



# General Assembly

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## Committee on the Peaceful

### Uses of Outer Space

#### Sixty-fifth session

Vienna, 1–10 June 2022

Item 13 of the provisional agenda\*

#### Use of space technology in the United Nations system

## Report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on its fortieth session

(Online, 14 December 2021)

### I. Introduction

1. The Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space) has been serving as the focal point for inter-agency coordination and cooperation in space-related activities since 1975, with the aim of promoting inter-agency coordination and cooperation and preventing duplication of efforts related to the use of space applications by the United Nations.

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution [76/76](#), urged UN-Space, under the leadership of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, to continue to examine how space science and technology and their applications could contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encouraged entities of the United Nations system to participate, as appropriate, in UN-Space coordination efforts.

3. The fortieth session of UN-Space was held online on 14 December 2021. The session was organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in its capacity as the secretariat of UN-Space.

4. The session was chaired by a representative of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and was attended by representatives of the following entities: Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Department of Peace Operations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic Commission for Africa, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Telecommunication Union, Office for Outer Space Affairs, secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, United Nations Global Pulse, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, United Nations Satellite

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\* A/AC.105/L.327.



Centre and World Meteorological Organization. A list of participants is contained in the annex to the present report.

## **II. Summary of proceedings**

### **A. Opening of the session**

5. The Chair, in his opening statement, welcomed participants to the session and stressed the success of UN-Space as a long-standing inter-agency coordination mechanism, as demonstrated by the holding of its fortieth anniversary session. He stressed the importance of continuous cooperation among United Nations entities in promoting the use of space science and technologies and their applications for attaining sustainable development goals and increasing the national capacities of developed and developing countries to harness the benefits of space for development.

### **B. Adoption of the agenda**

6. Recalling the agreement reached at its thirty-fourth session, in 2014, that a more flexible agenda could allow for the consideration of ad hoc items, UN-Space adopted the following agenda for its fortieth session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Update on the “Space2030” Agenda.
4. Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system.
5. Special report by UN-Space on initiatives and applications for space-related inter-agency cooperation.
6. UN-Space publication.
7. Coordination of future plans and programmes of common interest for cooperation and exchange of views on current activities in the practical application of space technology and related areas. (Presentations by participating entities)
8. Organization of open session.
9. Any other business.

### **C. Update on the “Space2030” Agenda**

7. The Chair, in his statement, provided an update on the “Space2030” Agenda. He recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution [73/6](#), entitled “Fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: space as a driver of sustainable development”, had invited the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue to develop a “Space2030” agenda and implementation plan and to provide the General Assembly with the outcome of its work for consideration by the Assembly.

8. The Chair informed participants that the three years of work towards the development of the “Space2030” Agenda had culminated in the adoption, without a vote, by the General Assembly of its resolution [76/3](#), entitled “The ‘Space2030’ Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development”, at its 21st plenary meeting, held on 25 October 2021. He emphasized the close linkages between the “Space2030” Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the goals and targets contained therein, and also noted that the Committee should carry out a midterm

review in 2025 and a final review in 2030 of progress made in implementing the “Space2030” Agenda.

**D. Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system and special report by UN-Space on initiatives and applications for space-related inter-agency cooperation**

9. UN-Space recalled that, at its thirtieth session, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 March 2010, participants had agreed that the reports of the Secretary-General on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system served as a strategic tool for the United Nations to avoid duplication of efforts in the field of space science and technology, and that future reports should highlight the efforts of the United Nations system in delivering as one with regard to space-related activities for the development agenda.

10. UN-Space also recalled that earlier reports of the Secretary-General had focused on addressing the post-2015 development agenda (A/AC.105/1063) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/AC.105/1115). In 2018, the report was entitled “Coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system: directions and anticipated results for the period 2018–2019 – a United Nations that delivers” (A/AC.105/1179), and the most recent report focused on megatrends and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (A/AC.105/1230).

11. UN-Space noted that the report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system: directions and anticipated results for the period 2020–2021, on megatrends and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (A/AC.105/1230), had been submitted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its sixty-fourth session, in 2021 (A/76/20, para. 274 (a)).

12. UN-Space recalled that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, also at its sixty-fourth session, had noted that the next report on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system could focus on the use of space technologies to support climate action, mapping existing activities in the United Nations system, the mandates of the respective bodies and identifying possible future synergies and avoiding duplication (A/76/20, para. 277).

13. Recalling its special report on the use of space technology within the United Nations system to address climate change issues (A/AC.105/991), issued in 2011, UN-Space agreed that it would prepare a report on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system for climate action, to be presented to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its sixty-fifth session, in 2022.

14. UN-Space recalled that the themes addressed in its previous special reports had included the following: new and emerging technologies, applications and initiatives for space-related inter-agency cooperation (A/AC.105/843); space benefits for Africa: contribution of the United Nations system (A/AC.105/941); space for agriculture development and food security (A/AC.105/1042); space for global health (A/AC.105/1091); the role of United Nations entities in supporting Member States in the implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities (A/AC.105/1116); space weather (A/AC.105/1146); and partnerships (A/AC.105/1200).

15. UN-Space recalled the agreement reached at its thirty-eighth session, held in New York on 29 October 2018, that its future special report to be issued after 2020 could focus on the use of space science, technology and applications for water (A/AC.105/1209, para. 43). UN-Space noted that another future report could focus on coordination in promoting the use of space science, technology and applications for the implementation of the “Space2030” Agenda.

16. UN-Space agreed that the focus of its report to be presented to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its sixty-sixth session, in 2023, would be decided at the forty-first session of UN-Space.

### **E. UN-Space publication**

17. UN-Space recalled its publications entitled “Space solutions for the world’s problems: how the United Nations family uses space technology for achieving development goals” (ST/SPACE/33), *Space and Climate Change* and “Space for agriculture development and food security: use of space technology within the United Nations system” (ST/SPACE/69).

18. UN-Space also recalled the agreement reached at its thirty-eighth session, held in New York on 29 October 2018, that it could produce, in 2020, a publication on the use of space technology within the United Nations system (A/AC.105/1209, para. 43), and noted that the regular cycle of annual sessions of UN-Space had been disrupted in 2020 and 2021 owing to the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which had had unprecedented and multifaceted effects on all activities across the United Nations system.

19. UN-Space agreed to produce such a publication, highlighting space-related activities within the United Nations system, in 2022. UN-Space noted that, if the production of the publication in 2022 was not possible for financial reasons, the theme of the publication would be revisited at the forty-first session of UN-Space, in 2022, with a view to having the publication issued in 2023. UN-Space noted the value of such a publication in increasing awareness of the benefits of space for sustainable development and the role and activities of United Nations system entities and in fostering synergies for enhanced cooperation within the United Nations system.

### **F. Coordination of future plans and programmes of common interest for cooperation and exchange of views on current activities in the practical application of space technology and related areas**

20. Representatives of participating United Nations entities provided overviews of their current activities, focusing on areas of common interest related to cooperation involving the application of space technology for development. They identified engagement with space technologies as a critical tool in the efforts of Member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Participants described selected examples of the work of their entities and outlined their activities with a broad range of partners, including Governments, space agencies, private sector entities, academic and research institutions and non-governmental organizations, and provided updates on a wide range of activities, from satellite imagery analysis to artificial intelligence, from regulation of the radio spectrum and orbits to disaster risk reduction, and from inter-agency cooperation to capacity development. UN-Space noted that such exchanges of information on space-related programmes and activities undertaken by United Nations entities were useful for identifying synergies and gaps in the work of the United Nations system.

### **G. Organization of open session**

21. The themes of previous open sessions of UN-Space have included the following: education and training in space-related areas: challenges and opportunities in the United Nations system (2004); space technology for disaster management: opportunities within the United Nations system (2005); space technology for sustainable development and disaster management: opportunities within the United Nations system (2006); the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development in the United Nations system (2007); public-private partnerships and innovative funding approaches in the United Nations system to promote the use of

space technology and its applications (2008); space-related activities of United Nations entities in Africa (2009); space technology for emergency communications (2010); space and climate change (2011); space for agriculture and food security (2012); space and disaster risk reduction: planning for resilient human settlements (2013); engaging space tools for development on Earth – contribution of space technology and applications to the post-2015 development agenda (2014); space-based information for development (2015); the transformative potential of space technology for development: approaches and opportunities in the United Nations system (2017); United Nations: reinforcing synergies for UNISPACE+50 and beyond (2018); and “Access to Space4All” (2019).

22. UN-Space underscored the value of such open sessions that brought together United Nations entities, Governments and other stakeholders to engage in dialogue, exchange ideas and seek solutions and strategies to advance the strategic role of space science, technology and applications for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. UN-Space agreed to continue to organize its open sessions as a platform for advancing dialogue, sharing best practices and showcasing the space-related activities of participating United Nations entities.

## **H. Any other business**

23. UN-Space recalled that, at its thirty-eighth session, held on 29 October 2018 in New York, participants had agreed to hold the fortieth session of UN-Space in Bangkok in 2020, in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ([A/AC.105/1209](#), para. 49). UN-Space noted that, owing to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the organization of that session had not been possible in 2020.

24. UN-Space also noted that the fourth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, to be organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, was scheduled to be held in October 2022, in Bali, Indonesia ([A/76/20](#), para. 280).

25. UN-Space agreed that its forty-first session would be organized in conjunction with the Ministerial Conference and that the agenda of the session and the theme of the open session would be finalized in cooperation with the host entity.

## Annex

### List of participants at the fortieth session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities

*Chair:* N. Hedman (Office for Outer Space Affairs)

*Secretary:* A. Duysenhanova (Office for Outer Space Affairs)

*United Nations entities*

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| Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Department of Peace Operations  | S. Vazelle                                   |
| Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific   | K. Wang                                      |
| Economic Commission for Africa  | A. Nonguierma                                |
| International Atomic Energy Agency  | K. Asfaw<br>S. Mallick                       |
| International Telecommunication Union   | V. Glaude                                    |
| Office for Outer Space Affairs  | L. St-Pierre<br>M. Hilljegerdes<br>L. Czaran |
| Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa | B. O'Connor                                  |
| Secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination  | S. Vandenbroucke                             |
| United Nations Global Pulse   | T. Logar                                     |
| United Nations Industrial Development Organization  | A. Balovnev                                  |
| United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  | A. Korenblik<br>C. Bussink<br>L. Vita        |
| United Nations Satellite Centre   | E. Korkikian                                 |
| World Meteorological Organization   | H. Pohjola                                   |