



General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fifty-third session
Vienna, 15-26 February 2016

Annotated provisional agenda

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. Space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda.
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. Space-system-based disaster management support.
10. Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems.
11. Space weather.
12. Near-Earth objects.
13. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.
14. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

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15. 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, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.
16. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
17. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Annotations*

2. Election of the Chair

In paragraph 31 of its resolution 70/82, entitled “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space”, the General Assembly endorsed the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subcommittees for the period 2016-2017, and reiterated that the Committee and its subcommittees, at their respective sessions in 2016, should elect their officers nominated for that period.

In accordance with resolution 69/85, paragraph 29, and an official communication from the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat to States members of the Committee dated 15 September 2014, V. K. Dadhwal (India) and Chiaki Mukai (Japan) are nominated for election to the office of Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for 2016 and 2017, respectively.

3. Statement by the Chair

The Chair will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Subcommittee that have taken place since its fifty-second session. After that 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.105/1100 and Add.1).

5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications

In paragraph 16 of its resolution 70/82, the General Assembly endorsed the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2016, as endorsed by the Committee (A/70/20, para. 79).

* The annotations and the indicative schedule of work (see annex) are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee will have before it the report of the Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/1107). The Subcommittee will also have before it the following documents:

(a) Report on the United Nations/Japan Workshop on Space Weather: Science and data products from International Space Weather Initiative instruments, held in Fukuoka, Japan, from 2 to 6 March 2015 (A/AC.105/1096);

(b) Report on the United Nations/Russian Federation Workshop on the Applications of Global Navigation Satellite Systems, held in Krasnoyarsk, Russian Federation, from 18 to 22 May 2015 (A/AC.105/1098);

(c) Report on the meeting on the applications of space science and technology for public health organized by the World Health Organization and the Office for Outer Space Affairs held in Geneva on 15 and 16 June 2015 (A/AC.105/1099);

(d) Report on the Zero-Gravity Instrument Project (A/AC.105/1108).

6. Space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda

In paragraph 8 of its resolution 70/82, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group of the Whole.

The Committee, at its fifty-eighth session, endorsed the agreement reached by the Asia-Pacific States that Chiaki Mukai (Japan) would serve as Chair of the Working Group of the Whole in 2016 while V. K. Dadhwal (India) held the position of Chair of the Subcommittee, and that in 2017, Mr. Dadhwal would continue the chairmanship of the Working Group of the Whole (A/70/20, para. 195).

In paragraph 14 of resolution 70/82, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction that the Committee, at its fifty-eighth session, had endorsed the plan of work of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 2018 (UNISPACE+50), welcomed the establishment of the steering committee for the preparations for UNISPACE+50, composed of the members of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies (the group of 15), the Chairs of the working groups of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and encouraged the steering committee to work with other experts, as appropriate.

The Working Group of the Whole will continue to consider the preparations for UNISPACE+50, and will have before it a 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), which was made available to the Committee at its fifty-eighth session.

The Working Group of the Whole will also continue to consider the work being undertaken by the expert group on space and global health (see A/AC.105/1088, annex I, paras. 5-7).

8. Space debris

In paragraphs 10 and 11 of its resolution 70/82, the General Assembly addressed the issue of space debris.

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat on national research on space debris, 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 and international organizations (A/AC.105/C.1/110).

9. Space-system-based disaster management support

The Subcommittee will have before it a report on the United Nations/Germany International Conference on Earth Observation: Global solutions for the challenges of sustainable development in societies at risk, held in Bonn, Germany, from 26 to 28 May 2015 (A/AC.105/1097), a report on recent advances in the knowledge portal of the United Nations Platform for Space-Based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) (A/AC.105/1101), a report on the United Nations/China International Conference on Space-Based Technologies for Disaster Management: A consolidating role in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, held in Beijing from 14 to 16 September 2015 (A/AC.105/1102), a report on joint activities carried out in 2015 by the regional support offices of UN-SPIDER (A/AC.105/1103) and a report on activities carried out in 2015 in the framework of UN-SPIDER (A/AC.105/1105).

10. Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems

In paragraph 19 of its resolution 70/82, the General Assembly noted with appreciation that the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems had held its tenth meeting in Boulder, United States of America, from 1 to 6 November 2015.

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the tenth meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (A/AC.105/1104) and a report on activities carried out in 2015 in the framework of the workplan of the International Committee (A/AC.105/1106).

11. Space weather

The Subcommittee will continue to consider the work being undertaken by the Expert Group on Space Weather (see A/AC.105/1088, paras. 163-169).

12. Near-Earth objects

In paragraph 9 of its resolution 70/82, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction the establishment of and work carried out by the International Asteroid Warning Network and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group to implement the recommendations for an international response to the near-Earth object impact threat (see A/70/20, para. 153, A/68/20, para. 144, and A/AC.105/1038, para. 198 and annex III).

The Subcommittee will continue to consider the work being undertaken by the International Asteroid Warning Network and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (A/AC.105/1088, paras. 177-191).

13. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

In paragraph 8 of its resolution 70/82, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee, at its fifty-third session, should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

The Working Group will continue its work in accordance with the workplan for 2016 (A/AC.105/1065, para. 187 and annex II, para. 9).

The Subcommittee will have before it a draft report prepared by the Working Group containing recommendations for potential future work to promote and facilitate implementation of the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space (A/AC.105/C.1/L.349).

14. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities

In paragraph 8 of its resolution 70/82, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee, at its fifty-third session, should reconvene its Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

The Working Group will continue its work in accordance with the workplan for 2016 (A/64/20, para. 161, and A/69/20, para. 199).

