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA);

(c) A Space and Global Hackathon was successfully organized by the Geneva Digital Health Hub (gdhub) and the European Space Agency (ESA) in Geneva (30 May–1 June 2024). A bootcamp took place ahead of the Hackathon with several experts which provided specific knowledge on space applications. This Hackathon served the key objective to drive capacity building and collaboration. Various innovations were presented and selected challenges will be supported by ESA through various acceleration packages. Three main areas of future work were identified around (i) sustainable development, (ii) the Charter for Space and Meteor disasters, and (iii) climate change variables. Various use cases presented during this Hackathon were found relevant for the Space and Global Health Network activities;

(d) A draft mapping of organizations working on the fields of space and global health was presented, with the aim to improve knowledge, identify potential gaps and support the collaboration between the different actors;

(e) The next key activities include (i) advance the work initiated on the space and global health curriculum, (ii) organize a workshop on technical interoperability in the sidelines of the World Health Summit (13–15 October) in Berlin, (iii) a regional conference on Space and Global Health organized by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs in collaboration with the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean will take place in Santiago de Chile (14–18 October), one session will be dedicated to the development of the curriculum, and (iv) participation to the AI for Life conference in Geneva (10 December). A specific track will focus on Space and Global Health;

(f) Other suggestions of activities were presented such as collecting existing material on climate change and environment, exploring interconnections between space radiation, space weather, and their impacts on human health. Further assessment will be conducted to define priorities of work considering the available resources;

(g) Participants also discussed ideas around law and regulations for eHealth applications in Space and on Earth. As examples, how the various existing conventions can be applied to the space industry? Or explore the possibility to establish a database of national legislations and regulations (eHealth on Earth) and draft provisions that could be integrated into domestic law through technical cooperation with international organization;

(h) The importance to stay focused on the identification and description of space-based essential health variables (S-EHVs) as agreed during the sixty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee was emphasized. This work has been identified as crucial for the space agencies;

(i) About the space and global health curriculum:

(i) A transdisciplinary taskforce was created as per the Space and Health Network's conclusions at the sixty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/C.1/2024/CRP.33). A Chair and Vice-Chair were appointed to lead this workstream, the taskforce consists of 17 members;

(ii) The work initiated include the definition of targets approved by the taskforce. First, the curriculum will target policy makers and decision-makers and introduce prominent issues on space technology and the use of space data to support current and nascent global health initiatives. Second, it will target masters and doctoral students and explore space resources and public health challenges with more granularity;

(iii) A series of case studies will be used to help students develop their familiarity with data sources and analytical skills. These case studies will likely include the use of satellite imagery to track disease vectors, monitor climate change impacts on health, and assess the role of disasters on health, among others. Participants discussed other several use cases e.g., malaria, vaccination, telemedicine, climate and environment with the emphasis to ensure a relevance to all the different regions in the world;

(iv) Inclusivity was discussed as a prominent aspect to consider e.g., people at different stages of life and from various locations;

(v) Two online MOOCs will be created to broaden the curriculum's appeal and efficacy and could be offered as standalone resources or as a part of hybrid models that could incorporate in-person workshops and internships. Certification will be an essential component and multiple models will be assessed to serve the various audiences in different locations;

(vi) The action plan includes the formation of dedicated subgroups within the taskforce to focus on essential deliverables such as content development, learning pathways, partnership development or the platform choice.

5. Delegations are encouraged to join the Space and Global Health Network, using the statement of intent (<https://sgh.network/>) and welcome to participate in the discussions and taskforces such as the one of the Curriculum.

6. The Space Global Health Network agreed to have their next meeting in the margin of the sixty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, scheduled to be held from 3 to 14 February 2025.

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