



# General Assembly

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## Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee  
Forty-fourth session  
Vienna, 12-23 February 2007

### Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Statement by the Chairman.
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. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.
9. Near-Earth objects.
10. Space-system-based disaster management support.
11. International Heliophysical Year 2007.
12. 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 developing countries.

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13. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
14. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

## **Annotations\***

### **2. Statement by the Chairman**

The Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that have taken place since its forty-third 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.105/887 and Add.1). As a general guideline, the statements under this agenda item should be roughly 5-10 minutes in length (see A/AC.105/786, para. 16).

In paragraph 32 of its resolution 61/111 of 14 December 2006, the General Assembly invited the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities to continue to contribute to the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and to report to the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work conducted at its annual session. The report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on the work of its twenty-seventh session, in 2007, will be before the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/885).

### **4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications**

In paragraph 13 of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee, at its forty-fourth session, should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole to consider the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

The views of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space regarding the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, including activities for the period 2006-2007, are set out in the report of the Committee on its forty-ninth session.<sup>1</sup> In paragraph 17 of its resolution 61/111, the Assembly endorsed the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2007, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications (see A/AC.105/861, sects. II and III and annex III) and endorsed by the Committee.<sup>2</sup>

The Subcommittee will have before it the report of the Expert, covering the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications in 2006

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

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/61/20)*, paras. 80-92.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 81 and 87.

and 2007, as well as a listing of States contributing to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (A/AC.105/874).

The Subcommittee will also have before it the following reports on training courses, symposiums and workshops held in 2006 under the auspices of the Programme:

(a) United Nations/European Space Agency/International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development Expert Meeting on Remote Sensing Projects for the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region, held in Kathmandu from 6 to 10 March (A/AC.105/870);

(b) United Nations/Syrian Arab Republic/European Space Agency Regional Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Disaster Management in Western Asia and Northern Africa, held in Damascus from 22 to 26 April (A/AC.105/875);

(c) United Nations/Zambia/European Space Agency Regional Workshop on the Application of Global Navigation Satellite System Technologies for Sub-Saharan Africa, held in Lusaka from 26 to 30 June (A/AC.105/876);

(d) United Nations/Austria/European Space Agency Symposium on Space Tools for Monitoring Air Pollution and Energy Use for Sustainable Development, held in Graz, Austria, from 12 to 15 September (A/AC.105/877);

(e) United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Water Resources Management, held in Valencia, Spain, on 29 and 30 September (A/AC.105/878);

(f) Seventh United Nations/International Academy of Astronautics Workshop on Small Satellites in the Service of Developing Countries, held in Valencia, Spain, on 3 October (A/AC.105/884);

(g) United Nations/Ukraine Workshop on Space Law: Status, Application and Progressive Development of International and National Space Law, held in Kyiv from 6 to 9 November (A/AC.105/880);

(h) United Nations/South Africa Training Course on Satellite-Aided Search and Rescue, held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 20 to 24 November (A/AC.105/881);

(i) Second United Nations/National Aeronautics and Space Administration Workshop on the International Heliophysical Year 2007 and Basic Space Science, held in Bangalore, India, from 27 November to 1 December (A/AC.105/882);

(j) United Nations/China/European Space Agency Training Course on the Use and Applications of Global Navigation Satellite Systems, held in Beijing from 4 to 8 December (A/AC.105/883).

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

In paragraph 13 of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole to consider the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

In paragraph 37 of resolution 61/111, the Assembly noted with satisfaction that the Committee had established a closer link between its work to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development by contributing to the thematic areas that would be addressed by the Commission.

At its forty-ninth session, in 2006, the Committee agreed to continue contributing to the policy year of each of the two-year cycles of the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Committee agreed that member States of the Committee should be requested to provide inputs for the development of a concise document that would emphasize the benefits of the use of, and tools offered by, space science and technology and its applications for meeting the challenges being faced, in particular, by developing countries with regard to the issues to be addressed by the Commission in the period 2008-2009. The Committee agreed that the Subcommittee should, at its forty-fourth session, conduct the first review of the concise document to be prepared on the basis of the inputs received from member States of the Committee. The Committee further agreed to finalize, at its fiftieth session, its contribution to the thematic cluster for the cycle 2008-2009 of the Commission.<sup>3</sup>

The thematic cluster of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the period 2008-2009 comprises agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification, and Africa (see A/59/174, para. 231).

