



General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**

Forty-sixth session
Vienna, 11-20 June 2003

Provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session

I. Provisional agenda

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2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Election of officers.
4. Statement by the Chairman.
5. General exchange of views.
6. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
7. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
8. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fortieth session.
9. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-second session.
10. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
11. Space and society.
12. Other matters.
13. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.



II. Annotations*

1. Opening of the session

At the opening of the session, the representative of Austria will report on the results of the intersessional informal consultations, facilitated and convened by Austria, on the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the third term. The Committee will take action on the results of the informal consultations.

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Election of officers

4. Statement by the Chairman

Following the adoption of the agenda by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the organization of work, the Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Committee that have taken place since its forty-fifth session. The indicative schedule of work, which will be followed with flexibility, is contained in the annex to the present document.

5. General exchange of views

The Committee will begin its substantive work with a general exchange of views.

6. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes

In paragraph 42 of its resolution 57/116, the General Assembly requested the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

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

In paragraph 27 of its resolution 57/116, the General Assembly agreed that, in accordance with paragraph 30 of its resolution 55/122, the Committee should include in the agendas of its forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions an item on the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III). Pursuant to paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 57/116, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fortieth session considered, through its Working Group of the Whole, the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III. The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole concerning the work conducted by the action teams established by the Committee at its forty-fourth session and the establishment of an action team for recommendation 9, "Improve knowledge-sharing through the promotion of universal access to space-based communication services". The Working Group of the Whole

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

agreed that the action team for recommendation 9 should submit to the Committee at its forty-sixth session a document containing the objectives, work plan and principal products to be delivered (A/AC.105/804, para. 57 and annex II, paras. 7-13).

At its forty-fifth session, the Committee agreed that it was important that all action teams continue to report to the Committee. Reports and information submitted by the action teams will be made available to the Committee.

In paragraph 28 of its resolution 57/116, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction that the Committee had started to prepare a report under the agenda item on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III for submission to the Assembly, so that the Assembly might review and appraise, at its fifty-ninth session, in accordance with paragraph 16 of its resolution 54/68, the implementation of the outcome of UNISPACE III and consider further actions and initiatives, and agreed that, in that context, the Working Group established by the Committee to prepare the above-mentioned report should be reconvened at the forty-sixth session of the Committee.

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, through its Working Group of the Whole, considered its inputs for the report to be prepared by the Committee. As agreed by the Working Group of the Whole, the action teams have been requested to complete and submit the template developed by the Working Group of the Whole. The Committee will have before it completed templates submitted by action teams. The Committee will also have before it inputs provided by United Nations entities, organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee and regional entities in accordance with the guidelines developed by the Working Group of the Whole (A/AC.105/804, para. 67 and annex II, paras. 14-20).

8. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fortieth session

In accordance with paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 57/116, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fortieth session considered the substantive items below.

United Nations Programme on Space Applications

The report of the Subcommittee on its fortieth session contains a review of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and its activities for 2002 and 2003 and the proposed programme of activities for 2004, which it recommended for approval (A/AC.105/804, paras. 30-43).

Pursuant to paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 57/116, the Subcommittee considered the United Nations Programme on Space Applications through its Working Group of the Whole and endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group on the Programme.

In paragraph 46 of its resolution 57/116, the General Assembly agreed that the Committee should continue to consider a report on the activities of the International Satellite System for Search and Rescue as a part of its consideration of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications under the item entitled "Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee" and invited Member States to report on their activities regarding the System.

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

The views expressed on this item at the fortieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/804, paras. 69-77).

Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered this item under the work plan adopted at its thirty-fifth session (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, annex III, appendix). Pursuant to paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 57/116, the Subcommittee at its fortieth session reconvened its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. The report of the Working Group was endorsed by the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/804, paras. 85 and 86 and annex IV).

The Subcommittee adopted a further multi-year work plan on the item, covering the period 2003-2006. The work plan is contained in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/804, para. 83 and annex III).

The Subcommittee agreed that the Working Group should be requested to continue its work between the fortieth and the forty-first sessions of the Subcommittee, as described in the work plan for the period 2003-2006 and as recommended in the report of the Working Group. The Subcommittee also agreed that this could be facilitated by informal discussions among interested members of the Working Group on 10 June 2003, prior to the forty-sixth session of the Committee (A/AC.105/804, para. 87). Members of the Committee have been informed of the convening of the informal discussions on the matter on 10 June 2003.

Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within and among entities of the United Nations system

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item under the work plan adopted at its thirty-seventh session (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 40). The work plan called for the Subcommittee to develop specific and concrete proposals and action plans for strengthening inter-agency cooperation in the use of space within the United Nations system and for increasing the use of space applications and services in general and among particular United Nations entities. The Subcommittee had before it the report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on its twenty-third session (A/AC.105/791 and Corr.1) and the report of the Secretary-General on coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system: programme of work for 2003 and 2004 and future years (A/AC.105/792).

