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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fifty-ninth session
Vienna, 7–18 February 2022
Item 16 of the provisional agenda*
Space and global health**

**Proposal by the Chair of the Working Group on Space and
Global Health regarding the establishment of a Space and
Global Health Network (SGH Network) to support and
sustain the implementation of the recommended Space and
Global Health Platform (SGH Platform)**

Taking into account the recommendations¹ adopted by the Working Group on Space and Global Health of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee calling for strengthened collaboration between the space and global health sectors, and considering the upcoming completion of its multi-year workplan (2019-2022)², this document proposes a way to maintain momentum and encourage the activities of the multiple stakeholders interested in connecting the domains of space and global health. In particular, this proposal builds upon the recommendation for the establishment of a globally accessible platform for space and global health³ on which the Chair has consulted Members of the Working-Group over the intersessional period, in accordance with the request by the Working-Group⁴, as endorsed by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its 58th session.

1. A new proposal is the establishment of a “**Space and Global Health Network**” (SGH Network), as an open and flexible network of governmental institutions, non-governmental entities and individuals. Membership to the SGH Network would be a formalised through the signature of a “Statement of Intent”, a draft of which is proposed in Annex 1 to this document.
2. Each key activity of the SGH Network would be implemented by a dedicated operational team. Each team would delegate one of its members to the so-called “**SGH Network Steering Committee**”, which would ensure communication and coherence between the various activities of the network. The Steering Committee would be chaired by the “**SGH Network Coordinator**”.

* [A/AC.105/C.1/L.392](#).

¹ [A/AC.105/1240](#), Annex III, para. 7.

² [A/AC.105/1202](#), Annex III, appendix I, para. 9.

³ [A/AC.105/1240](#), Annex III, para. 7, Recommendation 9.

⁴ [A/AC.105/1240](#), Annex III, para. 10.



3. The various activities of the SGH Network would be promoted and consolidated through the **Space and Global Health Platform** (SGH Platform), a dedicated, cooperative, globally accessible, multifaceted platform for information and community management, aiming at promoting effective collaboration on space and global health issues among Member States, United Nations entities, other international organizations and relevant actors.

4. The SGH Platform would be implemented and managed by the SGH Network Coordinator in close consultation with the Steering Committee and the SGH Network members.

5. Currently, the activities of the SGH Platform include:

(a) A prototype of a recommender system⁵ aimed at facilitating the identification of relevant stakeholders within the space and global health community. This activity is led by the University of Geneva under a funding by the government of Switzerland.

(b) A prototype of a knowledge representation and navigation system based on rich metadata and a graph database aimed at storing and querying multiple data structures related to the multifaceted domain of space and global health. This activity is led by the University of Geneva under a funding by the government of Switzerland.

(c) A wiki⁶ aimed at collaborative editing and management of information related to space and global health. This wiki, based on the Wikiversity environment⁷, is maintained by Prof. Dr. Engelbert Niehaus from the University Koblenz-Landau, Germany.

(d) A collaboration with the Geneva Health Forum⁸, a biannual event gathering 1'500+ participants from 80+ countries in Geneva and online, to help find solutions to global health challenges. The aim of this collaboration is to increase the visibility of space technologies within the global health community and strengthen cooperation.

6. Upon the completion by the Working-Group of the work under its workplan, it is deemed important to maintain a close link between the Space and Global Health Network and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) of COPUOS, as well as with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA), in order to leverage on their rich experience and expertise, their various relations within the United Nations system, and their convening capabilities, in particular during the STSC sessions. To this aim, OOSA is invited to maintain a close contact with the SGH Network and its Coordinator, especially to coordinate on scheduling the meetings of the SGH Network in the margin of STSC sessions, and to help book rooms at the Vienna International Center and publish (non-edited, non-translated) documents such as Conference Room Papers and non-papers.

7. Proposals to be considered by Member States for possible approval by the Working Group and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its 59th session:

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee is invited to consider the following actions:

(a) Establish "Space and global health" as a permanent item on the agenda of the Subcommittee from 2023 onwards;

(b) Welcome the establishment of a dedicated, cooperative, globally accessible and multifaceted Space and Global Health Platform ("SGH Platform") based in Geneva to promote effective collaboration on space and global health issues

⁵ The prototype of a recommender system was presented to the Working Group during an informal intersessional meeting held on 1 December 2021 over two time slots.

⁶ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki>.

⁷ https://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Space_and_Global_Health.

⁸ <https://site.ghf2022.org/>.

among Member States, United Nations entities, other international organizations and relevant actors;

(c) Welcome the establishment of a Space and Global Health Network (“SGH Network”) with a Coordinator;

(d) Invite the SGH Network to provide annual reports to the Subcommittee through its Coordinator;

(e) Agree that the work of the SGH Network should be facilitated by the Office for Outer Space Affairs within existing resources in particular for scheduling meetings in the margin of the sessions and publishing (non-edited, non-translated) documents.

Annex 1

Draft Statement of Intent for Participation in the Space and Global Health Network⁹

The intent of the Space and Global Health Network (SGH Network) is to increase collaboration and cooperation between the space domain and the global health domain. The SGH Network is an open and flexible network of governmental institutions, non-governmental entities and individuals willing to share experiences and expertise in the fields of space and/or global health, and contribute to the development and/or use of services and tools supporting these goals. To facilitate interactions, it is coordinated by a Network Coordinator.

Herein, this statement provides guidance and operational principles for the partners in this network.

Participation

Participation in the SGH Network is entirely voluntary and each participant's activities are funded through their own resources.

As a condition of participating in the SGH Network, the partners agree to a policy of free and open sharing of all data and information submitted to the network.

Operational Principles

The overall goals and objectives of the SGH Network are to:

- Implement, maintain, and develop the Space and Global Health (SGH Platform), a cooperative, globally accessible, multifaceted platform for information and community management, aiming at promoting effective collaboration on space and global health issues among Member States, United Nations entities, other international organizations and relevant actors. The SGH Platform is a collection of decentralized resources and services managed by various members of the Network.
- Collaborate with the STSC and with OOSA to leverage on the existing meetings to connect with the relevant stakeholders in the domain of space and global health.

To execute the objectives above, the functions of the SGH Network are to:

- Coordinate the consistent implementation, maintenance and development of the online resources and services provided to and by the SGH Platform.
- Foster in-presence meetings and exchanges amongst interested stakeholders, in particular during existing events, such as the STSC sessions and the Geneva Health Forum conferences.
- Promote the use of the SGH Platform amongst space domain professionals as well as global health professionals.
- Report to the STSC on a yearly basis through the Network Coordinator.

The SGH Network Steering Committee

Representatives of resources and services of the SGH Platform intend to form a Steering Committee to better coordinate the operation and interchange of the network, and guide its growth, enhancement and evolution. The Steering Committee intends to meet on approximately an annual basis to perform a review and provide guidance and recommendations. All members of the SGH Network are welcome to send representation to the Steering Committee meetings. These meetings are expected to

⁹ This draft statement is inspired by the [IAWN Statement of Intent](#), courtesy of OOSA.

take place in the margins of the STSC sessions. The SGH Network Steering Committee is chaired by the SGH Network Coordinator.

Signature

Signature on this Statement of Intent serves as an expression of interest in supporting the SGH Network and its objectives, but does not constitute a binding commitment.

[Signature by Official of Institute/Organization or by Individual member]
