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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space: activities of Member States

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
II. Replies received from Member States	2
Argentina	2



II. Replies received from Member States

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]

1. Introduction

1. The National Commission on Space Activities (CONAE) of Argentina, which is part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Religion, is the national space agency of Argentina. It coordinates all activities relating to the peaceful uses of outer space and is responsible for implementing the activities set out in the national space plan for 2004-2015.

2. CONAE has its headquarters in Buenos Aires and operates the Teófilo Tabanera Space Centre in Falda del Carmen, Córdoba Province, which is also the site of the Córdoba terrestrial station, a mission control centre, satellite testing facilities and the Mario Gulich Institute for Higher Space Studies, which is a cooperative venture between CONAE, the National University of Córdoba and the Italian Space Agency (ASI).

2. Satellite missions

3. The Italian-Argentine Satellite System for the Management of Emergencies (SIASGE) was inaugurated. The first two spacecraft of the Italian Constellation of Small Satellites for Mediterranean Basin Observation (COSMO-SkyMed) fleet, which is part of SIASGE, were placed in orbit in June and December, marking the start of this six-satellite programme (four Italian satellites with X-band synthetic aperture radar (SAR) and two Argentine satellites with L-band SAR).

4. With regard to the satellite data-receiving station in Antarctica, an antenna was installed at the Marambio Base in Argentine Antarctic territory to receive images transmitted from polar-orbiting meteorological satellites of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States of America. In addition, the Chinese Feng Yun satellite became operational in May 2007. In cooperation with the National Meteorological Service of Argentina and the national antarctic directorate, CONAE provides information obtained through the antenna as a contribution to increasing the availability of data on the climate in the area, thus assisting, for example, in the production of weather forecasts used for managing air traffic.

3. Activities by the Mario Gulich Institute for Higher Space Studies

5. An introductory course on remote sensing and the digital processing of satellite images was held at the Gulich Institute from 7 to 10 May 2007 as part of a workshop on the use of space technology for studying the central Andes of Argentina and Chile.

6. Another workshop on the use of space technology for studying the central Andes of Argentina and Chile was held at the Gulich Institute on 11 May 2007. Its aim was to consider the priorities to be addressed under a project on the problems of the high central Andes in Argentina and Chile. Representatives of scientific and

academic institutions (including the National University of San Juan and the University of La Serena), water management entities (including the Hydraulic Engineering Department of San Juan Province and the National Water Institute of Argentina), entities involved in the study of mountainous environments (including the Geological and Mining Service) and CONAE participated in the workshop.

7. A six-week advanced tele-epidemiology course, organized with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, was held in May and June. It was attended by remote sensing and epidemiology experts from 10 Latin American countries, with one representative for each discipline. The principal aim of the course was to have each group of participants develop a work project to be implemented in the country of origin. Participants worked in teams and specialized classes were given by speakers from the European Space Agency (ESA), universities in the United States, Mariscope Chilena and Argentina.

8. A training course on the use of SAR information for conserving human heritage was held in the Iguazú National Park, in the Misiones Province of Argentina, from 19 to 22 June 2007. Organized by CONAE in cooperation with the national parks administration and institutions in Brazil and Paraguay, the course aimed at training experts in the use of SAR technology for conserving heritage. The course was one of the activities carried out by CONAE under the initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), ESA and CONAE on the use of satellite information in support of the conservation of world heritage sites.

9. A seminar on the development of space applications was organized jointly by Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in Buenos Aires from 8 to 11 October 2007. The seminar focused on remote sensing for soil moisture applications, in particular through the use of radar information from the CONAE Observation and Communications Satellite (SAOCOM).

10. A workshop on remote sensing was organized by CONAE and UNESCO for secondary school teachers in Latin America at the Gulich Institute from 3 to 5 October. Over 50 teachers from Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru participated in the workshop. The training related primarily to the use of satellite images and their application in the area of global warming.

