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English only

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space  
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee  
Sixtieth session  
Vienna, 6–17 February 2023  
Item 14 of the provisional agenda\*  
Space and global health**

## **Status report of the Space and Global Health Network (SGH Network)**

**Submitted by the Coordinator of SGH Network**

### **I. Introduction**

1. The Space and Global Health Network (SGH Network) was established in 2022 as an outcome of the work of the STSC Working Group on Space and Global Health, which also resulted in the recommendations on space and global health, contained in the General Assembly in its resolution [A/RES/77/120](#) adopted on December 12, 2022.
2. In its resolution [A/RES/77/121](#) of 12 December 2022 on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, the General Assembly welcomed the establishment of the Space and Global Health Network.
3. The SGH Network is an open and flexible network of governmental institutions, international organizations, non-governmental entities, individuals and other relevant stakeholders. Membership to the SGH Network is formalised through the signature of a “Statement of Intent”.
4. Each key activity of the SGH Network is implemented by a dedicated operational team. Each team delegates one of its members to the so-called “SGH Network Steering Committee”, which ensures communication and coherence between the various activities of the network. The Steering Committee is chaired by the Coordinator of the SGH Network.
5. The various activities of the SGH Network are 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. The establishment of the SGH Platform was noted with satisfaction by the General Assembly in para. 12 of its resolution [A/RES/77/121](#).

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\* [A/AC.105/C.1/L.405](#).



6. The SGH Platform is implemented and managed by the SGH Network Coordinator in close consultation with the Steering Committee and the SGH Network members.
7. The SGH Network is invited to provide annual reports to the Subcommittee through its Coordinator.

## II. Current status of the SGH Platform

8. Currently, the activities of the SGH Platform include:
  - 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 Geneva Digital Health Hub at the University of Geneva under a funding by the government of Switzerland. This tool, known as the “Implementome” is available as a web portal and as an app on both Android and iOS mobile operating systems.
  - A recommender system which leverages the “Implementome” knowledge base and aims at facilitating the identification of relevant stakeholders within the space and global health community. This activity is led by the Geneva Digital Health Hub at the University of Geneva under a funding by the government of Switzerland.
  - A wiki aimed at collaborative editing and management of information related to space and global health. This wiki, based on the Wikiversity environment, is maintained by Prof. Dr. Engelbert Niehaus from the RPTU – University of Kaiserslautern-Landau, Germany.
  - A collaboration with the Geneva Health Forum, 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.

## III. Activities of the SGH Network in 2022

9. During the Geneva Health Forum, held in Geneva and online from 3–5 May, 2022, the SGH Network organized two events. A round table on “advancing global health with space technologies” (<https://site.ghf2022.org/rt3/>) moderated by the Coordinator of the SGH Network, with the objective to present various actors working on space and global health, to discuss current and planned activities of the SGH Network, and to get feedback from global health actors on further developments and the further involvement of relevant actors. Panellists included representatives from UNOOSA, WHO, ESA, UNITAR/UNOSAT, the government of Switzerland, the University of Geneva, the University Koblenz-Landau, and the Saarland University. In parallel, the SGH Platform tools were demonstrated at the Forum’s Global Health lab.
10. The SGH Network and Platform was presented at the UN-Space session of the United Nations/Austria World Space Forum 2022 “Sustainability in Space for sustainability on Earth” on December 14, 2022 (<https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/world-space-forum/2022/world-space-forum-2022.html>). The online session on “Space in the United Nations”, was moderated by the Acting Director of UNOOSA. Speakers included the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Coordinator of the SGH Network, a Senior Advisor of the World Health Organization, the Chief of the Big Data Branch, Science Division of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Chief, Space Applications Section, Information and Communications Technology and

Disaster Risk Reduction Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Chief, Disaster Risk Management and Climate Resilience Section, United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT), representatives from the Government of Switzerland, a representative from the European Space Agency, a representative from academia, and a representative from the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC).

11. The Session facilitated dialogue on strengthening space-related cooperation among different stakeholders in support of global health, and discussed the need to increase contributions of space science, technology and applications to enhance space life sciences and digital health technologies, such as telehealth, telemedicine and tele-epidemiology, for the prevention and control of diseases, promotion of health, and the advancement of medical research and health practices.

12. Participants to the Forum noted with satisfaction that the UN-Space Session was the first concrete step in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 77/120 and 77/121 and encouraged greater participation of health and space community in the work of the SGH Network with the objective of increasing the use and application of space science and technology in the global health domain as a means of promoting equitable, affordable and universal access to health for all.

#### **IV. Proposed activities of the SGH Network in 2023**

13. Two meetings of the SGH Network were held in the margin of the STSC session on February 8th and February 10th, 2023, both online and in the VIC, with the support of OOSA. The participants agreed on a revised version of the “Statement of Intent for Participation to the Space and Global Health Network”, see annex. They also discussed a set of activities to be launched in 2023 in order to increase the visibility, reach and impact of the SGH Network.

14. A dedicated website will be created in order to present the work of the SGH Network and to give access to relevant documents. Additional online collaboration tools will also be made available to facilitate the cooperation of SGH Network participants.

15. A dedicated community of practice will be established within the Implementome knowledge management and recommender tool, available as a web portal (<https://gdhub.org/implementome/>) and as an app both on iOS and Android app stores. SGH Network participants will be encouraged to join this virtual Community of Practice and describe their profile and activities related to Space and Global Health.

16. A side event could be organized in the margin of the World Health Assembly which will be held in Geneva from May 21st to May 30th, 2023, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and with the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA, <https://gesda.global/>).

17. A side event could be organized in the margin of the COPUOS meeting which will be held in Vienna from May 31st to June 9th, 2023.

18. SGN Network members are encouraged to participate to events such as the “Space and G20” event, as well as other regional and national events.

19. SGH Network members are encouraged to advertise the activities of the Network to the various associations they are part of, and the possibility of joining the Network by signing the “Statement of intent”.

20. SGH Network members are encouraged to prepare didactic material targeted to schoolchildren.

## Annex

### **Statement of Intent for Participation in the Space and Global Health Network**

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 international organizations, governmental institutions, non-governmental entities, other relevant stakeholders, 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 participants 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 participants 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 Platform (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 distributed 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

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]

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