

NON-PAPER

Proposed changes to the draft resolution on space and global health.

Compiled by the Chair of the Working Group on Space and Global Health

I. Changes agreed at the informal meeting of the Working Group on Space and Global Health held on 8 February 2022

Draft resolution on space and global health

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [51/122](#) of 13 December 1996, [54/68](#) of 6 December 1999, [59/2](#) of 20 October 2004, [66/71](#) of 9 December 2011, [69/85](#) of 5 December 2014, [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, [71/90](#) of 6 December 2016, [73/91](#) of 7 December 2018 and [76/3](#) of 25 October 2021,

Also recalling the recommendations contained in the resolution entitled “The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development”, adopted by the third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,¹ in which participating States called for action to improve public health services by expanding and coordinating space-based services for telemedicine and for controlling infectious diseases,

Further recalling the fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50) and its thematic priority 5, on strengthened space cooperation for global health,

Acknowledging the importance of the contribution of space science and technology and their applications to efforts towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,² in particular Sustainable Development Goal 3, on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages,

Emphasizing that overarching objective 2 of the “Space2030” Agenda,³ to harness the potential of space to solve everyday challenges and leverage space-related innovation to improve the quality of life, could be attained by strengthening space-related cooperation in support of global health, by improving the use and application of space medicine, science and technology, innovations in the global health domain, cooperation and the sharing of information, [including developing mechanism to maintain confidentiality of personal data](#), and tools to improve [research advancement](#), the timeliness and effectiveness of public health and health-care interventions, and by enhancing capacity-building in space medicine, science and technology,

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

¹ *Report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 19–30 July 1999* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.1.3), chap. I, resolution 1.

² Resolution [70/1](#).

³ Resolution [76/3](#).

Convinced of the importance of space science, space technology and space applications to enhance space life sciences and digital health technologies, such as telehealth, telemedicine⁴ and tele-epidemiology, for the prevention and control of diseases and global health issues, the promotion of human health, environmental health, animal health and food sourcing and supply, and the advancement of medical research and health practices, including the provision of health-care services to individuals and communities irrespective of geographical location as a means of promoting equitable, affordable and universal access to health for all,

Noting with satisfaction the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its subsidiary bodies and the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat in the area of space and global health, including in the framework of action team 6, on public health, established to implement the recommendations of the third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as well as the action team 6 follow-up initiative, the Expert Group on Space and Global Health, UNISPACE+50 thematic priority 5, on strengthened space cooperation for global health, and the Working Group on Space and Global Health of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee,

Deeply concerned about the devastating global effects of emerging infectious diseases and other emergencies with an impact on health, including the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, to the detriment of human life, society and development, and urging the international community to embrace a One Health approach by strengthening the role of space-based solutions, in particular telehealth, in monitoring, preparedness and response activities,

1. *Encourages* United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, Governments and the private sector to pursue effective coordination in all key space activities relevant to global health;

2. *Encourages* formalized cooperation between health authorities and space authorities at the domestic level, and welcomes existing cross-sectoral networks that foster the exchange of ideas between the space and health sectors;

3. *Encourages* Member States to establish a policy-enabled environment and governance mechanisms, with due consideration of legal and ethical issues, for removing barriers to the effective use of space-based technologies, including telemedicine solutions [and other emergent technologies](#);

4. *Also encourages* Member States to promote open data-sharing policies and participatory approaches to developing and improving access to all geospatial information relevant to global health, including remote sensing and Earth observation data, whenever possible;

5. *Further encourages* Member States to enable organizational and technical interoperability and promote research and innovation activities to facilitate the development and implementation of space-based science and technology in the health sector;

6. *Urges* United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations to support the wider development of, equitable access to and application of space solutions for global health, public health, [including epidemics and pandemics](#), emergencies that may have an impact on health, and the individual health needs of Member States, and encourages the implementation of a broader range of space solutions for sustainable development, including public-private partnerships;

7. *Encourages* Member States and participating entities to advance their efforts related to the geotagging of all assets relevant to health systems, including health information systems, and to make them available to further the attainment of health goals;

