



# General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
**Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**  
**Forty-ninth session**  
Vienna, 6-17 February 2012

## Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of the Chair.
3. Statement by the Chair.
4. General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities.
5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications.
6. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
7. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment.
8. Space debris.
9. Space-system-based disaster management support.
10. Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems.
11. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.
12. Near-Earth objects.
13. International Space Weather Initiative.
14. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities.
15. 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

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of the agenda  
for the 49th  
session of  
STSC.**



space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.

16. Draft provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
17. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

## **Annotations\***

### **2. Election of the Chair**

In paragraph 26 of its resolution 66/71, entitled “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space”, the General Assembly agreed that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies at their respective sessions in 2012 should elect their officers nominated for the period 2012-2013.

The Committee, at its fifty-fourth session, agreed that Félix Clementino Menicocci (Argentina) should be elected to the office of Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.<sup>1</sup>

### **3. Statement by the Chair**

The Chair will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Subcommittee that have taken place since its forty-eighth session. After the statement, the Subcommittee will organize its schedule of work.

### **4. 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.105/1008 and addenda). As a general rule, statements under this agenda item should not exceed 10 minutes in length (see A/AC.105/987, para. 219).

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

In paragraph 12 of its resolution 66/71, the General Assembly endorsed the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2012, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/980, 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 on Space Applications, covering the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications in 2011 and 2012 and containing a list of States contributing to the Programme (A/AC.105/1011). The Subcommittee will also have before it the

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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-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/66/20)*, para. 286.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 80.

following reports on training courses, symposiums and workshops organized in the framework of the Programme:

(a) United Nations/National Aeronautics and Space Administration/ Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency Workshop on the International Space Weather Initiative, held in Cairo from 6 to 10 November 2010 (A/AC.105/994);

(b) Second United Nations/Argentina International Conference on the Use of Space Technology for Water Management, held in Buenos Aires from 14 to 18 March 2011 (A/AC.105/995);

(c) United Nations/Plurinational State of Bolivia/European Space Agency Workshop on Integrated Space Technology Applications for Sustainable Development in the Mountain Regions of Andean Countries, held in Cochabamba, Plurinational State of Bolivia, from 25 to 29 October 2010 (A/AC.105/999);

(d) Sixth Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems, held in Tokyo from 5 to 9 September 2011 (A/AC.105/1000);

(e) Third United Nations/Austria/European Space Agency Symposium on Small Satellite Programmes for Sustainable Development: Implementing Small Satellite Programmes — Technical, Managerial, Regulatory and Legal Issues, held in Graz, Austria, from 13 to 16 September 2011 (A/AC.105/1005);

(f) United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on Space for Human and Environmental Security, held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 30 September to 2 October 2011 (A/AC.105/1006);

In paragraph 7 of its resolution 66/71, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee, at its forty-ninth session, should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole.

The Working Group of the Whole will consider the item on the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

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

In paragraph 20 of its resolution 66/71, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction that a number of the recommendations set out in the Plan of Action of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) (A/59/174, sect. VI.B) had been implemented and that satisfactory progress was being made in implementing the outstanding recommendations through national and regional activities.

The Subcommittee will have before it, for information, a note by the Secretariat on the contribution of the Committee to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development: harnessing space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development (A/AC.105/993).

The Working Group of the Whole will consider the item on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

**8. Space debris**

In paragraphs 8-10 of its resolution 66/71, the General Assembly considered the issue of space debris.

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat on national research on space debris, safety of space objects with nuclear power sources on board and problems relating to the collision of such space objects with space debris, containing information received by the Secretariat from Member States (A/AC.105/C.1/101 and addenda).

**9. Space-system-based disaster management support**

The Subcommittee will have before it a report on activities carried out in 2011 in the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) (A/AC.105/1010), a report on technical advisory support activities carried out in 2011 in the framework of UN-SPIDER (A/AC.105/1009) and a report on the second UN-SPIDER international expert meeting on crowdsourcing mapping for preparedness and emergency response, held in Geneva on 16 November 2011 (A/AC.105/1007).

The Working Group of the Whole will consider space-system-based disaster management support.

**10. Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems**

In paragraph 13 of its resolution 66/71, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction that the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems had held a meeting in Tokyo from 5 to 9 September 2011.

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the Sixth Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (A/AC.105/1000).

**11. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space**

In paragraph 7 of its resolution 66/71, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

The Working Group will hold a workshop on the afternoon of 8 February 2012, with simultaneous interpretation. Member States and international intergovernmental organizations will make presentations at the workshop pursuant to the invitation extended in 2011. The workshop will be held in accordance with the multi-year workplan of the Working Group, adopted by the Subcommittee at its forty-seventh session (A/AC.105/958, annex II, para. 8).

