

UNITED NATIONS
INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES (UN-Space)

Thirty-seventh session
24 August 2017, a.m.
Salle B, WHO Headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Orientation on preparation for UNISPACE+50 and beyond towards Space2030.
4. Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system: directions and anticipated results for the period 2018-2019, to be submitted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in June 2018.
5. UN-Space Special reports on initiatives and applications for space-related inter-agency cooperation, including special report on space weather (A/AC.105/1146).
6. Coordination of future plans and programmes of common interest for cooperation and exchange of views on current activities in the practical application of space technology and related areas.
7. Any other business.

Annotations*

1. **Opening of the session.**
2. **Adoption of the agenda.**
3. **Orientation on preparation for UNISPACE+50 and beyond towards Space2030.**

At the session, a representative of the Office for Outer Space Affairs will provide the Meeting with information on developments regarding the preparations for the fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, UNISPACE+50, to be marked in 2018.

4. **Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system: directions and anticipated results for the period 2018-2019, to be submitted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in June 2018.**

The objective of the Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system is to enhance space-related inter-agency cooperation and coordination among United Nations entities and to avoid the duplication of efforts in the use of space applications.

At its thirtieth session held in Geneva on 10-12 March 2010, the United Nations Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities agreed that the reports of the Secretary-General on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system served as a strategic tool for the United Nations to avoid duplication of efforts in the field of space science and technology, and that future reports should highlight efforts of the United Nations system in delivering as one on space-related activities for the development agenda.

At that session, the Meeting agreed that future reports should be restructured to address the thematic clusters of the Commission on Sustainable Development in the periods 2012-2013, 2014-2015 and 2016-2017.

The Meeting also agreed that the reports of the Secretary-General should be issued on a biennial basis, starting with the period 2012-2013, and a review of this reporting structure should be made in 2017.

The Meeting further agreed that in the year when there was no report of the Secretary-General, a special report on a selected topic should be considered (see item 5 below).

Given that at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 20-22 June 2012, Member States agreed to establish a high level political forum that would subsequently replace the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system: directions and anticipated results for the period 2012-2013 (A/AC.105/1014) focused on the objectives of the Rio+20 Conference and the coordination of deeper and broader use of space-derived geospatial data in support of the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development.

In 2014 and 2016 the focus of the Secretary-General's reports was on addressing the post-2015 development agenda (A/AC.105/1063*) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/AC.105/1115), respectively.

* The annotations are not part of the agenda adopted by the Inter-Agency Meeting. The Meeting may choose to focus discussion on selected agenda items of interest to participants.

In line with the agreement reached at the 30th session of UN-Space in 2010 (see above), participants are invited to discuss and agree on a continuation of reporting structure of the Secretary-General's reports, as well as on the focus of the upcoming report to be prepared in 2018.

5. UN-Space Special reports on initiatives and applications for space-related inter-agency cooperation, including special report on space weather (A/AC.105/1146).

At its fortieth session, in 2003, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space endorsed the proposal to strengthen inter-agency cooperation in the use of outer space within the United Nations system, as recommended by the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities at its twenty-third session. Based on a recommendation of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (A/AC.105/791 and Corr.1, para. 30), the Subcommittee invited United Nations entities to submit annual reports on specific themes (A/AC.105/804, paras. 93-95).

In response to that invitation, the Inter-Agency Meeting prepared in 2005 its first special report entitled "New and emerging technologies, applications and initiatives for space-related inter-agency cooperation" (A/AC.105/843).

At its 30th session in 2010, the Inter-Agency Meeting decided that special reports on initiatives and applications for space-related inter-agency cooperation shall be prepared on a biennial basis.

The subsequent special reports focused on themes: "Space benefits for Africa: contribution of the United Nations system" (A/AC.105/941) in 2009; "Use of space technology within the United Nations system to address climate change issues" (A/AC.105/991) in 2011; "Space for agriculture development and food security" (A/AC.105/1042) in 2013, and "Space for global health" (A/AC.105/1091) in 2015.

At its fifty-eighth session in 2015, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space requested the Secretariat to issue a special report on the implementation of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities, and to include in that report information on how United Nations entities supported the implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities in accordance with their existing mandates, on how United Nations entities could assist Member States in implementing the recommendations of the Group, and on means to coordinate the work of United Nations entities in that regard (A/70/20, para. 339)

For Special report by the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on the implementation of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities as pertaining to the United Nations system, entitled "Role of United Nations entities in supporting Member States in the implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities", issued in 2016, see A/AC.105/1116.

At its fifty-ninth session, in 2016, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in its capacity as the secretariat of UN-Space, would issue, for consideration by the Committee at its sixtieth session, a special report by UN-Space on space weather in the context of the preparations for UNISPACE+50, and would coordinate with the relevant United Nations entities in the preparation of that report (A/71/20, para. 276). The report has been prepared under the leadership of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and was shared with the Expert Group on Space Weather of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, which enriched the information in the report on various mechanisms in the area of space weather.

For the Special Report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on Developments within the United Nations System related to Space Weather, issued in 2017, see A/AC.105/1146.

Participants are invited to take note of the special report and consider future potential topics for UN-Space special reports.

6. Coordination of future plans and programmes of common interest for cooperation and exchange of views on current activities in the practical application of space technology and related areas.

Participants will be invited to report on recent developments in space-related activities of their entities. Special consideration shall be given to activities that may be of interest to other United Nations entities participating in the framework of UN-Space, such as opportunities for cooperation or needs for coordination. To the extent possible presentations or statements should be limited to a maximum of ten minutes.

7. Any other business.

a. Open informal session (24 August 2017).

Immediately after its present session, on Thursday, 24 August 2017, UN-Space will hold its thirteenth open informal session as integral part of the UN/WHO/Switzerland Conference on Strengthening Space Cooperation for Global Health. The event will take place in the form of a panel, entitled "*The transformative potential of space technology for development: approaches and opportunities in the UN system*".

b. Questionnaire on Copernicus.

Questionnaire on Copernicus services was circulated to UN-Space focal points by e-mail on 18 August 2017.

c. Future programme of work.

Participants will be invited to agree on the agenda, venue and schedule of the 38th session of UN-Space.