



# General Assembly

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## Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Forty-fourth session  
Vienna, 6-15 June 2001

### Draft report

#### Addendum

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

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/122, the Committee considered an item on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.
2. The Committee noted that the General Assembly, in its resolutions 54/68 of 6 December 1999 and 55/122, had urged all Governments, organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and industries conducting space-related activities to take the necessary action for the effective implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, in particular its resolution entitled “The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development”.<sup>1</sup>
3. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/122, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session had convened the Working Group of the Whole, under the chairmanship of Muhammad Nasim Shah (Pakistan), to consider the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III. The Committee noted that the Working Group of the Whole had made recommendations on the following: (a) a mechanism to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III and modalities for the engagement of non-governmental entities; and (b) implementation of the plan of action of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

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<sup>1</sup> *Report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 19-30 July 1999* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.I.3), chap. I, resolution 1.

### Action taken by the Committee

4. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole concerning the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, as contained in its report (A/AC.105/761, annex II, paras. 3-14).

#### (a) Establishment of action teams

5. The Committee noted that, pursuant to a recommendation by the Working Group of the Whole, a survey had been conducted among Member States to identify the level of interest and priority for each action constituting the nucleus of a strategy contained in the Vienna Declaration to address global challenges in the future. The Committee had before it a note by the Secretariat (A/AC.105/L.234) and conference room papers (A/AC.105/2001/CRP.4 and Add.1) containing the results of the survey.

6. The Committee held informal consultations among Member States led by the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, Karl Doetsch (Canada), in order to reach agreement on the countries that would assume responsibility for leading teams to implement recommendations and for identifying members of those teams.

7. The Committee noted with satisfaction the comprehensive response to the survey that had been received from Member States. The Committee agreed that the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III could proceed in stages. In the first stage, the Committee would seek to implement recommendations that fell into the following two groups:

(a) *Group 1.* Those recommendations which were considered by Member States as of highest priority as indicated by the results of the survey;

(b) *Group 2.* Those recommendations for which there were States that had offered to be coordinators of action teams to implement recommendations.

8. The Committee recognized that there were two types of action recommended in the Vienna Declaration: (a) actions that Member States had a direct interest in pursuing through their national activities; and (b) actions that were related to strengthening the work of the Committee and of the United Nations, as well as coordination with other organizations of the United Nations system that could be undertaken under the leadership of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

9. For each recommendation to be addressed by the Committee through action teams there would be an assessment phase and an implementation phase. During the assessment phase, the following actions should be undertaken by an open-ended action team consisting of interested countries: (a) examination of the current status; (b) definition of actions to be undertaken during the implementation phase; and (c) preparation of a possible work plan. The Committee agreed that during the assessment phase it would be important to identify third parties, including intergovernmental organizations, such as the organizations of the United Nations system, and non-governmental entities, that would have a strong interest in contributing to and participating in the implementation of the recommendations.

*Recommendations assigned highest priority*

10. The Committee identified the following as the recommendations that had been assigned highest priority by Member States:

*Recommendations assigned highest priority<sup>a</sup>*

1. Develop a comprehensive, worldwide environmental monitoring strategy
2. Improve the management of Earth's natural resources
- 7.<sup>b</sup> Implement an integrated, global system to manage natural disaster mitigation, relief and prevention efforts
10. Improve universal access to and compatibility of space-based navigation and positioning systems
11. Promote sustainable development by applying the results of space research
18. Increase awareness among decision makers and the general public of the importance of space activities

<sup>a</sup> Each recommendation is numbered as in the questionnaire circulated to Member States in a note verbale dated 13 March 2001. The questionnaire listed the recommendations in the order of their appearance in the Vienna Declaration.

<sup>b</sup> Recommendation 7 is dealt with in the second group (see below).

11. The Committee agreed that, for the following recommendations, the countries indicated below should act as the "interim coordinators", who would exercise leadership in conducting the work associated with the recommendation concerned and coordinate the activities to be undertaken by participants of the team prior to the thirty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in 2002:

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|-------------------|---|
| Recommendation 2  | India   |
| Recommendation 11 | African States, under the leadership of Nigeria                 |
| Recommendation 18 | United States of America, with the active assistance of Austria |

12. The Committee agreed that consideration should be given to creating synergy between the work to be conducted by the team for recommendation 1 and the work of the team for recommendation 2, since many actions that would be taken to implement either of these two recommendations could be useful towards implementing the other recommendation. The Committee noted that the United States would assist the interim coordinators for those recommendations.

13. With regard to recommendations 1 and 10, the Committee noted that consultations were being held among interested countries to identify interim coordinators and that those consultations would be concluded in the period of two weeks following the end of the forty-fourth session of the Committee. The Committee agreed that in identifying interim coordinators, equitable regional representation should be borne in mind. With regard to recommendation 10, the Committee was of the view that the role of the interim coordinator could be played

by those countries which were involved in the development of global navigation satellite systems. The Committee agreed that the Office for Outer Space Affairs would inform Member States which interim coordinators had been agreed upon as a result of the consultations.

