



Distr.: Limited
22 July 1999
Original: English

THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Vienna
19-30 July 1999
Committee II
Agenda item 8
Status and applications of space science and technology

Technical Forum

Conclusions and proposals of the Workshop on Disaster Management

1. As part of the workshops organized within the framework of the Technical Forum of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), a Workshop on Disaster Management was organized jointly by the European Space Agency and the National Space Development Agency of Japan. The Workshop provided an opportunity to illustrate the relevance and benefits of space techniques for the improvement of disaster aid and rescue measures implemented by concerned authorities around the world.
2. During the Workshop, participants made presentations describing different cases such as forest fires, volcanoes, floods and hurricanes, which had been monitored by Earth observation satellites. They also highlighted the importance of other space assets, such as telecommunication satellites, which are instrumental in the emergency support to be provided to the disaster scene. Finally, a project on disaster management support was described, which is part of the involvement of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites in a broader initiative known as the Integrated Global Observing Strategy.
3. Further to a review of the experience gained in recent years in using satellites in the context of disaster management and mitigation activities, all participants at the Workshop came to the following conclusions:
 - (a) Earth observation, telecommunication, navigation and other services from satellites are effective means to improve monitoring, management and mitigation of disasters around the globe. Those techniques make it possible to limit the suffering of the population and damage to society;
 - (b) Given the trans-boundary nature of disasters, international cooperation between operators and data providers of relevant space assets should be enhanced in order to provide the best possible service to improve rescue efforts and the assessment of rehabilitation measures. It is recommended that timely release of data and services offered by space assets be one of the major focuses of such cooperation.