In paragraph 39 of its resolution 61/111, the Assembly noted with appreciation that the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems had been established on a voluntary basis as an informal body to promote cooperation, as appropriate, on matters of mutual interest related to civil satellite-based positioning, navigation, timing and value-added services, as well as the compatibility and interoperability of global navigation satellite systems, while increasing their use to support sustainable development, particularly in developing countries. The Office for Outer Space Affairs provided support for the organization of the first meeting of the International Committee in Vienna on 1 and 2 November 2006 (A/AC.105/879).

#### **6. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment**

In paragraph 10 (a) of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should consider this item at its forty-fourth session. The views of the Committee are set out in the report on its forty-ninth session.<sup>4</sup>

#### **7. Space debris**

In paragraph 10 (b) of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should consider this item in accordance with the new workplan adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-second session (A/AC.105/848, annex II, para. 6).

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid., paras. 63-65.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., paras. 116-119.

The text of the draft space debris mitigation guidelines of the Subcommittee, developed by consensus in the Working Group on Space Debris at the forty-third session of the Subcommittee, and contained in document A/AC.105/C.1/L.284, is to be presented to the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session, for its approval.

In paragraph 14 of its resolution 61/111, the Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee could, at any time during its forty-fourth session, reconvene its Working Group on Space Debris to consider comments resulting from the referral of the guidelines to the national level and any further developments, particularly the relationship between the revised draft of the space debris mitigation guidelines and nuclear power sources in outer space.

Pursuant to paragraph 24 of resolution 61/111, the Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat on national research on space debris, the safety of space objects with nuclear power sources on board and problems relating to their collision with space debris, containing information received by the Secretariat from Member States (A/AC.105/862).

#### **8. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space**

In paragraph 10 (b) of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its forty-fourth session, should consider this item in accordance with the workplan for the period 2003-2007, adopted by the Subcommittee at its fortieth session (A/AC.105/804, annex III) and amended at its forty-second session (see A/AC.105/848, annex III, paras. 7 and 8).

In paragraph 15 of its resolution 61/111, the Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space and that the Working Group should continue its intersessional work on the topics described in the multi-year workplan as amended by the Subcommittee at its forty-second session (see A/AC.105/848, annex III, paras. 7 and 8) and as agreed by the Subcommittee at its forty-third session (see A/AC.105/869, annex III) and by the Committee at its forty-ninth session.<sup>5</sup>

#### **9. Near-Earth objects**

In paragraph 10 (b) of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its forty-fourth session, should consider this item in accordance with the workplan adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-first session (A/AC.105/823, annex II, para. 18) and amended at its forty-second session (A/AC.105/848, annex I, para. 20).

According to the workplan, the Subcommittee, at its forty-fourth session, will consider:

(a) Continued reporting by Member States and international organizations on the range of activities related to near-Earth objects;

(b) Continued work and proposals of the Action Team on Near Earth Objects, as necessary, building on its work in the second year;

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., paras. 139-141.

(c) The range of, and suitable mechanisms for, further work on near-Earth objects.

The reports mentioned in subparagraph (a) above are contained in document A/AC.105/863 and Add.1 and 2.

In paragraph 16 of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee, at its forty-fourth session, should establish a Working Group on Near-Earth Objects for a period of one year, in accordance with its workplan under this item.

In addition, a working draft of a report summarizing the work carried out to date by the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects and indicating what further activity could help to complete the work of the Action Team will be presented to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session.<sup>6</sup>

#### **10. Space-system-based disaster management support**

In paragraph 6 of its resolution 61/110 of 14 December 2006, the Assembly decided to establish a programme within the United Nations to provide universal access to all countries and all relevant international and regional organizations to all types of space-based information and services relevant to disaster management. In paragraph 15 of that resolution, the Assembly agreed that the programme should be named the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (SPIDER), and should be implemented as a programme of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat under the Director of the Office.

In paragraph 13 of its resolution 61/110, the Assembly requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to develop a detailed workplan for the programme for 2007 and for the biennium 2008-2009 to be considered during the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, taking into consideration the commitments received, and in consultation with the representatives of countries that had provided or would be providing commitments, as well as with the representatives of other countries that had indicated their interest in contributing to the development of the workplan.

In paragraph 10 (b) of its resolution 61/111, the Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its forty-fourth session, should consider this item in accordance with the workplan adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-first session (A/AC.105/823, annex II, para. 15) and amended at its forty-second session (A/AC.105/848, annex I, para. 21). According to that workplan, the Subcommittee, at its forty-fourth session, will consider:

(a) A presentation on the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (SPIDER);

(b) Presentations by the International Charter "Space and Major Disasters" and other initiatives;

(c) Long-term perspectives of various Member States and space agencies on this subject.

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<sup>6</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/61/20)*, para. 145.

