

UNITED NATIONS  
INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES

Thirty-second session  
7-9 March 2012  
Rome, Italy

**ANNOTATED 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 on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system: directions and anticipated results for the period 2012-2013;
  - (c) Preparation of a special report and publication on initiatives and applications for space-related inter-agency cooperation;
  - (d) Means of strengthening further inter-agency coordination and cooperation in space-related activities.
4. Use of spatial data and activities related to the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group and the United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure.
5. Space and climate change.
6. 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 2012-2013**

The objective of the Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system is to enhance space-related inter-agency cooperation and coordination among United Nations entities and to avoid the duplication of efforts in the use of space applications. The 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Inter-Agency Meeting, held in Geneva in March 2010, agreed that the Report should be issued on a biennial basis, starting with the period 2012-2013, and should be restructured to address the thematic clusters of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Given the uncertainties (at the time of preparation of the report) of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held Rio in June 2012, and its impact on the next CSD thematic cluster, the draft Report targets Rio+20 and the coordination of use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development. Participant will be invited to discuss the preparation of the report and its main content.

- (c) **Preparation of a special report and publication on initiatives and applications for space-related inter-agency cooperation**

The Meeting at its 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> sessions endorsed the special reports on “Space benefits for Africa: contribution of the United Nations system” (A/AC.105/941) and on the “Use of space technology within the United Nations system to address climate change issues” (A/AC.105/991), respectively, and decided at its 30<sup>th</sup> session that future special reports shall be prepared on a biennial basis and could address topics related to geospatial data infrastructure, the process of the World Summit on the Information Society, human security and humanitarian assistance, and any other emerging issues. Participants are invited to decide on the topic of a Special report to be finalised at the 33<sup>rd</sup> session of the Meeting in 2013.

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

**(d) Means of strengthening further inter-agency coordination and cooperation in space-related activities**

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, including in the context of Post-2015 UN Development Agenda.

In its resolution 66/71 of 9 December 2011, 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/66/71, para. 24).

In the same resolution, the General Assembly urges entities of the United Nations system, particularly those participating in the Inter-Agency Meeting, 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.

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.

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.

Immediately following the conclusion of its present session, the Inter-Agency Meeting will hold its ninth open informal session, addressing the use of space technology for food security, on Friday, 9 March 2012.

**4. Use of spatial data and activities related to the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group and the United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure**

A joint meeting between the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) and the Inter-Agency Meeting, held in the morning of 16 March 2011, resulted in the establishment of a task group of members of UNGIWG to be consulted by OOSA in the preparations of its contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

In submitting the contribution to Rio+20, OOSA stressed that the United Nations system should further pursue efforts towards developing capacities of States in the use of space-derived geospatial data; promoting access to and use of geospatial information in all UN-mandated programmes to assist States; strengthening and improving interoperability between the existing network of geospatial information management portals throughout the United Nations system through the establishment of common standards and extending this network further; and eliminating the necessity for separate agreements between United Nations entities, data providers and platform owners.

The Meeting will be informed by UNGIWG representative on the latest activities of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group and developments in the implementation of the United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI).

UNOOSA representative will inform the Meeting on the Contribution of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development: harnessing space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development (A/AC.105/993).

United Nations entities will be invited to present information and views on current and possible future activities within the United Nations system directly related to the use of space-derived geospatial information for sustainable development.

**5. Space and climate change**

At the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the Inter-Agency Meeting, the Special report on use of space technology within the United Nations system to address climate change issues (A/AC.105/991) had been prepared under the leadership of WMO in cooperation with the Office for Outer Space Affairs and with contributions of other United Nations entities.

On the basis of the report, a brochure on Space and Climate change has been published and shipped to the United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Durban in November 2011.

Participants will be invited to share experiences on the use by their organizations of space-based technologies to address issues related to climate change and will be invited to discuss further actions by the Inter-Agency Meeting on this issue.

**6. Use of space-based technologies for disaster risk reduction and emergency response**

At the 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, venue and schedule of the 33<sup>rd</sup> session of the Meeting.

**(b) Additional matters**

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