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English only

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space  
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee  
Fifty-sixth session  
Vienna, 11–22 February 2019  
Item 14 of the provisional agenda\*  
Space and Global Health**

## **Tentative draft questionnaire of the Working Group on Space and Global Health**

### **Proposal by the Chair of the Working Group**

#### **I. Introduction**

In line with the proposed multi-year workplan of the Working Group on Space and Global Health ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.376](#)) to be presented at the fifty-sixth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in Vienna in February 2019, the Working Group is expected, amongst other, to:

“Develop a questionnaire to be circulated by the Secretariat for contributions of States members of the Committee, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee, United Nations entities, Group on Earth Observation, World Organization for Animal Health, and International Red Cross and Red Crescent, as well as Doctors Without Borders on experiences and practices in the use of space science and technology for global health, and on practices and initiatives, current or planned (concepts, science, capacity-building, operations) in the current uses of space (technology, applications, practices and initiatives) in support of global health and for attaining health-related Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

Issues to be documented are derived from recommendations found in two key documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on UNISPACE+50 thematic priority 5 (Strengthened space cooperation for global health) ([A/AC.105/1172](#), dated 31 October 2017);

(b) Progress report by the Co-Chairs of the Expert Group on Space and Global Health on the fourth meeting of the Expert Group ([A/AC.105/C.1/2018/CRP.17](#), dated 6 February 2018).

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\* [A/AC.105/C.1/L.373](#).



These will provide additional insight, complementing the review mandated by the Expert Group and published in the Journal of Medical Internet Research in 2018.<sup>1</sup>

Once revised by the Working Group and other interested parties, the questionnaire will constitute an Appendix to the report of the Working Group to be presented to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for endorsement at its fifty-sixth session in February 2018.

## II. Proposed questions regarding policies, experiences and practices in the use of space science and technology for global health

1. Please describe existing or planned formal cooperative agreements and other institutional arrangements (MoUs, letters of agreement, frameworks of collaboration etc.) between health sector and all sectors directly linked to space activities at the national level.<sup>2,3</sup>
2. Please provide recommendations regarding the establishment of a dedicated platform for effective coordination among United Nations entities, other international organizations and relevant actors, on space and global health issues.<sup>4</sup>
3. Please describe existing or planned policy-enabled environment and governance mechanisms, for removing barriers to the effective use of space-based technologies in support of global health.<sup>5</sup>
4. Please describe existing or planned open data-sharing policies and participatory approaches to developing and improving access to geospatial information relevant to global health.<sup>6</sup>
5. Please describe existing or planned efforts related to the geotagging of all assets relevant to health systems, including health information systems.<sup>7</sup>
6. Please describe existing or planned intersectoral coordination and cooperation for effective international, regional, national and subnational capacity-building

<sup>1</sup> Dietrich D, Dekova R, Davy S, Fahrni G, Geissbuhler A. Applications of Space Technologies to Global Health: Scoping Review. J Med Internet Res. 2018 Jun 27; 20(6):e230. doi: 10.2196/jmir.9458. Review. PubMed PMID: 29950289; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6041558. Link to the article: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6041558/>.

<sup>2</sup> A/AC.105/1172, §74.a: Encourage formal cooperative agreements between health authorities and space authorities at the national level.

<sup>3</sup> A/AC.105/C.1/2018/CRP.17, §14.c: In an effort to promote inter-sectorial collaboration at the national level, the working group would take appropriate efforts to document all institutional arrangements (MoUs, letters of agreement, frameworks of collaboration etc.) among the health sector and all sectors directly linked to space activities at the national level. This effort is consistent with the objective of promoting an active engagement of health organizations in expressing their needs (pull model) relating to technologies and knowledge arising from space science and technology. This measurable activity would provide an ongoing indication of progress under this objective.

<sup>4</sup> A/AC.105/1172, §74.b: Establish a dedicated platform for effective coordination among United Nations entities, other international organizations and relevant actors, on space and global health issues.

<sup>5</sup> A/AC.105/1172, §80.b: Member States are encouraged to establish policy-enabled environment and governance mechanisms, with due consideration of legal and ethical issues, for removing barriers to the effective use of space-based technologies, including telemedicine solutions.

<sup>6</sup> A/AC.105/1172, §80.c: Member States are strongly encouraged to promote open data-sharing policies and participatory approaches to developing and improving access to all geospatial information relevant to global health, whenever possible.

<sup>7</sup> A/AC.105/1172, §80.d: Member States and participating entities are encouraged to advance their efforts related to the geotagging of all assets relevant to health systems, including health information systems, and make them available to further the attainment of health goals.

activities relevant to the application of space science and technology in the field of global health.<sup>8</sup>

7. Please describe existing or planned mechanisms to engage learning institutions and other capacity-building mechanisms in motivating young health professionals, at an early stage, to acquire space-related skills and abilities.<sup>9</sup>

8. Please describe existing or planned mechanisms to better integrate, harmonize and share space-derived data and information into decision-making processes related to global health.<sup>10</sup>

9. Please describe how space technology and applications are integrated in health-related emergency planning and management and disaster management plans.<sup>11</sup>

10. Please describe key activities, reference documents and plans relevant to “Space for Global Health” activities.<sup>12</sup>

11. Please provide an overview of existing and planned practices and initiatives in the current uses of space (technology, applications, practices and initiatives) in support of global health, and identify gaps, if any, in the following areas:

- (a) Tele-medicine and tele-health;
- (b) Tele-epidemiology;
- (c) Space life sciences;
- (d) Disaster and health emergency management;
- (e) Other areas.

<sup>8</sup> A/AC.105/1172, §80.e: Intersectoral coordination and cooperation should be enhanced for effective international, regional, national and subnational capacity-building activities relevant to the application of space science and technology in the field of global health. Actors engaging in such activities should consider follow-up mechanisms aimed at strengthening the sustainability of the activities.

<sup>9</sup> A/AC.105/1172, §80.f: Member States are encouraged to engage learning institutions and other capacity-building mechanisms in motivating young health professionals, at an early stage, to acquire space-related skills and abilities.

<sup>10</sup> A/AC.105/1172, §80.g: Member States are encouraged to enable organizational and technical interoperability to facilitate the development and implementation of space-based science and technology in the health sector.

<sup>11</sup> A/AC.105/1172, §80.h: Member States are encouraged to conduct appropriate drills and exercises to benchmark their operational preparedness and response capacities and capabilities for appropriate use of space technologies in responding to global health events.

<sup>12</sup> A/AC.105/C.1/2018/CRP.17, §14.b: Recognizing the broad scope of applications of space technologies and science to global health, the working group would monitor and compile all key activities, reference documents and plans relevant to “Space for Global Health” activities by United Nations entities, including those of the World Health Organization and other international organisations, member States of the Committee as well as, as far as possible, non-governmental organisations and other nongovernmental actors. This annual compilation of activities will serve as a reference to identify and discuss gaps and opportunities and will be shared broadly in an effort to raise awareness and promote cooperation among relevant actors in this domain.