⁴ [Footnote to include telepharmacy and other care-production activities and refer to previous documents](#)

7 bis. Encourages Member States to recognize the relevance of accessing the space environment and space analogues⁵ for health and life sciences research and development, especially in the area of astronaut health for social and economic benefit on Earth;

7 ter. Encourages Member States to actively promote international cooperation in the field of space medicine on the basis of equal opportunities for all interested participants in the interests of humankind's further exploration of outer space, and also the creation of a scientific and technological base for further development and application in the interests of global health;

8. *Encourages* Member States to conduct appropriate drills and exercises to benchmark their operational preparedness and response capacities and capabilities for the appropriate use of space technologies in responding to global health events;

9. *Welcomes* the establishment of a dedicated, cooperative, globally accessible, multifaceted platform based in Geneva to promote effective collaboration on space and global health issues among Member States, United Nations entities, other international organizations and relevant actors;

10. *Emphasizes* that all key activities, reference documents and plans relevant to space for global health carried out or prepared by United Nations entities should be monitored and compiled on an annual basis, including those of the World Health Organization, other international organizations and States members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as well as, to the extent possible, non-governmental organizations and other non-governmental actors, and also emphasizes that the resulting annual compilation of activities should serve as a reference to identify and discuss gaps and opportunities and should be shared broadly in an effort to raise awareness and promote cooperation among relevant actors in this domain;

11. *Recognizes* the importance of analysing and assessing the roles and interests of current actors in the domain of space and global health, with the aim of promoting synergy, complementarity, cooperation and coordination among all actors;

12. *Emphasizes* the need to enhance, in an equitable and sustainable manner, intersectoral coordination and cooperation for effective international, regional, national and subnational capacity-building activities relevant to the application of space science and technology in the field of global health;

13. *Encourages* Member States to engage learning institutions and other capacity-building mechanisms in motivating young health professionals, at an early stage, to acquire space-related skills and abilities;

14. *Agrees* to promote capacity-building events, to be organized by United Nations entities and other relevant actors, with the objective of further promoting awareness of and engagement with regard to the important contribution of space science and technology among actors applying One Health approaches, with a view to increasing the number of organizations and other actors in the health domain that are actively engaged in using space science and technology.

⁵ Space analogues (e.g., parabolic flights, bed rest studies, Antarctica, and other isolated, confined, extreme (ICE) environments which simulate the space environment on Earth)

II. Changes received after the informal meeting of the Working Group on Space and Global Health held on 8 February 2022 from the Delegation of Paraguay

- (a) *Conscious* that the work done by the UNOOSA (COPUOS?) in the field of space health sector can contribute to sustainable development, especially with programmes aimed at enhancing the quality of life in various ways, including improving human health,
- (b) *Recognizing* the success of the space health management application of telehealth and telemedicine in the improvement of access to health services,
- (c) *Noting* with concern that among the gaps in the area of telemedicine and telehealth are the limited uptake of information technology in the public health infrastructure; the low level of competence of most medical staff in applying digital technologies and information systems in health care and for medical diagnosis, pharmacy access; the lack of harmonized data-sharing standards among the various manufacturers of medical equipment.
- (d) *Noting (Welcoming)* The Report of the Working Group on Space and Global Health (AC105/C1/L403E) on the work conducted under its multi-year work plan.

Paraguay suggests adding items 14bis and 14 ter.

14bis. *Encourages* Member States to implement the appropriate governance measures in order to create national networks between academia/national experts/telecommunication regulatory authorities and science and technology authorities to enlarge the access and use of digital technologies and information systems in health care.

14ter. *Requests* the UNOOSA to strengthen capacity building and networking in Latin America, Asia and the Pacific, and Africa through regional Technical Cooperation projects and to support field projects for Policy development for strengthened collaboration between the space and global health as an efficient strategy to improve the use of space science and technology for global health access of beneficiary states and to take better advantage opportunities offered by bilateral or multilateral collaboration.