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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Scientific and Technical Subcommittee Forty-eighth session Vienna, 7-18 February 2011

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Statement by the Chair.
3. General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities.
4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications.
5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
6. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment.
7. Space debris.
8. Space-system-based disaster management support.
9. Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems.
10. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.
11. Near-Earth objects.
12. International Space Weather Initiative.
13. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities.
14. 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

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developing countries, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.

15. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
16. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Annotations*

2. Statement by the Chair

The Chair will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that have taken place since its forty-seventh session. After the statement, the Subcommittee will organize its schedule of work.

3. 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.105/977 and addenda). The statements under this agenda item should be roughly 5-10 minutes in length (see A/AC.105/786, para. 16).

4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications

In paragraph 12 of its resolution 65/97, the General Assembly endorsed the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2011, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications and endorsed by the Committee.¹

The Subcommittee will have before it a report of the Expert on Space Applications covering the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications in 2010 and 2011 and containing a list of States contributing to the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (A/AC.105/980). The Subcommittee will also have before it the following reports on training courses, symposiums and workshops organized by the Programme in 2010:

(a) United Nations/Republic of Moldova/United States of America Workshop on the Applications of Global Navigation Satellite Systems, held in Chisinau from 17 to 21 May 2010 (A/AC.105/974);

(b) United Nations/Austria/European Space Agency Symposium on the Use of Small Satellites for Sustainable Development, held in Graz, Austria, from 21 to 24 September 2010 (A/AC.105/983);

(c) United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on Applications of Global Navigation Satellite Systems, held in Prague on 24 and 25 September 2010 (A/AC.105/984);

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

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/65/20), para. 79; and A/AC.105/969, sects. II and III and annex III.

(d) United Nations/Turkey/European Space Agency Workshop on Space Technology Applications for Socio-Economic Benefits, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 14 to 17 September 2010 (A/AC.105/986).

In paragraph 7 of its resolution 65/97, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee, at its forty-eighth session, should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole.

The Working Group of the Whole will consider the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

In paragraph 35 of its resolution 65/97, the General Assembly invited the Committee to consider how it can contribute to the objectives of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012.

At its fifty-third session, the Committee requested the Secretariat to provide, for consideration by the Working Group of the Whole at the forty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, a draft of the contribution of the Committee to the work of the Commission for the next thematic cluster, bearing in mind the overall review of the implementation of Agenda 21,² together with contributions of member States.³

The Working Group of the Whole will consider a first draft of the contribution, made available by the Secretariat in a conference room paper, to be finalized by the Committee at its fifty-fourth session.

7. Space debris

In paragraph 10 of its resolution 65/97, the General Assembly considered that it was essential that States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including those with nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, called for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, considered that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and agreed that international cooperation was needed to expand appropriate and affordable strategies to minimize the impact of space debris on future space missions.

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing relevant information received by the Secretariat from Member States (A/AC.105/978 and addenda).

² See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/65/20)*, para. 61.

8. Space-system-based disaster management support

The Subcommittee will have before it a report on activities carried out in 2010 in the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (A/AC.105/981) and a report on technical advisory support activities carried out in 2010 in the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (A/AC.105/985).

The Working Group of the Whole will consider space-system-based disaster management support.

9. Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems

In paragraph 13 of its resolution 65/97, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction that the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) held its fifth meeting in Turin, Italy, from 18 to 22 October 2010, jointly organized by the Government of Italy and the European Commission.

The Subcommittee will have before it a report on the fifth meeting of ICG, held in Turin, Italy, from 18 to 22 October 2010 (A/AC.105/982).

10. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

In paragraph 7 of its resolution 65/97, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

The Working Group will hold a workshop in the afternoon of 9 February, with simultaneous interpretation, with member States and international intergovernmental organizations making presentations pursuant to the invitation extended in 2010.⁴ The workshop will be held in accordance with the new multi-year workplan of the Working Group, adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-seventh session.⁵

11. Near-Earth objects

In paragraph 7 of its resolution 65/97, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on Near-Earth Objects.

