

**United Nations/Austria/European Space Agency Symposium on
Space Applications to Support the Plan of Implementation
of the World Summit on Sustainable Development**

**“Space systems: protecting and restoring water resources”
(Graz, Austria, 13-16 September 2005)**

REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSONS

**“Improving water sanitation and health through space systems”
Chairpersons: F. Benoit (Haiti)**

The purpose of this session was to identify water sanitation and health challenges that could be addressed with the help of space-based data and information.

The following presentations were made during this session:

- Space applications for telemedicine, by F. Feliciani, European Space Agency (delivered by O. Koudelka of Austria); and
- Space capabilities for improving water sanitation, by P. G. Diwakar, Indian Space Research Organisation, India.

Recommendations/conclusions

Based on the above presentations and the discussions that followed the presentations, the chairperson and interested panel members and participants of the session made the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. The benefit of using space-related technologies for improving sanitation was not enough highlighted. It is necessary to be proactive and not reactive with space-based information. For example, space-based information can be used for detecting chemical pollution from industries.
2. It is important to maximize the use of satellite information in detecting more and more health-related problems connected to the environment (malaria zones, sea pollution, ground water pollution, etc.).