



# General Assembly

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## Committee on the Peaceful

### Uses of Outer Space

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

Forty-third session

Vienna, 20 February-3 March 2006

## Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of the Chair.
3. Statement by the Chair.
4. General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities.
5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications.
6. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
7. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment.
8. Space debris.
9. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.
10. Space-system-based telemedicine.
11. Near-Earth objects.
12. Space-system-based disaster management support.
13. International Heliophysical Year 2007.
14. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in



space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries.

15. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
16. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

## **Annotations\***

### **2. Election of the Chair**

In paragraph 55 of its resolution 60/99 of 8 December 2005, the General Assembly urged the Group of Asian States to nominate its candidate for the office of Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the period 2006-2007 in time for the Subcommittee to begin its work at its forty-third session as scheduled; and in paragraph 56 of the resolution the Assembly agreed that, upon the nomination of the candidate of the Group of Asian States for the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Subcommittee should elect its Chair.

### **3. Statement by the Chair**

Following the election, the Chair will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that have taken place since its forty-second session. After the statement, the Subcommittee will organize its schedule of work.

### **4. General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities**

The annual written reports submitted by Member States on their space activities will be made available to the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/857). It was suggested, as a general guideline, that statements under this agenda item should be roughly 5-10 minutes in length (see A/AC.105/786, para. 16).

In paragraph 35 of its resolution 60/99, the General Assembly invited the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities to continue to contribute to the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and to report to the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work conducted at its annual session. The report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on the work of its twenty-sixth session, in 2006, will be before the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/859).

### **5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications**

In paragraph 13 of its resolution 60/99, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee, at its forty-third session, should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole to consider the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

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\* The annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Subcommittee.

The views of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space regarding the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, including activities for the period 2005-2006, are set out in the report on its forty-eighth session.<sup>1</sup> In paragraph 17 of its resolution 60/99, the General Assembly endorsed the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2006, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications (see A/AC.105/840, sects. II and III and annex III) and endorsed by the Committee.<sup>2</sup>

The Subcommittee will have before it the report of the Expert, covering the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications in 2005 and 2006, as well as a listing of States contributing to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (A/AC.105/861).

The Subcommittee will also have before it the following reports on training courses, symposiums and workshops held in 2005 under the auspices of the Programme:

(a) Second Regional Workshop on Evaluating the Impact of the 1990-2004 Series of the United Nations/Sweden International Training Course on Remote Sensing Education for Educators, held in São José dos Campos, Brazil, from 21 to 25 February (A/AC.105/853);

(b) United Nations/Australia Training Course on Satellite-Aided Search and Rescue, held in Canberra from 14 to 18 March (A/AC.105/851);

(c) United Nations/Algeria/European Space Agency International Seminar on the Use of Space Technology for Disaster Management: Prevention and Management of Natural Disasters, held in Algiers from 22 to 26 May (A/AC.105/852);

(d) United Nations/Austria/European Space Agency Series of Symposia on Space Applications to Support the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Graz, Austria, in 2003, 2004 and 2005 (A/AC.105/844);

(e) United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on Space Education and Capacity-Building for Sustainable Development, held in Kitakyushu, Japan, on 14 and 15 October (A/AC.105/854);

(f) United Nations/International Academy of Astronautics Workshop on Small Satellites in the Service of Developing Countries, held in Fukuoka, Japan, on 19 October (A/AC.105/855);

(g) United Nations/European Space Agency/National Aeronautics and Space Administration Workshop on the International Heliophysical Year 2007, held in Abu Dhabi and Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates, from 20 to 23 November (A/AC.105/856).

## **6. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)**

In paragraph 13 of its resolution 60/99, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole to consider

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 20 and corrigendum* (A/60/20 and Corr.1), paras. 87-99.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 88 and 94.

implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

In paragraph 40 of resolution 60/99, the Assembly noted with satisfaction that the Committee would be establishing a closer link between its work to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development by contributing to the thematic areas that would be addressed by the Commission.

At its forty-eighth session, in 2005, the Committee had agreed that, in order to establish a closer link between its work relating to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III and the work being carried out by the Commission on Sustainable Development,<sup>3</sup> member States of the Committee should be requested to provide inputs to a concise document, to be transmitted to the Commission, on the contribution that space science and technology and their applications could make to the issues of the thematic cluster of the Commission for the period 2006-2007. The Committee agreed that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should, at its forty-third session, review and finalize the document and, on behalf of the Committee, transmit it to the Commission.<sup>4</sup>

The thematic cluster of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the period 2006-2007 comprises energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change (A/59/174, para. 231).

**7. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment**

In paragraph 10 (a) of its resolution 60/99, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee consider this item at its forty-third session. The views of the Committee are set out in the report on its forty-eighth session.<sup>5</sup>

**8. Space debris**

In paragraph 10 (b) of its resolution 60/99, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee consider this item in accordance with the new workplan adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-second session (A/AC.105/848, annex II, para. 6). In paragraph 14 of the resolution, the Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on Space Debris to consider the issues in subparagraph (c) below. According to the workplan, the Subcommittee, in 2006, would:

(a) Review the draft space debris mitigation document arising from the intersessional activity of the Working Group on Space Debris and update it as necessary. Consider the process by which the document, when agreed, could be updated from time to time. Continue, as necessary, the dialogue with member States on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space;

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid., paras. 49-53.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., para. 51.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., paras. 119-122.