**12. Near-Earth objects**

In paragraph 7 of its resolution 66/71, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on Near-Earth Objects.

The Working Group will continue its work according to the multi-year workplan for the period 2012-2013 (A/AC.105/987, annex III, para. 9).

The Subcommittee will have before it a report containing information on research in the field of near-Earth objects carried out by member States, international organizations and other entities (A/AC.105/C.1/100). The Subcommittee will also have before it the interim report of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects (A/AC.105/C.1/L.316) and the draft recommendations of the Action Team on near-Earth Objects for an international response to the near-Earth object impact threat (A/AC.105/C.1/L.317).

### **13. International Space Weather Initiative**

The Subcommittee will continue its consideration of the agenda item entitled “International Space Weather Initiative” in accordance with its workplan for 2010-2012 (A/AC.105/933, annex I, para. 16), finalize a report on regional and international plans and encourage the continued operation of existing instrument arrays and the deployment of new instruments.

The Subcommittee will have before it a report containing information received from Member States and observers on regional and international plans to implement the International Space Weather Initiative (A/AC.105/C.1/102).

### **14. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities**

The Subcommittee will consider an item entitled “Long-term sustainability of outer space activities” and reconvene its Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, in accordance with the workplan under that item for 2012.<sup>3</sup>

A workshop on experiences and practices in the conduct of sustainable space activities will be held on the afternoon of 9 February 2012, with simultaneous interpretation, in accordance with the workplan for 2012.<sup>4</sup>

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat (A/AC.105/C.1/103 and addenda) containing information provided by member States and observers of the Committee and international organizations pursuant to the terms of reference and methods of work of the Working Group.<sup>5</sup>

### **16. Draft provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**

In accordance with an agreement reached by the Committee at its forty-second session, discussion under the item on the draft provisional agenda for the Subcommittee should include identification of subjects to be dealt with as single issues/items for discussion or under the multi-year workplans.<sup>6</sup> This item will be considered by the Working Group of the Whole. The proposal for the draft provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Subcommittee will be submitted to the Committee at its fifty-fifth session, in 2012.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., annex II, para. 23.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., annex II.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 and corrigendum* (A/54/20 and Corr.1), annex I, sect. A.

*Symposium*

At its fifty-fourth session, the Committee welcomed the agreement of the Subcommittee that the topic of the symposium to be organized in 2012 by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, in accordance with the agreement reached by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session (A/AC.105/890, annex I, para. 24), should be “The Earth observation services industry: market opportunities”. The symposium should target the contribution of the Committee to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development<sup>7</sup> and should include observance of the fortieth anniversary of the launch of Landsat-1 (A/AC.105/987, para. 213).

*Organizational matters*

At its fifty-fourth session, the Committee endorsed the recommendations made by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-eighth session (A/AC.105/987, paras. 216-220) and by the Legal Subcommittee at its fiftieth session (A/AC.105/990, paras. 194 and 196-198), concerning the improvement and optimization of methods of work of those subsidiary bodies.

The Committee agreed to apply to the organization of its work the same methods as proposed by the Scientific and Technical and Legal Subcommittees. In that regard, the Committee agreed that:

- (a) Maximum flexibility should be applied in the scheduling of items;
- (b) As a general rule, statements should not exceed 10 minutes, and scientific and technical presentations should be closely linked to the agenda items of the Committee and should not exceed 15 minutes in duration. The Chair should remind delegations in cases of time being exceeded, as appropriate;
- (c) Member States and observers of the Committee should communicate to the Secretariat their wish to make scientific and technical presentations, and the item under which the presentation is to be made, before the start of the session, in order to optimize the plan of work of the session. A list of presentations should be made available to all delegations on the first day of the session, for possible updating, and should be closed by the adjournment of the last plenary meeting of that day. Speaking notes for such presentations should be provided to facilitate simultaneous interpretation.<sup>8</sup>

The Working Group of the Whole will consider organizational matters.

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/66/20), para. 167.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., para. 298.

