



**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fifty-fourth session
Vienna, 30 January-10 February 2017****Draft report of the Working Group of the Whole**

1. In accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 71/90, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fifty-fourth session, reconvened its Working Group of the Whole.
2. From [...] to [...] February 2017, the Working Group held [...] meetings, under the chairmanship of Mylswami Annadurai (India). The Working Group considered the following items:
 - (a) Preparations for UNISPACE+50;
 - (b) Space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development;
 - (c) Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2018.
3. The Working Group had before it the documents listed in paragraph [...] of the report of the Subcommittee on its fifty-fourth session.
4. At its [...] meeting, on [...] February, the Working Group adopted the present report.

I. Preparations for UNISPACE+50

5. At the 1st meeting of the Working Group, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs informed the Working Group of the status of preparations for UNISPACE+50 in 2018 and, with reference to a number of documents submitted to the Subcommittee at its fifty-fourth session, gave a strategic overview of the preparations for UNISPACE+50, including actions taken and activities being prepared under the UNISPACE+50 thematic priorities, as defined by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifty-ninth session ([A/71/20](#), para. 296).
6. The Director, in her statement, underlined the importance of adhering to organizational, administrative and reporting timelines for substantive activities that generated recommendations for UNISPACE+50. She said that the Office was dedicated to working with member States and all relevant stakeholders towards UNISPACE+50 and beyond in order to build a foundation for a comprehensive



“Space2030” agenda that would help define the role of space activities in both addressing overarching long-term development concerns and contributing to global efforts towards achieving the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For that reason, the Office required support, both financial and in-kind, from member States and organizations.

7. The Working Group welcomed the progress made in the overall preparations under the UNISPACE+50 thematic priorities. The Working Group commended the Office for the achievements made to date in the preparations for UNISPACE+50 and for the activities planned.

8. The Working Group reiterated that UNISPACE+50 presented a unique opportunity to position space as a driver for socioeconomic sustainable development and to strengthen the role of the Committee, its subsidiary bodies and the Office for Outer Space Affairs at the centre of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and the governance of outer space activities.

9. The Working Group noted with satisfaction that the newly established Action Team on Global Partnership in Space Exploration and Innovation, under the thematic priority on space exploration and innovation, had held meetings on the margins of the current session of the Subcommittee, under the co-chairmanship of China, Jordan and the United States, and that it had advanced its work.

10. The Working Group also noted with satisfaction the progress made under other thematic priorities during the current session of the Subcommittee, as reported in the present report of the Subcommittee, in particular on the thematic priorities on space weather and on space and global health. The work on those thematic priorities had been undertaken by the Expert Group on Space Weather and the Expert Group on Space and Global Health, respectively. The work of the expert groups was substantively supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

11. The Working Group noted with appreciation that, as part of the preparations for UNISPACE+50 and with the aim of advancing the debate on the role of space science and technology in fostering global development, a high-level forum on space as a driver for socioeconomic sustainable development had been held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 20 to 24 November 2016, organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in collaboration with the Government of the United Arab Emirates.

12. The Working Group also noted with appreciation that the 2017 high-level forum under the leadership of the Office for Outer Space Affairs would also be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 6 to 9 November 2017. That forum would focus on building stronger partnerships among space actors. It was noted that Germany had offered to host and co-organize the 2018 forum, to be held in the second half of that year in Bonn. That forum would focus on the implementation of UNISPACE+50 deliverables and outcomes towards a Space2030 agenda and would be co-sponsored by the European Space Agency.

13. The Working Group acknowledged the need for the Office to be able to build stronger partnerships with Governments, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and non-governmental entities, in order to provide enhanced support to developing countries and to further the objectives of the UNISPACE+50 process.

14. The Working Group considered the preparations under the thematic priority entitled “Enhanced information exchange on space objects and events”, taking into account the work of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

15. The Working Group noted several issues to be taken into account in order to decide upon an adequate way forward under that thematic priority. Those issues included: (a) the need to further assess the most appropriate mechanism, such as a possible new working group under the current agenda item of the Subcommittee on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, or an extended mandate for the current working group under that item; (b) the composition of the dedicated chairmanship of such a mechanism; and (c) the period of a corresponding multi-year workplan, possibly covering 2019 to 2022, pending further consideration of the relationship between the objective and the planned outcome of the thematic priority and the current work of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. Related proposals submitted by States members of the Committee will form the basis for further work.
16. The Working Group recommended that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space further consider those issues, and others that might arise, during its sixtieth session, in June 2017, with a view to making progress towards establishing a dedicated mechanism under that thematic priority.
17. The Working Group noted that, in order to achieve timely progress under all thematic priorities, the Committee, at its sixtieth session, should consider the overall status of preparations and evaluate the need for further measures and actions to successfully meet the objectives of the UNISPACE+50 process.
18. The Working Group exchanged views relating to the “Dark and quiet skies” proposal for protecting the environmental observing conditions for large astronomical observatories and world citizens, submitted by IAU ([A/AC.105/C.1/2017/CRP.17](#)).
19. The Working Group agreed that the Office for Outer Space Affairs should submit the proposal to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), with a view to obtaining an official reply from UNESCO on the matter.
20. The Working Group encouraged IAU to attend the sixtieth session of the Committee, in June 2017, at which further consideration should be given to the proposal.

II. Space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development

21. The Working Group noted that the Expert Group on Space and Global Health had held its third meeting on 2 and 3 February 2017, on the margins of the current session of the Subcommittee. The meeting had been held under the co-chairmanship of Canada and Switzerland and the aim of the meeting had been to advance the Expert Group’s work under items 2 and 3 of the workplan presented at the fifty-second session of the Subcommittee ([A/AC.105/1088](#), annex I, para. 7 (b)) and to discuss the involvement of the Expert Group in preparations for the UNISPACE+50 thematic priority entitled “Strengthened space cooperation for global health”.
22. The Working Group noted that the Expert Group had reviewed and discussed various key activities held during the previous year that were relevant to the application of space science and technology to global health. The Expert Group had also discussed ways to further strengthen interagency cooperation, both domestically and internationally, between space and health organizations and ways to increase awareness of the benefits that space technologies could offer the global health community.
23. The Working Group took note of the roadmap developed by the Expert Group ([A/AC.105/C.1/2017/CRP.28](#)) in order to set out the next steps needed towards developing the appropriate components underpinning the thematic priority

“Strengthened space cooperation for global health”. It noted that, as part of that roadmap, the Expert Group had agreed to support the preparations for a conference on space and global health to be organized jointly by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Government of Switzerland, in close cooperation with the World Health Organization and co-sponsored by other relevant organizations and stakeholders. The conference would be held in Geneva in 2017.

III. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

24. The Working Group noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/90, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would submit to the Committee its proposal for the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2018.

25. The Working Group agreed that the topic for the 2018 symposium to be organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in accordance with the agreement reached by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session, in 2007 ([A/AC.105/890](#), annex I, para. 24), should be “Expanding horizons: the case for industry engagement in UNISPACE+50 and beyond”.

26. The Working Group exchanged views on the logistical challenges posed by a high number of technical presentations being given, which at the same time was a positive indication of interest among experts, and recommended that the issue of scheduling technical presentations and any other organizational matters, as well as the draft provisional agenda of the Subcommittee, be considered by the Subcommittee, under its agenda item 15.