The Working Group will continue the work begun during the intersessional period on seeking agreement on the draft international procedures for handling the Near-Earth object (NEO) threat and engage international stakeholders, as well as review progress on international cooperation and collaboration on NEO observations and on the capability for the exchange, processing, archiving and dissemination of data for the purpose of detecting NEO threats.⁶

The Subcommittee will have before it a report containing information on research in the field of near-Earth objects carried out by member States, international organizations and other entities (A/AC.105/976) and the interim report of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects (2010-2011) (A/AC.105/C.1/L.308).

⁴ A/AC.105/958, annex II, para. 8.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ A/AC.105/911, annex III, para. 11.

12. International Space Weather Initiative

The Subcommittee will continue its consideration of the agenda item entitled “International Space Weather Initiative” under the three-year workplan,⁷ and consider reports on regional and international plans, identify gaps and synergies in ongoing activities, and encourage continued operation of existing instrument arrays and encourage new instrument deployments.

The Subcommittee will have before it a report containing information received from Member States and observers on regional and international plans to implement the International Space Weather Initiative (A/AC.105/979).

13. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities

In paragraph 7 of its resolution 65/97, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should consider this agenda item in accordance with the multi-year workplan agreed by the Committee at its fifty-second session⁸ and reconvene its Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

At its fifty-third session, the Committee noted that the proposal for the terms of reference and methods of work of the Working Group would be revised to incorporate, to the extent possible, the comments received from member States during and following the session of the Committee.⁹ The revised proposal for the terms of reference and methods of work of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities will be before the Working Group in document A/AC.105/C.1/L.307.

In accordance with the agreement reached by the Committee at its fifty-third session, member States, the permanent observers of the Committee and the entities referred to in the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/958, para. 184) are invited to present information on their activities pertaining to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, for consideration by the Working Group at the forty-eighth session of the Subcommittee.¹⁰

15. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

The Subcommittee, at its forty-eighth session, will submit to the Committee its proposal for a draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Subcommittee, in 2012. In accordance with an agreement reached by the Committee at its forty-second session, discussion under this item should include identification of subjects to be dealt with as single issues/items for discussion or under multi-year workplans.¹¹ This item will be considered by the Working Group of the Whole.

⁷ A/AC.105/933, annex I, para. 16.

⁸ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/64/20)*, para. 161.

⁹ *Ibid.*, *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/65/20)*, paras. 155 and 156.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/65/20)*, para. 157.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 and corrigendum (A/54/20 and Corr.1)*, annex I, sect. A.

Symposium

At its fifty-third session, the Committee welcomed the agreement of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that the topic for the symposium to be organized in 2011 by the Committee on Space Research should be “Planetary protection”.¹²

Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Committee and the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight

In paragraph 44 of its resolution 65/97, the General Assembly welcomed the fact that the Committee would celebrate at its fifty-fourth session the fiftieth anniversary of the Committee and the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight.¹³

At its fifty-third session, the Committee agreed that a joint statement or similar communiqué should be prepared to raise awareness of how international cooperation is accelerating progress in space science and technology and their application for achieving sustainable development. The Committee agreed that the first draft of the statement should be circulated before the forty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.¹⁴ The Working Group of the Whole will consider the draft statement.

Organizational matters

At its fifty-third session, the Committee requested the Secretariat, in close consultation with the members of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, to implement measures to rationalize and optimize the use of time of the Committee and its Subcommittees, taking into account the need for maximum flexibility in organizing the work of their sessions in 2011, including the possibility of scheduling symposiums in the second week of a session.¹⁵

The Committee recommended that open-ended informal consultations be held among interested member States in the margins of the sessions of the Committee and its Subcommittees in 2011, with a view to proposing further measures to rationalize and optimize the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.¹⁶

The Working Group of the Whole will consider organizational matters.

¹² Ibid., *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/65/20)*, para. 173.

¹³ Ibid., para. 327.

¹⁴ Ibid., para. 332.

¹⁵ Ibid., para. 315.

¹⁶ Ibid., para. 318.

