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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
**Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**  
**Forty-seventh session**  
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## **Draft report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space**

1. At its 722nd meeting, on 10 February 2010, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, under the chairmanship of Sam A. Harbison (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).
2. The Working Group recalled with satisfaction that at the forty-sixth session of the Subcommittee, in 2009, the Joint Expert Group of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), established by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session, in 2007, had completed, one year ahead of the schedule contained in its multi-year workplan, preparation of the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space and that in 2009 the Safety Framework had been adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-sixth session and endorsed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifty-second session.
3. The Working Group noted that, in accordance with the working arrangements agreed to by the Subcommittee and IAEA, the Safety Framework was considered and agreed to by the IAEA Commission on Safety Standards at its twenty-fifth meeting, in April 2009.
4. The Working Group also noted with satisfaction that the Safety Framework was made available by the Secretariat in document A/AC.105/934 and by the IAEA secretariat as a joint publication of the Subcommittee and IAEA.
5. The Working Group further noted with appreciation the efficient cooperation with the IAEA secretariat and expressed its gratitude to the IAEA secretariat for making the joint publication available to the Subcommittee in the form of a hard copy and a CD-ROM. The Working Group further noted that free electronic



copies of the publication would remain available on the IAEA website (<http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Booklets/Safety/safetyframework1009.pdf>).

6. At the first meeting of the Working Group, on 10 February, the Chairman recalled the tasks before the Working Group stemming from its intersessional work during 2009. In this connection, the Chairman also recalled that in June 2009 the Working Group had held an informal meeting at which members discussed ways of promoting and facilitating the implementation of the Safety Framework and providing a sound basis for deciding what, if any, further work should be carried out to support implementation of the Safety Framework. The Chairman further recalled that the main outcome of that meeting had been an agreement on proposing preparation of a new multi-year workplan of the Working Group to be presented for consideration of the Subcommittee.

7. After considering comments on and suggested changes to the draft workplan (A/AC.105/C.1/L.302), the Working Group agreed that the workplan should have the following objectives:

(a) To promote and facilitate the implementation of the Safety Framework by providing information pertinent to challenges faced by member States and international intergovernmental organizations, in particular those considering or initiating involvement in applications of nuclear power sources (NPS) in outer space;

(b) To identify any technical topics for, and establish the objectives, scope and attributes of, any potential additional work by the Working Group to further enhance the safe development and use of space NPS applications.

8. The Working Group agreed that it would advance these objectives by conducting the following workplan for the period from 2010 to 2015:

2010 Develop a draft workplan. After its adoption by the Subcommittee, the Working Group will (a) request the Secretariat to invite member States and international intergovernmental organizations to participate in workshops in the period 2011-2013, (b) invite member States and international intergovernmental organizations with experience in space NPS applications to provide information in 2011 and 2012 (at workshops to be held in conjunction with the forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions of the Subcommittee) on their implementation of the Safety Framework and (c) request the Secretariat to invite member States and international intergovernmental organizations considering or initiating involvement in space NPS applications to make presentations in 2011 and 2012 (at workshops to be held in conjunction with the forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions of the Subcommittee, respectively) summarizing their plans, progress to date and any challenges faced or foreseen in implementing the Safety Framework or specific elements thereof;

2011 Hold a workshop, with simultaneous interpretation, during the forty-eighth session of the Subcommittee, with member States and international intergovernmental organizations making presentations pursuant to the invitation extended in 2010. In its report to the Subcommittee, the Working Group will (a) summarize the proceedings

of the workshop, (b) identify any significant challenges that should be addressed in the presentations at the workshop to be held in 2012 and (c) request the Secretariat to invite member States and international intergovernmental organizations with experience in space NPS applications to make presentations in 2012 (at a workshop to be held in conjunction with the forty-ninth session of the Subcommittee) providing information pertinent to addressing the challenges in implementing the Safety Framework;

- 2012 Hold a workshop under the same arrangements as in 2011, with member States and international intergovernmental organizations making presentations pursuant to the invitations extended in 2010 and 2011. In its report to the Subcommittee, the Working Group will (a) summarize the proceedings of the workshop, (b) identify any significant challenges that should be addressed in the presentations at the workshop to be held in 2013 and (c) request the Secretariat to invite member States and international intergovernmental organizations with experience in space NPS applications to make additional presentations in 2013 (at a workshop to be held under the same arrangements as in 2011) addressing the additional challenges identified in 2012;
- 2013 Hold a workshop under the same arrangements as in 2011 and 2012, with member States and international intergovernmental organizations making presentations pursuant to the invitation extended in 2012; include in a report of the Working Group to the Subcommittee a summary of the workshop and of its deliberations on the main issues identified during the workshop;
- 2014 Determine whether the current workplan should be extended; if it is not to be extended, prepare a draft report with recommendations for potential future work to promote and facilitate implementation of the Safety Framework;
- 2015 If the workplan has not been extended, finalize the report and recommendations.

9. The Working Group requested the Secretariat to invite, in March 2010, member States and international intergovernmental organizations with experience in space NPS applications, and those considering or initiating involvement in space NPS applications, to notify the Secretariat of their plans, if any, to provide workshop presentations in 2011 and 2012, in accordance with the workplan of the Working Group.

10. The Working Group agreed on the following arrangements for the implementation of its new workplan:

(a) Papers for the workshops to be held in the period 2011-2013 should be submitted to the Secretariat by mid-November of the previous year and will be made available, in all official languages of the United Nations, to member States and permanent observers prior to the corresponding sessions of the Subcommittee;

(b) To facilitate meeting the objectives of the workplan, the Working Group may conduct, as necessary, intersessional work to further study and discuss the challenges and issues raised at each of the workshops. A summary of such

intersessional work will be made available to the Subcommittee in all official languages of the United Nations;

(c) The Secretariat is requested to ensure that at least two hours will be available during each session of the Subcommittee from 2011 to 2013, for holding the workshops, and to reflect the above arrangement in the provisional agendas of the Subcommittee.

11. The Working Group noted with appreciation the contribution of IAEA as an observer of the Working Group and encouraged its continued participation. In this connection, the Working Group agreed that the Secretariat should continue maintaining close working relations with IAEA and that each year IAEA should be invited to participate in the work of the Working Group, including the workshops.

12. The Working Group noted with appreciation the contribution of the European Space Agency to the development of the Safety Framework and encouraged this international intergovernmental organization to continue its active participation in future work of the Working Group.

13. The Working Group agreed to hold a teleconference on 11 May 2010 at 1600 hours GMT and, subject to replies received to the invitation referred to in paragraph 9 above, to make a decision on the need to hold an informal meeting from 9 to 11 June, during the fifty-third session of the Committee.

14. The view was expressed that NPS applications addressed in the second objective of the workplan should be in conformity with international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space, in particular the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.<sup>a</sup>

15. Some delegations were of the view that the objectives of the workplan were appropriately focused on the implementation of the Safety Framework, which had been developed with due consideration of relevant principles and treaties, as noted in the preface to the Safety Framework (A/AC.105/934).

16. The view was expressed that all member States should be involved in the decision-making and in identifying the issues and challenges associated with the application of NPS and the Safety Framework and that that would ensure the success of the implementation of the workplan.

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<sup>a</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.