14. India and the United States submitted short papers to the Committee describing types of activity that would be undertaken by the action teams for recommendations 2 and 18, respectively. The Committee agreed that the interim coordinators for recommendations [1, 10 and 11] would submit as soon as possible similar short papers for their respective recommendations. The Committee requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to circulate those papers, once received, to Member States. The Committee also agreed that the work of the action teams for those recommendations could start as soon as the consultations were concluded (see para. [13] above).

*Recommendations for which an offer to be leader of the activity had been received*

15. The Committee noted that the offers to be leaders of the activities had been received for the following recommendations:

<i>Recommendations for which an offer to be leader of the activity had been received<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Country</i>
4. Enhance weather and climate forecasting	Portugal
6. Improve public health services	Canada
7. Implement an integrated, global system to manage natural disaster mitigation, relief and prevention efforts	China (interim coordinator) Canada (co-coordinator) France (secretariat)
14. Improve the international coordination of activities related to near-Earth objects	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
17. Enhance capacity-building by developing human and budgetary resources	Japan
32. Identify new and innovative sources of financing to support the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III	France

<sup>a</sup> Each recommendation is numbered as in the questionnaire circulated to Member States in note verbale dated 13 March 2001. The questionnaire listed the recommendations in the order of their appearance in the Vienna Declaration.

The Committee agreed that the countries indicated above would act as the interim coordinators for the recommendations concerned. The Committee also agreed that the work of the action teams for those recommendations could start as proposed by the respective countries.

16. The Committee noted that, pursuant to a proposal by the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session,

Member States had been invited to submit nominations for an expert group on the implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system. The Committee had before it the list of experts nominated by Member States to the expert group (annex to A/AC.105/L.233 and Add.1-3). The Committee agreed that the expert group would be merged into the action team on recommendation 7.

*Schedule of work to be carried out between the forty-fourth session of the Committee and the thirty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee*

17. The Committee requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to compile a list of contacts in those countries acting as interim coordinators and participating in the action teams for the recommendations listed in paragraphs [10 and 15] above. The Committee also requested the Office to circulate the list to Member States and make it available on the web site of the Office to be updated on a regular basis.

18. The Committee agreed that for each recommendation of group 1 (see para. [10] above), the interim coordinator would identify principal participants and reach consensus on who would be proposed to lead the team responsible for the recommendation. In cooperation with Member States that had expressed interest in participating, the interim coordinator would be responsible for preparing a work plan and defining principal products to be delivered by the team.

19. The Committee agreed that for each recommendation of group 2 (see para. [15] above), the interim coordinator would moderate those activities necessary to present the objectives, the preliminary results of the assessment and a detailed work plan, including the composition of the team and the products expected, at subsequent meetings of the Subcommittee and the Committee.

20. The Committee agreed to invite all Member States to identify the recommendations for which specific actions were not being undertaken through the procedure described above and to consider offering to lead action teams to implement recommendations on a priority basis for reasons of urgency, importance and the availability of resources to undertake the activity. The Committee also agreed that, for each recommendation, the action team should actively consider non-governmental entities that could be invited to participate in the teams.

21. The Committee requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to inform the organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with observer status with the Committee of the work accomplished and the progress made in the establishment of action teams. The Committee also requested the Office to conduct the questionnaire survey among those organizations in order to identify the recommendations for which they wished to be members of the action teams.

*Schedule of work to be carried out during the thirty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee*

22. The Committee requested the interim coordinators to report on the work conducted and submit work plans to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session, in 2002, for its approval. The Committee agreed that the Subcommittee, at that session, should reach consensus on who would be the principal participants of the teams. The Committee also agreed that the

Subcommittee should identify any other recommendations for which urgent actions were required and should agree on interim coordinators of the teams to be responsible for those recommendations.

**(b) Implementation of the plan of action of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications**

23. The Committee noted that the General Assembly, in paragraph 29 of its resolution 55/122, had requested the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the plan of action to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III submitted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs with the necessary resources in 2002.

24. The Committee stressed the importance of the full implementation of the plan of action by the Office for Outer Space Affairs with the necessary resources in 2002 and expressed its hope that the General Assembly would take that fully into account.

25. The Committee noted that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/68, the terms of reference of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications had been modified to include the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III and that the Secretary-General had invited all States to contribute voluntarily to the Trust Fund and had identified in his letter of invitation priority project proposals, on the basis of recommendations of the Committee at its forty-third session.<sup>2</sup> The Committee had before it a note by the Secretariat (A/AC.105/L.231) submitted in response to a request by the Assembly in resolution 54/68 listing those States which had responded to the invitation by the Secretary-General.

26. The Committee noted the appeal by the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Expert on Space Applications to Member States to consider contributions to the Trust Fund. The Committee urged all Member States that had not done so to consider contributing to the Trust Fund, in particular to support the projects and activities recommended by the Committee at its forty-third session.

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<sup>2</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/55/20), para. 87.*