Annex

Organization of work

1. In preparing the organization of work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-eighth session, the Secretariat, following the request of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and in close consultation with the members of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, implemented measures to rationalize and optimize the use of time of the Committee and its Subcommittees, taking into account the need for maximum flexibility in organizing the work of their sessions in 2011, including the possibility of scheduling symposiums in the second week of a session.^a
2. The work of the Subcommittee has been scheduled so as to afford the working groups that will be reconvened under items 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 15 the maximum amount of time available.
3. In order to enable the Subcommittee to commence its consideration of all items of the provisional agenda in a timely and balanced manner, the item entitled “General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities” has been scheduled over a longer period of time during the session. The number of statements to be made under “General exchange of views” at each meeting may be limited, as necessary, in order to allow sufficient time for other agenda items to be considered as planned for each meeting. The statements made under the item “General exchange of views” should be no longer than 10 minutes.
4. Technical presentations will be scheduled by the Secretariat, upon request received from delegations in advance of the session. A maximum of three presentations per meeting, each limited to 20 minutes, will be scheduled, with a view to rationalizing and optimizing the use of time of the Subcommittee.
5. 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 course of the session. The consideration of all items can be advanced, extended or delayed, depending on the requirements of the members of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and any organizational constraints faced during the course of the session.

^a *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/65/20), para. 315.*

Indicative schedule of work*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Week of 7-11 February 2011		
Monday, 7 February	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Statement by the Chair Item 3. General exchange of views	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications ^a Item 5. UNISPACE III ^a Technical presentations
Tuesday, 8 February	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications ^a Item 5. UNISPACE III ^a Item 6. Remote sensing Technical presentations	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications ^a Item 5. UNISPACE III ^a Item 6. Remote sensing Technical presentations
Wednesday, 9 February	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 6. Remote sensing Item 10. Nuclear power sources ^b Item 12. International Space Weather Initiative Technical presentations	Item 10. Nuclear power sources ^b Workshop organized by the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space ^b
Thursday, 10 February	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 9. Global navigation satellite systems Item 10. Nuclear power sources ^b Item 12. International Space Weather Initiative Technical presentations	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 8. Disaster management support ^a Item 9. Global navigation satellite systems Item 10. Nuclear power sources ^b Technical presentations
Friday, 11 February	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 8. Disaster management support ^a Item 9. Global navigation satellite systems Item 12. International Space Weather Initiative Technical presentations	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 8. Disaster management support ^a Item 9. Global navigation satellite systems Item 12. International Space Weather Initiative 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>
Week of 14-18 February 2011		
Monday, 14 February	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 11. Near-Earth objects ^c Item 13. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities ^d Technical presentations	Symposium organized by the Committee on Space Research on the theme "Planetary protection"
Tuesday, 15 February	Item 7. Space debris Item 11. Near-Earth objects ^c Item 13. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities ^d Technical presentations	Item 7. Space debris Item 11. Near-Earth objects ^c Item 13. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities ^d Technical presentations
Wednesday, 16 February	Item 7. Space debris Item 11. Near-Earth objects ^c Item 13. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities ^d Item 14. Geostationary orbit Technical presentations	Item 7. Space debris Item 14. Geostationary orbit Item 15. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Subcommittee ^a Technical presentations
Thursday, 17 February	Item 14. Geostationary orbit Item 15. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Subcommittee ^a Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space Technical presentations	Item 15. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Subcommittee ^a Adoption of the report of the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities Item 16. Report to the Committee Technical presentations
Friday, 18 February	Adoption of the report of the Working Group of the Whole Item 16. Report to the Committee	Item 16. Report to the Committee

^a The Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 65/97 of 14 October 2010, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of items 4, 5, 8 and 15, matters related to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Committee and the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight and organizational matters. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee will resume its consideration of those items on Friday, 18 February, in order to adopt 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 7 of General Assembly resolution 65/97, will hold a workshop in accordance with the workplan under item 10 (A/AC.105/958, annex II, para. 8). The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 17 February, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.

^c The Working Group on Near-Earth Objects, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 65/97, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 11. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 17 February, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.

^d The Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 65/97, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 13. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 17 February, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.