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Committee II
Agenda item 8
Status and applications of space science and technology

Technical Forum

Conclusions and proposals of the Seminar on Global Health

1. The Seminar on Global Health considered issues relating to the use of remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS) to improve human health throughout the world.
 2. The Seminar reached the following conclusions:
 - (a) The use of remote sensing and GIS can help prevent infectious disease, in particular in developing countries;
 - (b) Remote sensing and GIS are most effective when used to eradicate endemic disease through identification of disease reservoirs and disease vectors.
 3. The Seminar made the following recommendations:
 - (a) States should raise awareness about the possibilities of remote sensing technology and the action required to meet the need for education at the highest level. In that context, the involvement of trained personnel, such as statisticians and epidemiologists, is an efficient and necessary way to speed up the process of capacity-building;
 - (b) Institutional support and cooperation should be recognized as having an essential role to play in any programmes undertaken;
 - (c) Programmes at the regional level should be established to prevent the re-emergence of diseases;
 - (d) Issues relating to the cost of, and timely access to, data should be addressed;
 - (e) The development of affordable GIS software should be encouraged.
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