



# General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space  
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee  
Forty-fifth session  
Vienna, 11-22 February 2008  
Agenda item 12  
Near-Earth objects**

## **Report of the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects**

1. Pursuant to paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 62/217 of 22 December 2007, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-fifth session, reconvened its Working Group on Near-Earth Objects. The Working Group held [three] meetings, from 18 to [21] February 2008.
2. Mr. Richard Crowther (United Kingdom) was elected Chairman of the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects at the 688th meeting of the Subcommittee, on 18 February 2008.
3. In accordance with the workplan under the item on near-Earth objects (A/AC.105/890, annex III), the Working Group considered:
  - (a) Intersessional work related to near-Earth objects and reports submitted in response to the annual request for information on near-Earth object activities;
  - (b) Presentations on national, regional and international collaborative activities for the observation and analysis of near-Earth objects;
  - (c) The interim report of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects (2007-2008) (A/AC.105/C.1/L.295).
4. The Working Group had before it a note by the Secretariat on information on research in the field of near-Earth objects carried out by Member States, international organizations and other entities (A/AC.105/896).
5. The Working Group noted with appreciation that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States of America intended to upgrade the Minor Planet Center to provide more robust and accessible near-Earth object data-processing capabilities. Given the single-point nature of the Minor Planet Center and its archive, the Working Group encouraged international cooperation for



the establishment of parallel nodes for near-Earth object data-processing, archiving and orbit trajectory prediction in order to ensure the preservation of critical data, even in the event of catastrophic incidents, and to provide reliable information on near-Earth objects to all Member States.

6. The Working Group noted with satisfaction the work of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects, as reflected in the interim report of the Action Team (A/AC.105/C.1/L.295).

7. The Working Group noted that the intersessional work accomplished on near-Earth objects in the intersessional period had resulted in important contributions to the international cooperation in that area. In that context, the Working Group noted that international conferences such as the forthcoming international conference entitled “100 years since the Tunguska phenomenon: past, present and future”, to be hosted by the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow from 26 to 28 June 2008, provided an opportunity to raise awareness among decision makers about the threat posed by near-Earth objects and promote further cooperation.

8. The Working Group encouraged the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects to publicize the results of its near-Earth object activities as widely as possible, especially in the countries most likely to be affected by the impact of near-Earth objects. In that regard, the Working Group encouraged the Action Team to provide information on its activities at the Third African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, to be held in Algeria in 2009, in order to benefit from African contributions to raising awareness, both within the region and globally, of the threats posed by near-Earth objects.

9. The Working Group noted that international cooperation and coordination in improving the Apophis ephemeris was important for obtaining a better understanding of the threat posed by the Apophis asteroid to the Earth. The Working Group further noted that the period leading up to 2012 presented the optimal opportunity to carry out international activities in that regard.

10. The Working Group heard a statement by the observer for the Association of Space Explorers (ASE), at the invitation of the chairman of the Working Group, on the work planned and carried out by ASE in furthering the intersessional work of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects under the item, in accordance with the multi-year workplan of the Working Group.

11. The Working Group noted that member States had held informal consultations during the forty-fifth session of the Subcommittee, from 18 to 20 February, in order to consider ways to further the work of the Working Group and to enhance the multi-year workplan for the agenda item on near-Earth objects. In that regard, the Working Group reviewed its multi-year workplan (A/AC.105/C.1/2008/CRP.12) and recommended that the Subcommittee should continue to consider the item on near-Earth objects in accordance with the following new multi-year workplan:

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| 2009 | Consider the reports submitted in response to the annual request for information on near-Earth object activities and continue intersessional work. Continue to review policies and procedures related to the handling of the NEO threat at the international level and consider drafting international procedures for handling the NEO threat. Work within the framework of the International Year of |
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Astronomy, 2009 to raise awareness of the NEO threat. Review and prepare an updated interim report of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects.

2010 Consider the reports submitted in response to the annual request for information on near-Earth object activities and continue intersessional work. Continue drafting, and seek agreement on, international procedures for handling the NEO threat. Review progress of international cooperation and collaboration on NEO observations. Facilitate, for the purpose of NEO threat detection, a more robust international capability for the exchange, processing, archiving and dissemination of data. Review and prepare an updated interim report of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects.

2011 Consider the reports submitted in response to the annual request for information on near-Earth object activities and continue intersessional work. Finalize the agreement on international procedures for handling the NEO threat and engage international stakeholders. Review progress of international cooperation and collaboration on NEO observations and on the capability for the exchange, processing, archiving and dissemination of data for the purpose of NEO threat detection. Consider the final report of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects.

12. At its third meeting, on [21] February 2008, the Working Group adopted the present report.

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