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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fifty-third session
Vienna, 15-26 February 2016
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Space technology for socioeconomic development

UNISPACE+50 thematic priorities

Proposal submitted by the Steering Committee of UNISPACE+50

Introduction

1. In accordance with the note by the secretariat, entitled “Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: theme of the sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and its Legal Subcommittee in 2018” (A/AC.105/L.297) the Committee, its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and its Legal Subcommittee, at their respective sessions in 2018, are to address UNISPACE+50 as the overarching theme under their respective agendas, within the framework of the thematic priorities identified in 2016, and building upon the cross-cutting areas already identified. In doing so, they are to take into consideration contributions by States members of the Committee and permanent observers of the Committee, contributions by UN-Space received through the Office, and contributions from other relevant conferences and activities addressing global space governance, such as the series of the High-Level Forum organized by the Office (see A/AC.105/L.297, para. 29).

2. Building upon the identified cross-cutting areas consideration should also be given to governance structures such as national space-based data infrastructures, national regulatory frameworks, international mechanisms for space cooperation and regional and interregional coordination mechanisms; to already established or potential new mechanisms and processes for resiliency and interoperability such as

* A/AC.105/C.1/L.336.



in the fields of disaster risk reduction and coordination of efforts relating to the near-Earth object impact threat; and to transparency and confidence-building measures and mechanisms for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities within the broader context of space security (see A/AC.105/L.297, para. 17).

3. In the identification of a core set of thematic priorities, the work carried out by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies should be taken into account, including processes under related agenda items, the role of symposiums being held regularly during the sessions of the two Subcommittees in the period leading up to 2018, as well as the programme of work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (see A/AC.105/L.297, para. 18).

4. In addition, the High-Level Forum (HLF): Space as a Driver for Socioeconomic Sustainable Development, to be organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in a series of three Forums 2016-2018, should be considered in this context. The Forums will address the pillars: space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy (see A/AC.105/L.297, para. 19).

5. With this in mind, the Steering Committee of UNISPACE+50, established by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifty-eighth session (A/70/20, para. 351) and acknowledged by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/82 of 9 December 2015, operative paragraph 14, presents below suggested thematic priorities for consideration.

6. Those suggested thematic priorities are interlinked to a certain extent and it is therefore recommended that connection between the respective objectives be observed in the progress of work. It is foreseen that the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee should coordinate and cooperate in arriving at a common output through the UNISPACE+50 process.

7. The thematic priorities are presented in the Annex below as:

- (1) Global partnership in space exploration and innovation
- (2) International framework for space weather services
- (3) Strengthened space cooperation for global health
- (4) International cooperation for resilience
- (5) Enhanced information exchange on space objects and events
- (6) Capacity-building for the 21st Century

Annex

Suggested thematic priorities of UNISPACE+50

Global partnership in space exploration and innovation

Objective: Raise awareness of space exploration and innovation as essential drivers for opening up new domains in space science and technology, triggering new partnerships and developing capabilities that create new opportunities for addressing global challenges. Foster dialogue with space industry and private sector. Promote cooperation between spacefaring nations and emerging space nations. Allow space exploration activities to become open and inclusive on a global scale. Identify governance and cooperation mechanisms to support this objective.

Cross-cutting areas: Governance/interoperability/capacity-building/space for sustainable development.

HLF pillars: Economy/society/accessibility/diplomacy.

International framework for space weather services

Objective: Strengthen the ability to depend on space systems and to respond to the impact of adverse space weather. Develop a space weather road map for international coordination and information exchange on space weather events and their mitigation, through risk analysis and assessment of user needs. Recognize space weather as a global challenge and the need to address the vulnerability of society as a whole. Increase awareness through developed communication, capacity-building and outreach. Identify governance and cooperation mechanisms to support this objective.

Cross-cutting areas: Governance/interoperability/capacity-building/space for sustainable development/resiliency.

HLF pillars: Economy/society/accessibility/diplomacy.

Strengthened space cooperation for global health

Objective: Improve the use of space technologies and space-based information and systems in the global health domain. Promote enhanced cooperation and sharing of information in emergencies, epidemics and early warning, as well as on environmental parameters. Enhance capability in integrating health data in disaster management plans. Strengthen capacity-building in advancing space technologies in global health efforts. Identify governance and cooperation mechanisms to support this objective.

Cross-cutting areas: Governance/resiliency/capacity-building/space for sustainable development.

HLF pillars: Economy/society/accessibility.

International cooperation for resilience

Objective: Define synergies between climate change, disaster risk reduction, and global development. Develop road map for enhanced resiliency of space-based systems and the affiliation of existing and future Earth observation, GNSS and telecommunication constellations for disaster risk reduction and climate change monitoring. Improve integrated space applications approaches and interoperability of space-based systems and ground/in situ systems. Provide requirements to new developers for coverage in geographical areas not sufficiently monitored or applications that need further development. Identify governance and cooperation mechanisms to support this objective.

Cross-cutting areas: Governance/interoperability/resiliency/space for sustainable development.

HLF pillars: Economy/society/accessibility.

Enhanced information exchange on space objects and events

Objective: Define and develop requirements for enhanced information exchange and notification procedures under the United Nations Register of Objects launched into Outer Space, taking into account GGE-report recommendations and LTS guidelines specifically addressing risk reduction notification needs. Identify governance mechanisms to support this objective. Encourage capacity-building and outreach activities on transparency and confidence-building measures.

Cross-cutting areas: Governance/interoperability/capacity-building/resiliency.

HLF pillars: Accessibility/diplomacy.

Capacity-building for the 21st Century

Objective: Define new innovative and effective approaches to overall capacity-building and development needs as a fundamental pillar of global space governance. Strengthen comprehensive capacity-building and outreach activities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. Develop infrastructure for cross-sectorial and integrated applications, and with combined scientific, technical, legal and policy outputs. Enhancing existing partnerships and forging new ones to strengthen and deliver targeted capacity-building and technical advisory activities based on needs assessment.

Cross-cutting areas: Governance/interoperability/capacity-building/space for sustainable development/resiliency.

HLF pillars: Economy/society/accessibility/diplomacy.