

8 February 2013

English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fiftieth session
Vienna, 11-22 February 2013

**Application for membership of the Committee on the
Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

Note by the Secretariat

The present document contains a copy of the application of Ghana for membership with the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Note Verbale of the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the International Organizations (Vienna) containing the application of Ghana, was received by the Secretariat on 24 October 2012 and was circulated to member States of the Committee in Note Verbale OOSA/2012/13, CU 2012/199/OOSA/CSRS.

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GHANA PERMANENT MISSION

REF. N°: SC/GE/UN.47

56, RUE DE MOLLEBEAU

1209 GENEVA

DATE:

24 October 2012

Dear Sir,

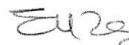
APPLICATION FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE ON PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPOUS)

The Ghana Space Science and Technology Centre (GSSTC), an institution of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission, has a strong desire/commitment to revolutionize and develop its own space science and technology facilities, in order to readily access and exploit space technology for national benefits.

2. In accordance with the above, and supportive of the Centre's objective, the Government of Ghana wishes to submit its application for Ghana's full membership of the United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPOUS). A resume of Ghana's activities in relation to space science and technology is attached.

3. I should be grateful if Ghana's application for membership of COPOUS would be considered favourably.

4. Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Ellen S. Nee-Whang (Mrs.)
Ambassador and Permanent
Representative

Dr. Yasushi Horikawa
Chairman of COPOUS
Office of the United Nations Office for
Outer Space Affairs
United Nations Office
WagramerStrasse 5
1400 Vienna
Austria

OFFICE FOR OUTER SPACE AFFAIRS (OOSA) / UNOV	
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Cc: Prof. Mazlan Othman
Director of the United Nations Office for
Outer Space Affairs
WagramerStrasse 5
1400 Vienna
Austria

GHANA SPACE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER RESUME

Introduction

The Ghana Space Science and Technology Centre (GSSTC) is an arm (Institution) of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC) a public (national) research and academic (postgraduate and doctoral) Institution which was established on January 01, 2011. The Centre, which is the brain-child of the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MEST), is currently housed in the premises of the Commission's Graduate School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences, Atomic Campus.

The primary focus of the Centre is to coordinate, undertake, spearhead, steer and manage all space science (including Astronomy) programmes, projects and research activities in the country. The long term goal of the GSSTC is to develop its own space science and technology facilities so that it can readily access and exploit space technology for national benefits. This will effectively revolutionize several aspects of our development including education, security, communication, science and technology road construction and maintenance, transport, industry, agriculture, health, etc.

First Phase Projects

The Center is currently undertaking a project of converting a "DORMANT" 32m communication satellite into a radio astronomical satellite under the auspices of Vodafone GH, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Ghana Atomic Energy Commission. The 32m telescope communication antenna commissioned in August 1981 is situated at Nkuntunse. When this project is completed, the telescope will be part of the VLPI network of antennas. The telescope will greatly improve the resolution of VLBI data. Consequently, the international community is looking up to Ghana to join the network.

The GSTC is also involved in outreach activities and public education programmes. The launch of the Centre has generated intense debate among some sections of the Ghanaian general public over its relevance in the midst of various demands brought to bear by the prevailing socio-economic conditions with particular reference to poverty. The relevance of a space programme to a poor farmer, or a fisherman have therefore been posed in some quarters. The Ghana Space Science and technology Center therefore considers it imperative that the general public of Ghana be well informed and educated about the benefits of space science and technology. In response to these concerns, the Center is currently embarking on an awareness programme to upgrade the appreciation of the general public of the essential need and potential benefits of the space Centre.

International Commitments

Ghana stands to become a member of a larger network of advance science and technology with opportunities for collaborative projects in science and technology. Ghana has already shown interest and contributed to international space related activities such as Observer, at COPUOS Session(s) in the past years including the meetings in 2011. Ghana also participated in previous United Nations Conferences on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer space such as the First UNISPACE in 1968, the Second UNISPACE (UNISPACE 82) in 1982, the third one, i.e. UNISPACE III in 1999 and the most recently, the International Space Science (ISS) for Humanitarian Benefits help in Vienna.

Opportunities for Young Scientists

Influx of renowned scientists through exchange programmes would contribute to enhanced interaction and sharing of knowledge, and experiences in the field of space science and technology and its applications among Ghanaian Scientists and their international colleagues. Additionally, being part of this scientific project sends the message to the world community of science and technology that Ghana intends to advance beyond basic science and technology.

Further, Ghana acknowledges space science technology as a tool for addressing some of the myriad problems confronting it, as a developing country. Climate change issues, food security, communication etc. Ghana has established a School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences (SNAS) a graduate school affiliated to the University of Ghana, Legon. In collaboration with South Africa a core group of faculty members are being trained to establish a space science curriculum for young scientists at the post graduate level. It is expected that, in the next ten years an average of ten students will be enrolled in the programme.

Collaborations

The GSSTC is collaborating with various national and international institutions to achieve its goals. Related national institutions include, the Center for Remote Sensing and GIS; Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Oceanography at the University of Ghana; Vodafone GH, etc. Internationally, institutions such as the Department of Science and Technology in South Africa; Africa Institute of Mathematical Sciences; University of Cape town; Cape Peninsular University of Science and Technology; Astrium in the UK; etc.