The Subcommittee will have before it a working paper by the Chair of the Working Group, entitled “Draft report of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities” (A/AC.105/C.1/L.343), which was made available to the Subcommittee at its fifty-second session.

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat entitled “Updated set of draft guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities” (A/AC.105/L.348).

The Subcommittee will also have before it two working papers by the Russian Federation, one entitled “Time for the international community to decide whether it would support an effective set of solutions regarding the enhancement of the safety of space operations or wind up its work on this topic with inconclusive results devoid of any functional load and having marginal practical usefulness” (A/AC.105/C.1/L.345) and the other entitled “Russian assessment of the initiative and actions of the European Union to advance its draft code of conduct for outer space activities” (A/AC.105/C.1/L.346).

The Subcommittee will have before it a working paper by the United States entitled “Proposal by the United States for an expert group on space objects and events” (A/AC.105/C.1/L.347).

16. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

The draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, including subjects to be dealt with as single issues/items for discussion or under

multi-year workplans, will be submitted to the Committee at its fifty-ninth session, in 2016.

The Working Group of the Whole will consider the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, as well as organizational matters of the Subcommittee.

Symposium

In accordance with the agreement reached by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session, in 2007 (A/AC.105/890, annex I, para. 24), and at its fifty-second session, in 2015 (A/AC.105/1088, para. 274 and annex I, para. 8), a symposium organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs on the topic “The role of industry in space exploration” will be held during the afternoon of 15 February 2016.

Organizational matters

At its fifty-eighth session, the Committee endorsed the decision of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fifty-second session, in 2015 (A/AC.105/1088, para. 275), to revise the criteria established by the Committee at its fifty-fourth session, in 2011 (A/66/20, para. 298), and the agreement by the Subcommittee made at its fiftieth session, in 2013 (A/AC.105/1038, para. 242), in order to secure the time needed for the work of the working groups and to give the Secretariat a clear mandate to implement those criteria. In that regard, the Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that the same criteria should apply, as appropriate, to the organization of work of the Committee, which, like the Subcommittee, regularly had a high number of scientific and technical presentations (A/70/20, para. 357).

Pursuant to a request made by the Committee at its fifty-eighth session (A/70/20, para. 359) and the Subcommittee at its fifty-second session (A/AC.105/1088, para. 278), the Subcommittee will have before it a compendium containing the rules, procedures and practices, including the processing of documentation, of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

Annex

Organization of work

1. The work of the Subcommittee has been scheduled so as to afford the working groups that will be reconvened under items 6, 13, 14 and 16 the maximum amount of time available.
2. The number of statements to be made at each meeting under item 4, entitled “General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities”, may be limited, as necessary, in order to allow sufficient time for other agenda items to be considered as planned for each meeting. As a general rule, statements should not exceed 10 minutes (A/70/20, para. 357 and A/AC.105/1088, para. 275 (b)).
3. Technical presentations should be limited to a maximum of three presentations per meeting, they should be closely linked to the agenda items of the Subcommittee and they should not exceed 15 minutes in duration. The Chair should remind delegations if that length of time is exceeded (A/70/20, para. 357 and A/AC.105/1088, para. 275 (c)).
4. An indicative schedule of work is provided below. The indicative schedule of work is a general guide to the dates and times when items will be addressed during the session. The consideration of all items can be advanced, extended or delayed, depending on the requirements of the members of the Committee and any organizational constraints faced in the course of the session.

Indicative schedule of work*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Week of 15-19 February 2016		
Monday, 15 February	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Election of the Chair Item 3. Statement by the Chair Item 4. General exchange of views	Symposium organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat on the topic “The role of industry in space exploration”
Tuesday, 16 February	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 12. Near-Earth objects Item 14. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities ^a Technical presentations	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 12. Near-Earth objects Item 14. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities ^a Technical presentations
Wednesday, 17 February	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 12. Near-Earth objects Item 14. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities ^a Technical presentations	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 11. Space weather Item 13. Nuclear power sources ^b Technical presentations

* 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)).

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Thursday, 18 February	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 11. Space weather Item 13. Nuclear power sources ^b Technical presentations	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 11. Space weather Item 13. Nuclear power sources ^b Technical presentations
Friday, 19 February	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 6. Space technology for socioeconomic development ^c Item 8. Space debris Technical presentations	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 6. Space technology for socioeconomic development ^c Item 8. Space debris Technical presentations
Week of 22-26 February 2016		
Monday, 22 February	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 6. Space technology for socioeconomic development ^c Item 8. Space debris Technical presentations	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 10. Global navigation satellite systems Technical presentations
Tuesday, 23 February	Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 9. Disaster management support Item 10. Global navigation satellite systems Technical presentations	Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 9. Disaster management support Item 10. Global navigation satellite systems Technical presentations
Wednesday, 24 February	Item 7. Remote sensing Item 9. Disaster management support Item 15. Geostationary orbit Technical presentations	Item 7. Remote sensing Item 15. Geostationary orbit Item 16. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommittee ^c Technical presentations
Thursday, 25 February	Item 7. Remote sensing Item 15. Geostationary orbit Item 16. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommittee ^c Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space Technical presentations	Item 16. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommittee ^c Adoption of the report of the Working Group of the Whole Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities Technical presentations
Friday, 26 February	Item 17. Report to the Committee	Item 17. Report to the Committee

^a The Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 70/82, will meet during the session for its consideration of item 14. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 25 February, in order to endorse the report of the Working Group.

^b The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 70/82, will meet during the session for its consideration of item 13. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 25 February, in order to endorse the report of the Working Group.

^c The Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 70/82, will meet during the session for its consideration of items 6 and 16. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee will resume its consideration of those items on Thursday, 25 February, in order to endorse the report of the Working Group.