



# General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space  
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee  
Fifty-fifth session  
Vienna, 29 January–9 February 2018**

## **Annotated provisional agenda**

### **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. Space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development.
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. Space weather.
12. Near-Earth objects.
13. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.
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 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 fifty-sixth 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 its decision 72/518, entitled “Election of officers nominated for the Bureaux of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2018–2019”, the General Assembly endorsed the composition of the Bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2018–2019 and agreed that the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, at their respective sessions in 2018, shall elect their officers nominated for that period.

In accordance with a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Algeria, Pontsho Maruping (South Africa) is nominated for election to the office of Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for the period 2018–2019.

### **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 fifty-fourth session. After that 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.105/1154](#)).

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

In paragraph 18 of its resolution [72/77](#), the General Assembly recognized the capacity-building activities under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, which provide unique benefits for Member States, in particular developing countries, participating in those activities.

The Subcommittee will have before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the United Nations/United States of America Workshop on the International Space Weather Initiative held in Boston, United States, from 31 July to 4 August 2017 ([A/AC.105/1160](#));

(b) Report on the United Nations/World Health Organization/Switzerland Conference on Strengthening Space Cooperation for Global Health held in Geneva from 23 to 25 August 2017 ([A/AC.105/1161](#));

(c) Report on the United Nations/Austria Symposium on the theme “Access to space: holistic capacity-building for the twenty-first century”, held in Graz, Austria, from 3 to 7 September 2017 ([A/AC.105/1162](#));

(d) Report on the United Nations/Russian Federation Workshop on Human Capacity-building in Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Social and Economic Development held in Samara, Russian Federation, from 30 October to 2 November 2017 ([A/AC.105/1164](#));

(e) Report on the United Nations/Italy Workshop on the Open Universe Initiative held in Vienna from 20 to 22 November 2017 ([A/AC.105/1175](#)).

### **6. Space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development**

In paragraph 9 of its resolution [72/77](#), the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group of the Whole.

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\* The annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Subcommittee.

The Working Group of the Whole will consider the item on space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development and will continue to consider the preparations for UNISPACE+50.

The Working Group of the Whole will have before it the following documents:

- (a) Report on the United Nations Expert Meeting on Space and Women held in New York from 4 to 6 October 2017 ([A/AC.105/1163](#));
- (b) Report on the United Nations/United Arab Emirates High-level Forum on Space as a Driver for Socioeconomic Sustainable Development held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 6 to 9 November 2017 ([A/AC.105/1165](#));
- (c) Note by the Secretariat on the “Space2030” agenda and the global governance of outer space activities ([A/AC.105/1166](#));
- (d) Note by the Secretariat containing a first version of the draft resolution on space as a driver of sustainable development ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.364](#)).

The Working Group of the Whole will have before it the following notes by the Secretariat:

- (a) Thematic priority 1, on global partnership in space exploration and innovation ([A/AC.105/C.1/114](#));
- (b) Thematic priority 2, entitled “Legal regime of outer space and global space governance: current and future perspectives” ([A/AC.105/1169](#));
- (c) Thematic priority 3, on enhanced information exchange on space objects and events ([A/AC.105/1170](#));
- (d) Thematic priority 4, on international framework for space weather services ([A/AC.105/1171](#));
- (e) Thematic priority 5, on strengthened space cooperation for global health ([A/AC.105/1172](#));
- (f) Thematic priority 6, on international cooperation towards low-emission and resilient societies ([A/AC.105/1173](#));
- (g) Thematic priority 7, on capacity-building for the twenty-first century ([A/AC.105/1174](#)).

The Working Group of the Whole will continue to consider the work being undertaken by the Expert Group on Space and Global Health (see [A/AC.105/1138](#), annex I, paras. 22–24).

## **7. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth’s environment**

Pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution [72/77](#), the Subcommittee will continue consideration of this item.

## **8. Space debris**

In paragraphs 11 and 12 of its resolution [72/77](#), the General Assembly addressed 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 their collision with space debris, containing information received by the Secretariat from Member States and international organizations ([A/AC.105/C.1/113](#)).

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

In paragraph 19 of its resolution [72/77](#), the General Assembly recognized the significant achievements made and the advisory support provided to 40 Member

States within the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) since its establishment in 2006.

The Subcommittee will have before it a report on the United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Risk Reduction on the theme “Building resilience through integrated applications”, held in Beijing from 23 to 25 October 2017 ([A/AC.105/1156](#)), and a report on activities carried out in 2017 in the framework of UN-SPIDER ([A/AC.105/1157](#)).

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

In paragraph 21 of its resolution [72/77](#), the General Assembly noted with satisfaction the continuous progress made by the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, in its capacity as executive secretariat of ICG, towards achieving compatibility and interoperability among global and regional space-based positioning, navigation and timing systems and in the promotion of the use of global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) and their integration into national infrastructure, particularly in developing countries.

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the Twelfth Meeting of ICG, held in Kyoto, Japan, from 2 to 7 December 2017 ([A/AC.105/1158](#)), and a report on activities carried out in 2017 in the framework of the ICG workplan ([A/AC.105/1159](#)).

The Subcommittee, at its fifty-fourth session, took note of the proposal made by ICG (see [A/AC.105/C.1/2017/CRP.18](#)) and agreed that, under the agenda item on recent developments in GNSS, a general exchange of information should be included on issues related to GNSS spectrum protection and interference detection and mitigation, with a view to raising awareness of efforts to achieve the overall goal of promoting effective use of GNSS open services by the global community. In that context, the Subcommittee encouraged States members and permanent observers of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to participate in the focused exchange of information under the item ([A/AC.105/1138](#), para. 290).

#### **11. Space weather**

The Subcommittee will continue to consider the work being undertaken by the Expert Group on Space Weather (see [A/AC.105/1138](#), paras. 179–201).

#### **12. Near-Earth objects**

In paragraph 10 of its resolution [72/77](#), the General Assembly noted with satisfaction the work carried out by the International Asteroid Warning Network and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group to strengthen international cooperation to mitigate the potential threat posed by near-Earth objects, with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, serving as the permanent secretariat of the Advisory Group.

The Subcommittee will continue to consider the work being undertaken by the International Asteroid Warning Network and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group ([A/AC.105/1138](#), paras. 202–218).

#### **13. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space**

In paragraph 9 of its resolution [72/77](#), 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 continue its work under the new multi-year workplan for the period 2017–2021 ([A/AC.105/1138](#), annex II, para. 9).

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

In paragraph 9 of its resolution [72/77](#), the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

The Working Group will continue its work in accordance with the extended programme of work for finalizing the report of the Working Group and the full compendium of guidelines on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities ([A/71/20](#), para. 137).

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat entitled “Guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities” ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.362/Rev.1](#)) and a working paper by the Chair of the Working Group entitled “Outline for the report of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities” ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.357](#)).

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

Pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution [72/77](#), the Subcommittee will continue its consideration of this item.

**16. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**

The draft provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Subcommittee, outlining subjects to be dealt with as single issues/items for discussion or under multi-year workplans, will be submitted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its sixty-first session, in 2018. The Working Group of the Whole will consider the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Subcommittee, as well as organizational matters of the Subcommittee.

In accordance with the agreement reached by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session, in 2007 ([A/AC.105/890](#), annex I, para. 24), and at its fifty-fourth session, in 2017 ([A/AC.105/1138](#), para. 289), a symposium organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs on the topic “Expanding horizons: the case for industry engagement in UNISPACE+50 and beyond” will be held in the afternoon of 6 February 2018.

## Annex

### Organization of work

1. The work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee has been scheduled so as to afford the working groups that will be reconvened under items 6, 13, 14 and 16 the maximum amount of time available.
2. The number of statements to be made at each meeting under item 4, entitled “General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities”, may be limited, as necessary, in order to allow sufficient time for other agenda items to be considered as planned for each meeting. As a general rule, statements should not exceed 10 minutes (A/70/20, para. 357 and A/AC.105/1088, para. 275 (b)).
3. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its sixtieth session, decided that, to facilitate progress on UNISPACE+50 during the 2018 cycle of sessions, the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space of the Legal Subcommittee would be mandated to consider the draft resolution on UNISPACE+50. To do so effectively, any technical presentations that might have been requested would be delivered at lunch time only and without interpretation (A/72/20, para. 324 (f)).
4. 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 may be advanced, extended or delayed, depending on the requirements of the members of the Subcommittee and any organizational constraints faced in the course of the session.

#### Indicative schedule of work\*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
<b>Week of 29 January–2 February 2018</b>		
Monday, 29 January	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 11. Space weather Item 14. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities <sup>a</sup>
Tuesday, 30 January	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 11. Space weather Item 14. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities <sup>a</sup>	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 11. Space weather Item 14. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities <sup>a</sup>
Wednesday, 31 January	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 8. Space debris Item 13. Nuclear power sources <sup>b</sup>	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 8. Space debris Item 13. Nuclear power sources <sup>b</sup>
Thursday, 1 February	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 8. Space debris Item 13. Nuclear power sources <sup>b</sup>	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 6. Space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development <sup>c</sup> Item 12. Near-Earth objects

\* 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>
Friday, 2 February	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 6. Space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development <sup>c</sup> Item 12. Near-Earth objects	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 6. Space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development <sup>c</sup> Item 12. Near-Earth objects
<b>Week of 5–9 February 2018</b>		
Monday, 5 February	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 9. Disaster management support	Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 9. Disaster management support Item 10. Global navigation satellite systems
Tuesday, 6 February	Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 9. Disaster management support Item 10. Global navigation satellite systems	Symposium organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs on the topic “Expanding horizons: the case for industry engagement in UNISPACE+50 and beyond”
Wednesday, 7 February	Item 7. Remote sensing Item 10. Global navigation satellite systems Item 15. Geostationary orbit	Item 7. Remote sensing Item 15. Geostationary orbit Item 16. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Subcommittee <sup>c</sup>
Thursday, 8 February	Item 7. Remote sensing Item 15. Geostationary orbit Item 16. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Subcommittee <sup>c</sup> Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space	Item 16. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Subcommittee <sup>c</sup> Adoption of the report of the Working Group of the Whole Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities
Friday, 9 February	Item 17. Report to the Committee	Item 17. Report to the Committee

<sup>a</sup> The Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 72/77, will meet during the session for its consideration of item 14. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 8 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 9 of General Assembly resolution 72/77, will meet during the session for its consideration of item 13. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Thursday, 8 February, in order to endorse the report of the Working Group.

<sup>c</sup> The Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 72/77, will meet during the session for its consideration of items 6 and 16. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee will resume its consideration of those items on Thursday, 8 February, in order to endorse the report of the Working Group.