The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendation of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities that an open informal session, to which representatives of member States of the Committee would be invited, should be held in conjunction with the annual session of the Inter-Agency Meeting. The Subcommittee invited United Nations entities to submit annual reports to the Subcommittee on specific themes. The Subcommittee had before it a draft list of actions recommended in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development with direct or potential relevance to space science and technology and their applications

(A/AC.105/C.1/2003/CRP.12). Based on a recommendation of the Inter-Agency Meeting, the Subcommittee invited member States of the Committee to complete the list by submitting information on space-related initiatives and programmes that they would carry out in response to specific actions recommended in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit (A/AC.105/804, paras. 93-95)

Implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item under the work plan adopted at its thirty-seventh session (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 41). It reviewed possible global operational structures to handle natural disaster management, making maximum use of existing and planned space systems. The findings of the Subcommittee and views expressed at its fortieth session are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/804, paras. 101-115).

Space debris

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered this item in accordance with the work plan adopted at its thirty-eighth session (A/AC.105/761, para. 130). The deliberations of the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/804, paras. 116-135).

In accordance with the work plan, the Subcommittee began its review of the proposals on debris mitigation that had been presented by the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) at the fortieth session of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/C.1/L.260). The Subcommittee requested and encouraged all member States of the Committee to study the IADC proposals and to provide their possible comments to the Office for Outer Space Affairs before the forty-first session of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee noted that, based on the scope of the comments received, it might consider the formation of a formal working group at its forty-first session to review the comments and consider further progress on the subject, including continuing discussions on means of endorsing utilization of the guidelines (A/AC.105/804, paras. 121, 123 and 124).

Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, 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

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continued its consideration of this agenda item as a single issue/item for discussion. The deliberations of the Subcommittee on the item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/804, paras. 137-144).

The Subcommittee underlined the importance of the forthcoming World Summit on the Information Society and recommended the active participation of the Committee and the Office for Outer Space Affairs in both phases of the Summit (A/AC.105/804, para. 141).

Mobilization of financial resources to develop capacity in space science and technology applications

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered this item as a single issue/item for discussion. The deliberations of the Subcommittee on the item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/804, paras. 146-151).

The use of space technology for the medical sciences and public health

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered this new agenda item as a single issue/item for discussion. The deliberations of the Subcommittee on the item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/804, paras. 153-161).

Draft provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

Pursuant to paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 57/116, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee requested its Working Group of the Whole to consider a draft provisional agenda for its forty-first session. The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole concerning the draft provisional agenda, as contained in its report (A/AC.105/804, para. 163 and annex II, para. 23).

The Working Group of the Whole recalled its agreement during the thirty-ninth session of the Subcommittee that, owing to the limited time available during the fortieth and forty-first sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in 2003 and 2004, in view of the review by the Subcommittee of the reports of the action teams to implement recommendations of UNISPACE III and other preparations for the review by the General Assembly, the organization of the symposium by the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and the industry symposium should alternate each year. In 2004, the industry symposium would be organized and the organization of the symposium by COSPAR and IAF would be suspended. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that the next industry symposium should address small satellite applications in agriculture, health and human security and that the symposium should be organized during the first week of the forty-first session of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/804, annex II, paras. 24 and 25).

9. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-second session

In accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 57/116, the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-second session considered the substantive items below.

Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space

The Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item. The views expressed in the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/805, paras. 38-52). In accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 57/116, the Legal Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on item 4. The Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/805, para. 53 and annex I).

The Subcommittee had before it a proposal submitted by Germany on behalf of Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Morocco, the Netherlands, Sweden

and Ukraine containing a draft resolution on the application of the legal concept of the “launching State” for adoption by the General Assembly (A/AC.105/C.2/L.242). The Subcommittee agreed that the merits and substance of the proposed resolution should be considered further by the Committee at its forty-sixth session.

Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law

The Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item. The views expressed in the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/805, paras. 56-74).

The Subcommittee had before it the report of the Group of Experts on the Ethics of Outer Space (A/AC.105/C.2/L.240) and amendments to that report (A/AC.105/C.2/2003/CRP.8). The report had been prepared by the experts who had been designated by interested member States, following the agreement of the Committee at its forty-fourth session, to identify which aspects of the report of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) might need to be studied by the Committee. The Subcommittee recommended that, at its forty-sixth session, the Committee might wish to consider the report, as amended during the forty-second session of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/C.2/L.240/Rev.1). The Subcommittee agreed that the Committee might consider sending the report and its annex to the Director-General of UNESCO, asking UNESCO to keep the Committee and its subcommittees informed about the activities of UNESCO relating to outer space (A/AC.105/805, paras. 70 and 71).

Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

The Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item. The views expressed in the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/805, paras. 77-94).

In accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 57/116, the Legal Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on this item only to consider matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space. The Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/805, para. 95 and annex II).

Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space

The Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item as a single issue/item for discussion. The views expressed in the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/805, paras. 98-103).

Examination of the preliminary draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment (opened for signature in Cape Town on 16 November 2001)

The Legal Subcommittee considered this item as a single issue/item for discussion. In accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 57/116, the

Subcommittee considered two sub-items under this agenda item: (a) considerations relating to the possibility of the United Nations serving as supervisory authority under the preliminary draft protocol; and (b) considerations relating to the relationship between the terms of the preliminary draft protocol and the rights and obligations of States under the legal regime applicable to outer space. The views expressed in the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/805, paras. 107-132).

In accordance with paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 57/116, the Legal Subcommittee established a working group on this item. The Subcommittee took note of the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/805, para. 133 and annex III).

Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-third session

The views expressed in the Legal Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/805, paras. 136-153). The Subcommittee agreed on the items to be proposed to the Committee for inclusion in the agenda of the Subcommittee at its forty-third session, as contained in its report (A/AC.105/805, para. 151).

10. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status

In paragraph 43 of its resolution 57/116, the General Assembly requested the Committee to continue to consider, at its forty-sixth session, the item entitled “Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status”.

11. Space and society

In paragraph 44 of its resolution 57/116, the General Assembly requested the Committee to continue to consider, at its forty-sixth session, the item entitled “Space and society”. Pursuant to an agreement of the Committee at its forty-fourth session, the Committee should decide whether or not to retain this item on its agenda in subsequent years.

12. Other matters

Composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

In paragraph 13 of its resolution 57/116, the General Assembly noted that, in accordance with the agreement of the Committee at its forty-fifth session, the Government of Austria had convened and facilitated and would continue to convene and facilitate intersessional informal consultations, including the chairpersons of the regional groups, on the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the third term with a view to reaching consensus before the forty-sixth session of the Committee. In paragraph 14 of the same resolution, the Assembly agreed that, on the basis of agreements to be reached among the members of the Committee on the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the third term, the election of the officers of the Committee should be conducted at the beginning of the forty-sixth session of the Committee.

During the informal consultations convened and facilitated by Austria on the matter, the members of the Committee discussed a proposal submitted by Austria on the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies as well as

revisions of that proposal prepared by Austria on the basis of comments made by members of the Committee. At the fifth meeting of the informal consultations of the members of the Committee, the proposal as revised (A/AC.105/L.245) was accepted by consensus by the members of the Committee. Austria will report on the agreement reached and on related issues at the beginning of the forty-sixth session of the Committee.

Membership of the Committee

In paragraph 40 of its resolution 57/116, the General Assembly welcomed the interest of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in membership in the Committee and the endorsement of its candidature by the Group of African States, and requested the Committee to continue the consideration of the matter constructively during its next session, taking into account the principle of consensus.

Other matters

The Committee may wish to discuss other matters as appropriate.

Annex

Indicative schedule of work*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Wednesday, 11 June 2003	1	Opening of the session	5	General exchange of views
	2	Adoption of the agenda	6	Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes
	3	Election of officers		
	4	Statement by the Chairman		
	5	General exchange of views		
Thursday, 12 June 2003	5	General exchange of views	7	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III ^a
	6	Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes	8	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fortieth session
	7	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III ^a		
Friday, 13 June 2003	7	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III ^a	7	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III ^a
	8	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fortieth session	8	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fortieth session
	9	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-second session	9	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-second session

* 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)*, para. 169 (b)).

<i>Date</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Monday, 16 June 2003	7	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III ^a	7	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III ^a
	8	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fortieth session	8	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fortieth session
	9	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-second session	9	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-second session
Tuesday, 17 June 2003	7	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III ^a	7	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III ^a
	8	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fortieth session	9	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-second session
	9	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-second session	10	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status
Wednesday, 18 June 2003			11	Space and society
	9	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-second session	9	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-second session
	10	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status	10	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status
	11	Space and society	11	Space and society
	12	Other matters	12	Other matters
Thursday, 19 June 2003	11	Space and society	7	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III ^a
	12	Other matters	12	Other matters
Friday, 20 June 2003	13	Report of the Committee to the General Assembly	13	Report of the Committee to the General Assembly

^a The Working Group to be reconvened by the Committee pursuant to paragraph 28 of General Assembly resolution 57/116 would meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 5. The Committee would resume its consideration of item 5 on Thursday, 19 June, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.