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## Annex

### Organization of work

1. In preparing the organization of work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-ninth session, the Secretariat, following the request of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and in close consultation with the members of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, implemented measures to rationalize and optimize the use of time of the Committee and its Subcommittees, taking into account the need for maximum flexibility in organizing the work of their sessions in 2012. Further measures have been taken by the Secretariat to optimize the organization of work in response to the agreement made by the Committee at its fifty-fourth session.<sup>a</sup>
2. The work of the Subcommittee has been scheduled so as to afford the working groups that will be reconvened under items 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14 and 16 the maximum amount of time available.
3. In order to enable the Subcommittee to commence its consideration of all items of the provisional agenda in a timely and balanced manner, the item entitled “General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities” has been scheduled over a longer period of time during the session, as was done during the forty-eighth session of the Subcommittee, in 2011. Statements to be made under that item should be no longer than 10 minutes. The number of statements to be made under that item at each meeting may be limited, as necessary, in order to allow sufficient time for other agenda items to be considered as planned for each meeting.
4. Technical presentations will be scheduled in accordance with the criteria established by the Committee at its fifty-fourth session in 2011 (A/66/20, para. 298) and as reflected above in the annotations to item 16 of the provisional agenda.
5. An indicative schedule of work is provided below. The indicative schedule of work is a general guide to the dates and times when items will be addressed during the session. The consideration of all items can be advanced, extended or delayed, depending on the requirements of the members of the Committee and any organizational constraints faced in the course of the session.

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<sup>a</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/66/20), para. 298.*

## Indicative schedule of work\*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
<b>Week of 6-10 February 2012</b>		
Monday, 6 February	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Election of the Chair Item 3. Statement by the Chair Item 4. General exchange of views	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>a</sup> Item 6. UNISPACE III <sup>a</sup> Item 7. Remote sensing Technical presentations
Tuesday, 7 February	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>a</sup> Item 6. UNISPACE III <sup>a</sup> Item 7. Remote sensing Technical presentations	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications <sup>a</sup> Item 6. UNISPACE III <sup>a</sup> Item 7. Remote sensing Technical presentations
Wednesday, 8 February	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 8. Space debris Item 9. Disaster management support <sup>a</sup> Item 11. Nuclear power sources <sup>b</sup> Technical presentations	Item 11. Nuclear power sources <sup>b</sup> Workshop organized by the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space <sup>b</sup>
Thursday, 9 February	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 8. Space debris Item 9. Disaster management support <sup>a</sup> Item 11. Nuclear power sources <sup>b</sup> Technical presentations	Item 14. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities <sup>d</sup> Workshop organized by the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities <sup>d</sup>
Friday, 10 February	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 8. Space debris Item 9. Disaster management support <sup>a</sup> Item 11. Nuclear power sources <sup>b</sup> Technical presentations	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 8. Space debris Item 9. Disaster management support <sup>a</sup> Item 14. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities <sup>d</sup> Technical presentations

\* 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)).



<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
<b>Week of 13-17 February 2012</b>		
Monday, 13 February	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 10. Global navigation satellite systems Item 12. Near-Earth objects <sup>c</sup> Item 14. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities <sup>d</sup> Technical presentations	Item 4. General Exchange of views Symposium organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs
Tuesday, 14 February	Item 10. Global navigation satellite systems Item 12. Near-Earth objects <sup>c</sup> Item 13. International Space Weather Initiative Item 14. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities <sup>d</sup> Technical presentations	Item 10. Global navigation satellite systems Item 12. Near-Earth objects <sup>c</sup> Item 13. International Space Weather Initiative Item 14. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities <sup>d</sup> Technical presentations
Wednesday, 15 February	Item 10. Global navigation satellite systems Item 12. Near-Earth objects <sup>c</sup> Item 13. International Space Weather Initiative Item 15. Geostationary orbit Technical presentations	Item 13. International Space Weather Initiative Item 15. Geostationary orbit Item 16. Draft provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Subcommittee <sup>a</sup> Technical presentations
Thursday, 16 February	Item 15. Geostationary orbit Item 16. Draft provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Subcommittee <sup>a</sup> Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space Technical presentations	Item 16. Draft provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Subcommittee <sup>a</sup> Adoption of the report of the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects Adoption of the report of the Working Group of the Whole Item 17. Report to the Committee Technical presentations
Friday, 17 February	Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities Item 17. Report to the Committee	Item 17. Report to the Committee

<sup>a</sup> The Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 66/71, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of items 5, 6, 9 and 16. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee will resume its consideration of those items on Thursday, 16 February, in order to endorse the report of the Working Group.

<sup>b</sup> The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 66/71, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 11 and will hold a workshop in accordance with the workplan under item 11 (A/AC.105/987, para. 212). The Subcommittee will resume its

consideration of the item on Thursday, 16 February, in order to endorse the report of the Working Group.

<sup>c</sup> The Working Group on Near-Earth Objects, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 66/71, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 12. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 16 February, in order to endorse the report of the Working Group.

<sup>d</sup> The Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 66/71, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 14 and will hold a workshop in accordance with its terms of reference and methods of work (A/66/20, annex II, para. 23). The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Friday, 17 February, in order to endorse the report of the Working Group.