(b) Continue regular reporting by Member States and international organizations on their space debris research programmes. In addition, request that Member States and international organizations also continue, on a voluntary basis, to report to the Subcommittee on their space debris mitigation practices;

(c) Consider, through the Working Group on Space Debris to consider the issues arising from the workplan and, in particular, the space debris mitigation document of the Subcommittee. The Working Group should also consider the workplan for later years and report as necessary on changes that may be considered appropriate. Continue with the intersessional work as required to expedite agreement on a space debris mitigation document.

Pursuant to paragraph 27 of resolution 60/99, the Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat on national research on space debris, the safety of space objects with nuclear power sources on board and problems relating to their collision with space debris, containing information received by the Secretariat from Member States (A/AC.105/862).

#### **9. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space**

In paragraph 10 (b) of its resolution 60/99, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its forty-third session, consider this item in accordance with the workplan for the period 2003-2006, adopted by the Subcommittee at its fortieth session (A/AC.105/804, annex III) and amended at its forty-second session (A/AC.105/848, annex III, para. 8); and in paragraph 15 of resolution 60/99, the Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee, at its forty-third session, should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space and that the Working Group should continue its intersessional work on the topics described in the multi-year workplan as amended by the Subcommittee at its forty-second session.

In paragraph 16 of resolution 60/99, the Assembly agreed that a joint technical workshop on the objectives, scope and general attributes of a potential technical safety standard for nuclear power sources in outer space should be organized together with the International Atomic Energy Agency and held during the forty-third session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. The joint technical workshop will be held from 20 to 22 February 2006.

#### **10. Space-system-based telemedicine**

In paragraph 10 (b) of its resolution 60/99, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its forty-third session, consider this item in accordance with the workplan adopted by the Committee at its forty-sixth session.<sup>6</sup> According to the workplan, the Subcommittee will, at its forty-third session, hear presentations on possible bilateral or multilateral projects to develop further space-based telemedicine applications through international cooperation.

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<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, *Fifty-eighth session, Supplement No. 20 (A/58/20)*, para. 138.

## **11. Near-Earth objects**

In paragraph 10 (b) of its resolution 60/99, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its forty-third session, consider this item in accordance with the workplan adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-first session (A/AC.105/823, annex II, para. 18) and amended at its forty-second session (A/AC.105/848, annex I, para. 20).

According to the workplan, the Subcommittee, at its forty-third session, would:

(a) Consider reports from Member States and international organizations on their near-Earth object activities, including missions, search and follow-up, as well as plans for future activity;

(b) Consider the need for a working group in 2007;

(c) Update the work programme for the third year as necessary and consider the need for intersessional work.

The reports mentioned in subparagraph (a) above will be contained in document A/AC.105/C.1/L.284.

Additionally, the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects will consider the way forward and, specifically, the possible need for further activity to be carried out nationally, regionally or through international cooperation. Such cooperation should be considered together with the prospects for harmonization and avenues for broader collaboration.

## **12. Space-system-based disaster management support**

In paragraph 10 (b) of its resolution 60/99, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its forty-third session, consider this item in accordance with the workplan adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-first session (A/AC.105/823, annex II, para. 15) and as amended at its forty-second session (A/AC.105/848, annex I, para. 21).

According to the workplan, the Subcommittee, at its forty-third session, should:

(a) Review the recommendations of the Action Team on Disaster Management, with a view to their implementation;

(b) Organize a one-day workshop/symposium on disaster management involving communication/meteorological satellite operators;

(c) Exchange information with specialized agencies in the United Nations system on their activities on the subject of space-system-based disaster management support, as well as the regional disaster management structures.

In connection with subparagraph (a) above, the Subcommittee will have before it the study of the ad hoc group of experts on the possibility of creating an international entity to provide for coordination and the means of realistically optimizing the effectiveness of space-based services for use in disaster management (A/AC.105/C.1/L.285).

The workshop mentioned in subparagraph (b) above will take place on the afternoons of 23 and 24 February.

In connection with subparagraph (c) above, reports by specialized agencies of the United Nations system on their activities on the subject of space-system-based disaster management support will be made available to the Subcommittee in a conference room paper.

**13. International Heliophysical Year 2007**

In paragraph 10 (b) of its resolution 60/99, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its forty-third session, consider this item in accordance with the workplan adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-second session (A/AC.105/848, annex I, para. 22).

According to the workplan, the Subcommittee, at its forty-third session, would consider reports on planning activities by the secretariat of the International Heliophysical Year and interested Member States and scientific organizations. Results of the initial International Heliophysical Year/United Nations Basic Space Science Initiative workshop will be presented by the secretariat of the year.