11. To mark World Space Week, over 70 students from the town of Alta Gracia were received at the Teófilo Tabanera Space Centre, in the framework of the workshop for secondary school teachers held at the Gulich Institute from 3 to 5 October. The activities carried out involved satellite engineering, the assembly of educational models of the Argentine scientific applications satellite SAC-C and the building and subsequent launch of water rockets from platforms donated by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency.

12. A workshop on sustainable development in mountain areas of Andean countries was organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, ESA and the Province of Mendoza, Argentina, with the support of the Government of Switzerland from 26 to 30 November 2007. It was attended by 70 people, including representatives of the Andean countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), international organizations and entities concerned with the subject of mountains. The seminar focused on three main topics: agriculture, mining and hydrology in mountain areas.

13. Introductory courses on the processing and interpretation of satellite images and geographic information systems were organized at the request of various institutions. The intensive practical and theoretical courses were tailored to the needs of participants. On average, four courses have been held each year.

14. As part of the specialization and postgraduate computing programmes offered by the Faculty of Mathematics, Astronomy and Physics at the National University of Córdoba, courses on the statistical processing of satellite images have been offered at the Gulich Institute since 2002 by Oscar Bustos, faculty professor, in conjunction with Marcelo Scavuzzo and Mario Lamfri of the Gulich Institute.

15. Refresher courses are offered by CONAE specialists and invited institutions. The intensive multi-topic courses are specifically structured to meet the needs of Argentine specialists who have been awarded scholarships by the Government of Italy under the SIASGE programme. The courses have been held in March and June every year since 2001.

4. Participation in international initiatives

16. Through the space agencies' open initiative on the use of space technology in support of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage,¹ CONAE continued to carry out activities relating to the Iguazú National Park and the Main Andean Road (*Qhapaq Ñan*) projects.

17. As a member of the Charter on Cooperation to Achieve the Coordinated Use of Space Facilities in the Event of Natural or Technological Disasters (also called the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters), CONAE provided SAC-C satellite images (from multispectral medium-resolution scanners, high sensitivity tracking cameras and high-resolution technological cameras) and the services of the Córdoba terrestrial station, when necessary. CONAE also arranged, through the Gulich Institute, for the participation of researchers from the various agencies that form the federal emergency response system.

18. CONAE participated in the Group on Earth Observations, an international initiative to create a global system of Earth observation systems.

19. CONAE chaired the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites from November 2005 to November 2006.

20. Together with the National Meteorological Service of Argentina, CONAE served on the international committee for the geostationary operational environmental satellite GOES-10. That satellite was repositioned by NOAA in response to a request from Southern Cone countries to ensure the continuous provision of information on the subregion, including during severe climatic events in the northern zone.

21. CONAE contributed to the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) by providing satellite data (under the National Space Plan) and training (as part of the activities carried out by the Gulich Institute).

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1037, No. 15511.

5. Agreements signed

22. In 2007, Argentina signed the following agreements:

(a) A special agreement between CONAE and the Alaska Satellite Facility at the University of Alaska Fairbanks was signed on 22 March to ensure the participation of CONAE in the Americas Advanced Land Observing Satellite (ALOS) Data Node;

(b) A master cooperative agreement between CONAE and the University of Alaska Fairbanks was also signed on 22 March;

(c) A special agreement between CONAE and the Centre national d'études spatiales (CNES) of France concerning the development of new applications in the field of tele-epidemiology was signed on 17 April;

(d) A special agreement between CONAE and CNES concerning the inclusion of the CARMEN-1 instrument on board the SAC-D/Aquarius satellite and the use of data was also signed on 17 April;

(e) A framework agreement between CONAE and the University of Valparaíso in Chile was signed on 4 May;

(f) A framework cooperation agreement between CONAE and the Centre for the Integrated Surveying of Natural Resources by means of Remote Sensing (CLIRSEN) of Ecuador was signed on 31 May;

(g) An agreement between CONAE and the Canadian Space Agency on cooperation in the development of the SAOCOM/PROSAT SAR mission was signed on 19 December.