



VPERM-1325/2014

Pursuant to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs Note Verbale announcing the fifty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to be held from 2 to 13 February, the Permanent Mission of Canada to the International Organizations in Vienna wishes to extend the following invitation to Member State representatives.

In accordance with the agreement reached by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its fifty-seventh session in 2014, endorsing the establishment of two new expert focus groups to consider issues related to (1) **space weather** and (2) **space and global health** under the leadership of Canada; we wish to inform member states that the first meeting for each of these groups is planned to take place on the margins the fifty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and we **invite you to indicate your interest in participating**.

The objective of each of these meetings is to reach agreement on the mandate, scope and work plan for each of the groups in order to introduce proposals for adoption by the Subcommittee. Draft mandates (which were circulated during the fifty-seventh session of the Committee) are attached for reference.

- The first meeting of the **expert focus group on space weather** is planned to take place on the Wednesday, February 4, 2014 (time to be confirmed) under the leadership of Dr. Ian Mann of the University of Alberta ([imann@ualberta.ca](mailto:imann@ualberta.ca))
- The first meeting of the **expert focus group on space and global health** is planned to take place on Thursday, February 5, 2014 (time to be confirmed) under the leadership of Dr. Pascal Michel of the Public Health Agency of Canada ([pascal.michel@phac.aspc.gc.ca](mailto:pascal.michel@phac.aspc.gc.ca))

Some states have already indicated their interest in participating in one or both of these expert groups. In order to encourage the widest possible participation by Committee members and to facilitate preparation for the upcoming meetings, **we would be grateful to receive your expression of interest and, if possible, the name(s) of representative(s) who will participate in these expert groups, as soon as practicable**. The Canadian leads to consult would intend to have informal consultations and provide information in advance of the Subcommittee session.

If you have any questions or comments, please communicate with the head of the Canadian delegation Jean-Marc Chouinard at [jean-marc.chouinard@asc-csa.gc.ca](mailto:jean-marc.chouinard@asc-csa.gc.ca) (cc: Andrea Matte at [andrea.matte@asc-csa.gc.ca](mailto:andrea.matte@asc-csa.gc.ca)).