**14. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries**

In paragraph 10 (c) of its resolution 60/99, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee consider this item, at its forty-third session, as a single issue/item for discussion.

**15. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**

In paragraph 11 of its resolution 60/99, the General Assembly noted that the Subcommittee, at its forty-third session, would submit its proposal to the Committee for a draft provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, in 2007. In accordance with an agreement reached by the Committee at its forty-second session, discussion under this item should include identification of subjects to be dealt with as single issues/items for discussion or under multi-year workplans.<sup>7</sup> Pursuant to paragraph 13 of resolution 60/99, this item will be considered by the Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened at the forty-third session of the Subcommittee.

*Industry symposium*

In paragraph 12 of resolution 60/99, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the symposium to strengthen the partnership with industry should be organized during the first week of the forty-third session of the Subcommittee and should address synthetic aperture radar missions and their applications. At its forty-eighth session, the Committee had endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that the symposium be held on the afternoon of the first day of the forty-third session and that the full time available to the

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/54/20 and Corr.1), annex I, sect. A.

Subcommittee on that afternoon should be used for the symposium (A/AC.105/848, annex I, para. 25).<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid., *Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/60/20 and Corr.1), para. 172.

## Annex

Indicative schedule of work<sup>a</sup>

| <i>Date</i>                             | <i>Morning</i>  | <i>Afternoon</i>   |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Week of 20-24 February 2006</b>      |   |  |
| Monday, 20 February                     | Item 1. Adoption of the agenda<br>Item 2. Election of the Chairman<br>Item 3. Statement by the Chairman<br>Item 4. General exchange of views                            | Industry symposium on synthetic aperture radar missions and their applications   |
| Tuesday, 21 February                    | Item 4. General exchange of views<br>Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>b</sup><br>Item 7. Remote sensing                                      | Item 4. General exchange of views<br>Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>b</sup><br>Item 6. UNISPACE III <sup>b</sup>                                    |
| Wednesday, 22 February                  | Item 4. General exchange of views<br>Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>b</sup><br>Item 6. UNISPACE III <sup>b</sup><br>Item 7. Remote sensing | Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>b</sup><br>Item 6. UNISPACE III <sup>b</sup><br>Item 7. Remote sensing   |
| Thursday, 23 February                   | Item 6. UNISPACE III <sup>b</sup><br>Item 9. Nuclear power sources <sup>c</sup><br>Item 12. Disaster management support   | Item 9. Nuclear power sources <sup>c</sup><br>Item 12. Disaster management support<br>Workshop on disaster management involving communication/meteorological satellite operators |
| Friday, 24 February                     | Item 9. Nuclear power sources <sup>c</sup><br>Item 12. Disaster management support<br>Item 14. Geostationary orbit  | Item 12. Disaster management support<br><br>Workshop on disaster management involving communication/meteorological satellite operators   |
| <b>Week of 27 February-3 March 2006</b> |   |  |
| Monday, 27 February                     | Item 8. Space debris <sup>d</sup><br>Item 10. Space-system-based telemedicine<br>Item 14. Geostationary orbit   | Item 8. Space debris <sup>d</sup><br>Item 10. Space-system-based telemedicine<br>Item 14. Geostationary orbit  |
| Tuesday, 28 February                    | Item 8. Space debris <sup>d</sup><br>Item 10. Space-system-based telemedicine<br>Item 11. Near-Earth objects  | Item 8. Space debris <sup>d</sup><br>Item 10. Space-system-based telemedicine<br>Item 11. Near-Earth objects   |

| <i>Date</i>        | <i>Morning</i>   | <i>Afternoon</i>  |
|--------------------|--|---|
| Wednesday, 1 March | Item 11. Near-Earth objects<br>Item 13. International Heliophysical Year 2007<br>Item 15. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee <sup>b</sup> | Item 10. Space-system-based telemedicine<br>Item 13. International Heliophysical Year 2007<br>Item 15. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee <sup>b</sup>                   |
| Thursday, 2 March  | Item 11. Near-Earth objects<br>Item 13. International Heliophysical Year 2007<br>Item 15. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee <sup>b</sup> | Item 13. International Heliophysical Year 2007<br>Adoption of the report of the Working Group on Space Debris<br>Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space |
| Friday, 3 March    | Adoption of the report of the Working Group of the Whole<br>Item 16. Report to the Committee   | Item 16. Report to the Committee  |

<sup>a</sup> At its thirty-eighth session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that member States would continue to be provided with an indicative schedule of work, which would be without prejudice to the actual timing of consideration of specific agenda items (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/50/20)*, paras. 168 and 169 (b)).

<sup>b</sup> The Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 60/99, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of items 5, 6 and 15. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of those items on Friday, 3 March, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group of the Whole.

<sup>c</sup> The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 60/99, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 9. The joint technical workshop, to be organized together with the International Atomic Energy Agency, will be held from 20 to 22 February. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 2 March, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

<sup>d</sup> The Working Group on Space Debris, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 60/99, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 8. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 2 March, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group on Space Debris.