



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
18 February 2019

Original: English

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fifty-sixth session
Vienna, 11–22 February 2019**

Draft report

Annex

Report of the Working Group on Space and Global Health

1. In accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution [73/91](#), the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fifty-sixth session, convened its Working Group on Space and Global Health.
2. From 14 to 21 February 2019, the Working Group held [...] meetings, with Antoine Geissbühler (Switzerland) as Chair.
3. The Working Group had before it the documents listed in paragraph [...] of the report of the Subcommittee on its fifty-sixth session.
4. The Working Group noted that, in addition to the meetings that the Working Group had held during the present session of the Subcommittee with the benefit of interpretation services, the Chair and interested delegations had also held extensive informal consultations on the margins of the session. The informal consultations had enabled experts to assess progress in the use of space in support of global health, and to devise mechanisms in order to facilitate the sharing of information, strengthen capacity-building and foster new synergies between the space and health sectors.
5. The Working Group agreed on the workplan, prepared by the Chair of the Working Group on Space and Global Health, as contained in appendix I to the present report, and noted that the workplan provided a structured pathway towards enhancing national capacities in harnessing the contribution of space to the global health agenda. The Working Group also agreed on the questionnaire, as contained in appendix II to the present report, that would be circulated by the Secretariat to States members of the Committee and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (see appendix I, para. 9).
6. The Working Group noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat would organize two workshops, in 2020 and 2021, subject to the availability of resources. The workshops would be related to the work of the Working Group and organized in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health and in consultation with States members of the Committee, regional commissions and other international intergovernmental entities, as well as international non-governmental organizations, as appropriate. The



workshops would be on space and global health and would be aimed at raising awareness and sharing national, regional and interregional experiences and practices in increasing the use of space science and technology for global health and attaining the health-related Sustainable Development Goals, among other objectives to be defined by the Working Group.

7. The Working Group also noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs would establish and maintain a dedicated web page on its website, subject to the availability of resources, to make available information on key activities, reference documents and plans relevant to space and global health by United Nations entities, international intergovernmental organizations, States members of the Committee and, to the extent possible, international non-governmental organizations and other non-governmental actors conducting activities in the area of global health. That information could also include the use of space for “One Health”, which referred to an interconnected framework encompassing human health, animal health, plant health, environmental health and ocean health. The web page could also provide links to relevant open educational resources.

8. The Working Group further noted that the University of Koblenz-Landau (Germany) would help the Working Group in setting up a shared information resource to promote the development of free and open educational resources on space and global health. That resource would provide an additional source of information and would be set up in coordination with the establishment of the web page for the Working Group by the Office.

9. The Working Group requested the Secretariat to invite States members of the Committee to provide the details of national points of contact for the Working Group.

10. At its [...] meeting, on [...] February, the Working Group adopted the present report.

Appendix I

Multi-year workplan of the Working Group on Space and Global Health

I. Establishment of the Working Group on Space and Global Health

1. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee endorsed, at its fifty-fifth session, the agreement of its Working Group of the Whole to establish a new item on the agenda of the Subcommittee, entitled “Space and global health”, under a multi-year workplan yet to be determined. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its sixty-first session, noted the crucial role of space data and technology in the public health domain and welcomed the establishment of the new agenda item.
2. Also at its sixty-first session, the Committee agreed that a working group under the item on space and global health should be convened, with Antoine Geissbühler (Switzerland) as Chair, at the fifty-sixth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. The Committee also agreed that the Chair of the newly established working group, together with the Secretariat, would present to the Subcommittee at its fifty-sixth session a proposal for a multi-year workplan for the working group, taking into account the role of the Expert Group on Space and Global Health, which had been established in 2014 and had held four meetings in the period 2015–2018.

II. Method of work

3. The Working Group on Space and Global Health will work with a view to achieving the following vision: enhance the capacities of States Members of the United Nations in meeting the health-related Sustainable Development Goals through the increased use of space science, technology and applications for global health; and strengthen the collaborative engagement of Member States, international intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations with a view to achieving tangible and long-lasting solutions regarding the contribution of space to the global health agenda.
4. The Working Group will take into account considerations in the Committee and its Subcommittees on space and global health, the work done under thematic priority 5 (Strengthened space cooperation for global health) of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50); the work completed by the Action Team on Public Health of the Committee (action team 6), which was set up in 2001 and issued its final report in 2011; the action team 6 follow-up initiative, which was launched in 2012 and issued its final report in 2015; and the Expert Group on Space and Global Health.
5. The Working Group will meet during the annual sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for the duration of its multi-year workplan; interpretation services will be provided. The Working Group may hold informal consultations on the margins of those sessions, convened by the Chair of the Working Group, as needed.
6. The Working Group will engage with permanent observers of the Committee in accordance with the rules of procedure, methods of work and established practices of the Committee.
7. The Working Group will take advantage of the establishment of a web page for it on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to assist it in its work under the multi-year workplan.
8. The Bureau of the Working Group on the “Space2030” agenda will, in accordance with the methods of work of the Group, liaise with the Chair of the

Working Group on Space and Global Health with a view to creating synergies and avoiding duplication of effort. The Chair will report back to the Working Group on possible synergies.

III. Multi-year workplan

9. The multi-year workplan under the item “Space and global health” for the period 2019–2022 is as follows:

2019 Agree on methods of work and workplan.

Develop a questionnaire, to be circulated by the Secretariat, to elicit the contributions of States members of the Committee, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee, United Nations entities, the Group on Earth Observation, the World Organization for Animal Health, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and 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 and operations) in the use of space (technology, applications, practices and initiatives) in support of global health and for attaining the health-related Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2020 Review contributions received in response to the questionnaire. Hold a general exchange of views on possible existing gaps in national, regional and international capacities in using space science and technology and their applications for global health.

Prepare possible contributions by the Working Group to the Working Group on the “Space2030” Agenda of the Committee.

The Chair of the Working Group to prepare a draft set of recommendations on specific topics of interest within the health and space domains that could provide an orientation for analysing possible existing gaps in national, regional and international capacities in using space science and technology and their applications for global health, taking into account the “Space2030” agenda, with a view of presenting those recommendations to the General Assembly in the form of a draft resolution.

The Secretariat to continue to invite contributions to the questionnaire.

The Chair of the Working Group to prepare a first draft of the report of the Working Group to the Subcommittee.

2021 Review the draft set of recommendations presented by the Chair of the Working Group on current uses of space (technology, applications, practices and initiatives) in support of global health.

The Chair of the Working Group to submit a first draft of the report of the Working Group to the Subcommittee and a corresponding draft resolution to be submitted to the General Assembly.

2022 Review and finalize the report of the Working Group to the Subcommittee, and review and finalize a draft resolution, to be considered for endorsement by the Committee with a view to its adoption by the General Assembly.

Determine whether the workplan should be extended to cover potential future work. If the workplan is not extended, discontinue the Working Group.

Appendix II

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 (memorandums of understanding, letters of agreement, frameworks of collaboration, etc.) between the health sector and other sectors directly involved in space activities at the national level.
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.
3. Please describe existing or planned policy-enabled environmental and governance mechanisms for removing barriers to the effective use of space-based technologies in support of global health.
4. Please describe existing or planned policies on open data-sharing and participatory approaches to developing and improving access to geospatial information relevant to global health.
5. Please describe existing or planned efforts related to the geotagging of all assets relevant to health systems, including health information systems.
6. Please describe existing or planned intersectoral coordination and cooperation 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.
7. Please describe existing or planned mechanisms to engage educational institutions and other capacity-building mechanisms in motivating young health professionals to acquire space-related skills and abilities at an early stage in their careers.
8. Please describe existing or planned mechanisms to better integrate space-derived data and information into decision-making processes related to global health, and to harmonize and share such data.
9. Please describe how space technology and applications are integrated into health-related emergency planning and management and disaster management plans.
10. Please describe key activities, reference documents and plans relevant to the topic "Space for global health".
11. Please provide an overview of existing and planned practice 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) Telemedicine and tele-health;
 - (b) Tele-epidemiology and environmental health;
 - (c) Space life sciences;
 - (d) Disaster and health emergency management;
 - (e) Other.