### **11. International Heliophysical Year 2007**

In paragraph 10 (b) of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its forty-fourth session, should consider this item in accordance with the workplan adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-second session (A/AC.105/848, annex I, para. 22).

According to the workplan, the Subcommittee, at its forty-fourth session, would consider reports on national and regional activities related to International Heliophysical Year 2007 by interested Member States, scientific organizations and the International Heliophysical Year secretariat. This update will include information on the progress towards the carrying out of outreach, educational and research campaigns and on the definition and plans for deployment of instrument arrays.

The Austrian Academy of Sciences will host a one-day symposium on the International Heliophysical Year 2007 during the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee. The symposium will be held at a location outside the United Nations.

### **12. 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 developing countries**

In paragraph 10 (c) of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should consider this item, at its forty-fourth session, as a single issue/item for discussion.

### **13. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**

In paragraph 11 of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly noted that the Subcommittee, at its forty-fourth session, would submit its proposal to the Committee for a draft provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee, in 2008. 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.<sup>7</sup> Pursuant to paragraph 13 of resolution 61/111, this item will be considered by the Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened at the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee.

#### *Committee on Space Research and International Astronautical Federation symposium*

In paragraph 12 of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation, in liaison with member States, should be

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/54/20 and Corr.1), annex I, sect. A.

invited to arrange a symposium to address the theme “The use of the equatorial orbit for space applications: challenges and opportunities”, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee.



## Annex

**Indicative schedule of work<sup>a</sup>**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
<b>Week of 12-16 February 2007</b>		
Monday, 12 February	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Statement by the Chairman Item 3. General exchange of views	Item 3. General exchange of views COSPAR and IAF Symposium on the Use of the Equatorial Orbit for Space Applications: Challenges and Opportunities
Tuesday, 13 February	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>b</sup> Item 6. Remote sensing	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>b</sup> COSPAR and IAF Symposium on the Use of the Equatorial Orbit for Space Applications: Challenges and Opportunities
Wednesday, 14 February	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>b</sup> Item 5. UNISPACE III <sup>b</sup> Item 8. Nuclear power sources <sup>c</sup>	Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>b</sup> Item 5. UNISPACE III <sup>b</sup> Item 6. Remote sensing
Thursday, 15 February	Item 5. UNISPACE III <sup>b</sup> Item 6. Remote sensing Item 8. Nuclear power sources <sup>c</sup>	Item 5. UNISPACE III <sup>b</sup> Item 8. Nuclear power sources <sup>c</sup> Item 10. Disaster management support
Friday, 16 February	Item 8. Nuclear power sources <sup>c</sup> Item 10. Disaster management support Item 12. Geostationary orbit	Item 8. Nuclear power sources <sup>c</sup> Item 10. Disaster management support
<b>Week of 19-23 February 2007</b>		
Monday, 19 February	Item 7. Space debris <sup>d</sup> Item 10. Disaster management support Item 12. Geostationary orbit	Item 7. Space debris <sup>d</sup> Item 12. Geostationary orbit Item 11. International Heliophysical Year 2007
Tuesday, 20 February	Item 7. Space debris <sup>d</sup> Item 8. Nuclear power sources <sup>c</sup> Item 9. Near-Earth objects <sup>e</sup>	Item 7. Space debris <sup>d</sup> Item 9. Near-Earth objects <sup>e</sup>

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Wednesday, 21 February	Item 9. Near-Earth objects <sup>e</sup> Item 11. International Heliophysical Year 2007 Item 13. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee <sup>b</sup>	Item 11. International Heliophysical Year 2007 Item 13. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee <sup>b</sup>
Thursday, 22 February	Item 9. Near-Earth objects <sup>e</sup> Item 13. Draft provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee <sup>b</sup>	Adoption of the report of the Working Group on Space Debris Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space Adoption of the report of the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects
Friday, 23 February	Adoption of the report of the Working Group of the Whole Item 14. Report to the Committee	Item 14. Report to the Committee

<sup>a</sup> 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)).

<sup>b</sup> The Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 61/111, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of items 4, 5 and 13. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of those items on Friday, 23 February, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group of the Whole.

<sup>c</sup> The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 61/111, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 8. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 22 February, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

<sup>d</sup> The Working Group on Space Debris, if reconvened pursuant to paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 61/111, would meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 7. In that case, the Subcommittee would resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 22 February, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group on Space Debris.

<sup>e</sup> The Working Group on Near-Earth Objects, to be convened pursuant to paragraph 10 (b) of General Assembly resolution 61/111, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 9. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 22 February, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects.