

UNITED NATIONS
INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES

Thirty-first session
16-18 March 2011
Geneva, Switzerland

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Coordination of plans and programmes and exchange of views on current activities in the practical application of space technology and related areas:
 - (a) Current and future plans of common interest, including consideration of how the activities of organizations of the United Nations system in the area of space science and technology and its applications relate to their mandated programmes;
 - (b) Report of the Secretary-General for the period 2013-2014;
 - (c) Special report addressing climate change and the use of space technology in the United Nations system;
 - (d) Publication on the topic of climate change and the use of space technology in the United Nations system;
 - (e) Means of strengthening further inter-agency coordination and cooperation in space-related activities, including public outreach and information exchange to promote inter-agency cooperation.
4. Use of spatial data and activities related to the United Nations Geographical Information Working Group and the United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure.
5. Participation in the process of the Group on Earth Observations.
6. Operational framework and good practices in the use of space-based technologies for disaster risk reduction and emergency response.
7. Other matters.

Annotations*

1. **Opening of the session**
2. **Adoption of the agenda**
3. **Coordination of plans and programmes and exchange of views on current activities in the practical application of space technology and related areas:**

(a) Current and future plans of common interest, including consideration of how the activities of organizations of the United Nations system in the area of space science and technology and its applications relate to their mandated programmes

Participants will be invited to report on recent developments in space-related activities of their entities. Special consideration shall be given to activities that may be of interest to other United Nations entities participating in the Inter-Agency Meeting, such as opportunities for cooperation or needs for coordination. To the extent possible presentations or statements should be limited to a maximum of ten minutes.

- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system: directions and anticipated results for the period 2013-2014**

The thirtieth meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities held in Geneva from 10 to 12 March 2010 agreed that the Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system should be issued on a biennial basis, starting with the period 2012-2013. The purpose of the report is to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of space-related inter-agency cooperation and coordination among United Nations entities and to avoid the duplication of efforts in the use of space applications. In view of the decision to hold the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) in Rio in 2012, the multi-year workplan of the Commission on Sustainable Development has been postponed with one year, which means that the planned thematic cluster 2012-2013 will be considered in the biennium 2013-2014. The same thematic themes (Forests, Biodiversity, Biotechnology, Tourism, and Mountains) remain unchanged, subject to any decision to be taken by the UNCSD Conference. Participant will be invited to discuss the preparation of the report and its main content, including the establishment of a collaborative online tool with the aim of facilitating timely finalization of the report.

- (c) Special report addressing climate change and the use of space technology in the United Nations system**

In line with the decision of the Meeting at its thirtieth session in 2010, a draft Special report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on use of space technology within the United Nations system to address climate change issues has been prepared under the leadership of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and with contributions of United Nations entities. The report will be finalized and approved by the Inter-Agency Meeting and subsequently submitted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifty-fourth session in June 2011. The draft report will be placed on the website of the IAM as document IAM/2011/CRP.4.

* The annotations are not part of the agenda adopted by the Inter-Agency Meeting.

(d) Publication on the topic of climate change and the use of space technology in the United Nations system

At its thirtieth session in 2010, the Meeting agreed on the issuance of a brochure, drawing on the main elements of the special report referred to above, to be prepared by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in consultation with WMO, the secretariat of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and other United Nations entities, for publication in time for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in late 2011.

With regard to the brochure entitled “Space solutions for the world’s problems: how the United Nations family uses space technology to achieve development goals”, which had been published in 2006 and was in need of revision and updating, the Meeting, recognizing the need to focus attention on the publication on Space and Climate Change, agreed that the brochure on “Space solutions” could be revised at a later stage.

Participants will be invited to discuss the preparation of the publications.

(e) Means of strengthening further inter-agency coordination and cooperation in space-related activities, including public outreach and information exchange to promote inter-agency cooperation

Participants will be invited to discuss means of inter-agency cooperation in space related activities as well as ways to enhance the existing or establish new means of inter-agency cooperation.

In its resolution 65/97 of 10 December 2010, the General Assembly welcomes the increased efforts to strengthen further the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, and encourages entities of the United Nations system to participate fully in the work of the Inter-Agency Meeting (A/RES/65/97, para. 29).

In the same resolution, the General Assembly urges entities of the United Nations system, particularly those participating in the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, to continue to examine, in cooperation with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, how space science and technology and their applications could contribute to implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration on the development agenda, particularly in the areas relating to, inter alia, food security and increasing opportunities for education (A/RES/65/97, para. 30).

The Meeting may wish to consider contributing to specific items on the agenda of the Committee, including space and society, space and water, space and climate change, long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and use of space technology in the United Nations system.

In its resolution 64/86, the General Assembly notes with satisfaction that the open informal meetings, held in conjunction with the annual sessions of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, provide a constructive mechanism for an active dialogue between the entities of the United Nations system and Member States.

Immediately following the conclusion of its present session on Friday afternoon, 18 March 2011, the Inter-Agency Meeting will hold its eighth open informal session on the theme “*Space and Climate Change*” with confirmed participation of UNOOSA (introduction) and with presentations by WMO, UNFCCC Secretariat, UNHCR and ITU.

United Nations entities participating in the Inter-Agency Meeting are requested to submit updated information on their space-related programmes for inclusion on the website dedicated to the coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system, maintained by the Office for Outer Space Affairs. They are also reminded to update their respective entries in the online directory of organizations and in the inventories database.

The Meeting will review the status of the website as well as other related online resources and will consider further means for public outreach and information exchange.

4. Use of spatial data and UNGIWG/UNSDI-related activities

The Meeting at its thirtieth session recommended that its thirty-first session should be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group, during the first half of 2011, noting that coordination with its secretariat could facilitate the integration of some substantive agenda items of the Inter-Agency Meeting in the agenda of the Working Group. In this connection, there will be a joint meeting between UNGIWG and IAM in the morning of Wednesday 16 March with the topic of “Contribution of geospatial data to the Rio+20 process”. UNGIWG and United Nations entities will be invited to present information on activities undertaken within the United Nations system directly related to the use of space-derived geospatial information for sustainable development and to express their views on future cooperation between the bodies in promoting the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development.

In view of the current preparations of the contribution of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the UNCSD on the topic of geospatial data for sustainable development, this joint meeting between UNGIWG and IAM will explore the possibilities of having a joint Secretariat contribution on geospatial data for the preparation of the Secretary-General report to the UNCSD Conference, which is administered by the Division for Sustainable Development.

5. Participation in the process of the Group on Earth Observations

At its thirtieth session held in 2010, the Meeting recognized the valuable work being undertaken within the framework of the Inter-Agency Coordination and Planning Committee, and agreed that in view of the implementation of the Spatial Data Infrastructure as a central mechanism in the United Nations system for data access and availability, WMO and UNGIWG secretariat should make efforts to broaden the joint statement of the members of the Inter-Agency Coordination and Planning Committee to the Ministerial Summit of the Group on Earth Observations, to be held in Beijing in November 2010, by including issues of importance to other relevant United Nations entities, as appropriate. An oral report will be given on the outcomes of the GEO Summit, and participants will be invited to share experiences of their entities in this area.

6. Operational framework and good practices in the use of space-based technologies for disaster risk reduction and emergency response

At this session a representative of the Office for Outer Space Affairs will provide the Meeting with information on developments regarding the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER).

Participants will be invited to share experiences on the use by their organizations of space-based technologies for disaster risk reduction and emergency response activities and projects and will be invited to discuss further actions by the Inter-Agency Meeting on this issue.

7. Other matters:

(a) Future programme of work

Participants will be invited to agree on the agenda and schedule of the thirty-second session.

(b) Additional matters

Time permitting, additional matters that may come to the attention of the Inter-Agency Meeting will be discussed.

ANNEX

INDICATIVE SCHEDULE OF WORK

Wednesday, 16 March, 09:00 - 11:00

Joint meeting UNGIWG/IAM on contribution of geospatial data to the Rio+20 process

Location: WMO

WMO headquarters, Salle B, 7bis, avenue de la Paix, Case postale No. 2300, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland

Wednesday, 16 March, 14:00 - 17:00

Location: UNHCR

UNHCR headquarters, room MBT-04, 94, rue de Montbrillant (at Sismondi tram stops), 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

Item 1 Opening of the Session

- Welcome address by representative of UNHCR

Item 2 Adoption of the agenda (IAM/2011/CRP.2)

Item 3 (a) Coordination of plans and programmes: current and future plans

- Briefing by the Secretary on the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies concerning inter-agency cooperation and coordination
- Briefing by the participants on highlights of the activities of their organizations in view of promoting inter-agency cooperation and coordination

Item 3 (b) Coordination of plans and programmes: Preparation of a report of the Secretary-General for 2013-2014

Thursday, 17 March, 09:00 - 12:00

Item 4 Use of spatial data and UNGIWG/UNSDI-related activities

- Briefing by UNOOSA on the completion of the agenda item “International cooperation in promoting the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development”
- Briefing by UNGIWG Co-chairs on the status of UNSDI
- Briefing by the participants on activities undertaken within the United Nations system directly related to the use of space-derived geospatial information for sustainable development

Item 3 (c).....Coordination of plans and programmes: Special report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on use of space technology within the United Nations system to address climate change issues
Finalization of the draft report (IAM/2011/CRP.4)

Item 3 (d)Coordination of plans and programmes: Publication on the topic of climate change and the use of space technology in the United Nations system

Thursday, 17 March, 14:00 - 17:00

Item 3 (e).....Coordination of plans and programmes: Means of strengthening further inter-agency coordination and cooperation in space-related activities, including public outreach and information exchange to promote inter-agency cooperation

- Discussion on measures to strengthen inter-agency coordination and cooperation.
- Possible contributions to the consideration by the Committee and its subcommittees in 2011 of various agenda items: e.g. space and society, space and water, space and climate change, long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and use of space technology in the United Nations system

Preparations for discussions with representative of Member States during the open informal session.

Item 5Participation of the entities of the United Nations system in the process of the Group on Earth Observations.

- Briefing by WMO

Item 6Operational framework and good practices in the use of space-based technologies for disaster risk reduction and emergency response.

Item 7Other matters.

- Substantive items on the agenda of the thirty-second session, in 2012
- Venue and time of the thirty-second session, in 2012
- Any additional matters

Friday, 18 March, 09:00 - 12:00

Adoption of the report of the thirty-first session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities

Friday, 18 March, 14:30 - 17:30

Open Informal Session with the participation of Member States
Theme: “Space and Climate Change”

