

50<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 11-22 February 2013, Vienna (<http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/COPUOS/stsc/2013/index.html> )

## **INFORMAL SUMMARY OF DELIBERATIONS OF MEMBER STATES CONCERNING SPACE WEATHER DURING THE SESSION:**

For the duration of the session, ILWS/ISWI displayed an exhibit of posters showing scientific results of the

International Living With a Star (ILWS, <http://ilwsonline.org/tenthanniversary/>)

programme and the

International Space Weather Initiative (ISWI, <http://iswi-secretariat.org/> ).

1. The Subcommittee, at its forty-ninth session, agreed that an agenda item entitled “Space Weather” should be introduced as a regular item on the agenda of the Subcommittee, in order to allow member States of the Committee and international organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee to exchange views on national, regional and international activities related to space weather research with a view to promoting greater international cooperation in that area. The Subcommittee noted that it could, through that item, serve as an important advocate for efforts to close existing gaps in the space weather research field (A/AC.105/1001, para. 226).

2. The representatives of Canada, Chile on behalf of the Latin America and the Caribbean Group, Ecuador, Egypt, Germany, Republic of Korea, and Russian Federation made statements under agenda item 10. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

3. The Subcommittee heard the following scientific and technical presentations (<http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/COPUOS/stsc/2013/presentations.html> ):

(a) “Space weather application for navigation and radio communication in Indonesia”, by the representative of Indonesia;

(b) “Space weather: South Africa’s abilities and capabilities”, by the representative of South Africa;

(c) “International Centre for Space Weather Science and Education (CSWSE)”, by the representative of Japan;

(d) “ISWI update”, by the representative of the United States of America;

(e) “Solar Max”, by the representative of the United States of America;

(f) “MiniMax24 observation campaign”, by the representative of SCOSTEP;

(g) “ICG and its programme on GNSS applications”, by the representative of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

4. The Subcommittee had before it the following:

- (a) Education Curriculum: Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ST/SPACE/59);
- (b) Report on the United Nations/Austria Symposium on Data Analysis and Image Processing for Space Applications and Sustainable Development: Space Weather Data, held in Graz, Austria, from 18 to 21 September 2012 (A/AC.105/1026);
- (c) Report on the United Nations/Ecuador Workshop on the International Space Weather Initiative, held in Quito, Ecuador, from 8-21 October 2012 (A/AC.105/1030).

5. The Subcommittee noted that the objectives of the Space Weather item were:

- (a) To provide benchmark measurements of the responses of the magnetosphere, the ionosphere, the lower atmosphere and the Earth's surface in order to identify global processes and drivers that affected the terrestrial environment and climate;
- (b) To further the global study of the Sun-Earth system in order to understand the external and historical drivers of geophysical change;
- (c) To foster international scientific cooperation in the study of current and future space weather phenomena;
- (d) To communicate the unique scientific results of space weather research and societal impacts to interested members of the scientific community and to the general public.

6. The Subcommittee expressed its appreciation to the secretariat of the International Space Weather Initiative and the Office for Outer Space Affairs for conducting an international campaign, from 2010 to 2012, aimed at exploring solar-terrestrial interaction and deploying ground-based worldwide instrument arrays for space weather investigation, particularly in developing countries. As a result of that campaign, more than 100 States, of which over 80 were developing countries, were actively collecting data to be used to understand how space weather, caused by solar variability, could affect space systems and human space flight; electric power transmission; high-frequency radio communications; global navigation satellite system (GNSS) signals; long-range radar; and the well-being of passengers in high altitude aircraft.

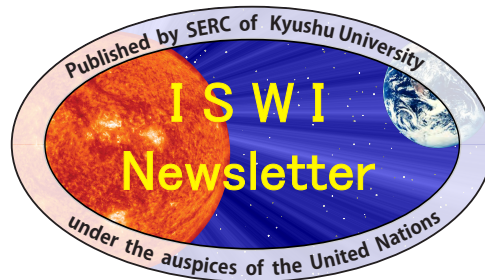
7. The Subcommittee expressed its appreciation to the secretariat of the International Space Weather Initiative and the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the numerous publications, posters, and leaflets they had published and disseminated and for the exhibitions they had organized to promote the International Living With A Star and International Space Weather Initiative among the space science and technology community and the general public, particularly in developing countries.

8. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation that the publication of the ISWI Newsletter by the International Center for Space Weather Science and Education of Kyushu University, Japan, and the maintenance of the ISWI Website (<http://iswi-secretariat.org/>) by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences provided a comprehensive overview of the extensive activities conducted worldwide between 2010 and 2012 to implement the objectives of the International Space Weather Initiative.

9. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation that Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, United States of America, SCOSTEP, and the Office for Outer Space Affairs had reported on their achievements and on the activities they had carried out in 2012 in the framework of the International Space Weather Initiative.

11. The Subcommittee expressed its gratitude for the holding during the session of the symposium celebrating the tenth anniversary of the International Living With a Star (ILWS) programme at the United Nations and the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

12. The Subcommittee welcomed the fact that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications had organized three workshops on the International Space Weather Initiative, hosted by Egypt in 2010, Nigeria in 2011, Ecuador in 2012, and the first UN/Austria Symposium on Data Analysis and Image Processing for Space Applications and Sustainable Development: Space Weather Data, hosted by Austria in 2012. The Subcommittee also welcomed the upcoming Second UN/Austria Symposium on Space Weather, scheduled to take place in September 2013, to be hosted by the Austrian Academy of Sciences on behalf of the Government of Austria.



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