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RIO+20 AND BEYOND

The present conference room paper contains the Note by the Secretariat entitled “Rio+20 and beyond”, prepared for the 50th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held in Vienna from 11 to 22 February 2013. The document relates to the agenda item 3, Coordination of plans and programmes and exchange of views on current activities in the practical application of space technology and related areas.

7 February 2013

English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fiftieth session
Vienna, 11-22 February 2013
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
**Implementation of the recommendations of the Third
United Nations Conference on the Exploration and
Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)**

Rio+20 and beyond

Note by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. In accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 66/71, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-ninth session, reconvened its Working Group of the Whole to consider, inter alia, the agenda item on implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
2. The Working Group took note that the General Assembly, in its resolution 66/71, had noted with satisfaction that a number of the recommendations of UNISPACE III had been implemented and that satisfactory progress was being made in implementing the outstanding recommendations through national and regional activities. The Working Group also noted its multi-year review of the status of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (A/AC.105/C.1/2010/CRP.5). In that regard, the Working Group agreed that it should not continue reviewing the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.
3. The Working Group agreed that at the fiftieth session of the Subcommittee, the Working Group should study the outcome of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), with a view to discussing ways and means of

* A/AC.105/C.1/L.328.



assisting the Subcommittee and the Committee in future activities that could be considered appropriate in relation to results of the Rio+20 Conference.

A. Contribution of the Committee to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

4. The importance of space science and space applications for education, health, environmental monitoring, management of natural resources, disaster management, meteorological forecasting and climate modelling, satellite navigation and communications and the benefits and applications of space technologies in addressing the challenges of sustainable development was recognized and noted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), held in Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999 in its resolution “The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development”.¹ The Vienna Declaration, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 54/68 of 6 December 1999, provided a strategy for addressing global challenges in the future through the use of space science and technology and their applications.

5. Paramount in the strategy for implementing the recommendations of the Conference was the need to take into account the results of the global conferences held by the United Nations that identified priorities for promoting human development, in particular the United Nations Millennium Summit and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

6. On 20 October 2004, the General Assembly conducted a five-year review of the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (A/59/174) and requested the Committee to examine the contribution that could be made by space science and technology and their applications to one or more of the issues selected by the Commission on Sustainable Development as a thematic cluster and to provide substantive inputs for consideration by the Commission (A/RES/59/2).

7. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space therefore made contributions to the following thematic clusters of the Commission on Sustainable Development in order to increase awareness, promote and highlight the benefits of space science and technology and their applications with regard to:

(a) Contribution to the CSD thematic cluster 2006-2007 (A/AC.105/872) addressed the topics of (i) space and energy for sustainable development, (ii) the role of space in industrial development, (iii) using space to combat air pollution and observe the atmosphere, and (iv) space solutions for addressing climate change;

(b) Contribution to the CSD thematic cluster 2008-2009 (A/AC.105/892) highlighted (i) the role of space in agriculture; (ii) the use of space in land use and for rural development; (iii) using space to prevent drought and combat desertification, and (iv) space solutions for sustainable development in Africa;

¹ *Report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 19-30 July 1999* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.I.3), chap. I, resolution 1.

(c) Contribution to the CSD thematic cluster 2010-2011 (A/AC.105/944) focused on (i) the role of space technology in transport; and (ii) space technology solutions for sustainable resource management, consumption and production.

B. Contribution of the Committee to Rio+20: Harnessing space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development

8. In its resolution 65/97 of 10 December 2010, the General Assembly expressed its conviction that the use of space science and technology and their applications contributed to achieving the objectives of the global conferences of the United Nations that addressed various aspects of economic, social and cultural development, particularly poverty eradication, and invited the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to consider how it could contribute to the objectives of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 20-22 June 2012.

9. The Committee identified the use of space-derived geospatial data as an overarching theme for its contribution to the objectives of the Conference. In its contribution on harnessing space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development (A/AC.105/993), the Committee reviewed the overall governance of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and the role of the Committee in that regard, assessed the benefits of space-based data and examined the underlying institutional framework at international and regional levels.

10. The Committee underscored the value and the importance of geospatial data, including in particular those provided by satellites systems, for the purpose of supporting sustainable development policies, and provided a number of recommendations on ways and means of fostering international cooperation with a view to building up national infrastructures to use geospatial data.

11. Among those recommendations the Committee pointed to the need for the following (A/AC.105/993, para. 49 (a)-(k)), as summarized below:

- Establishing or enhancing non-redundant and sustainable national spatial data infrastructure in accordance with the international legal framework governing outer space activities;
- Enhancing autonomous national capabilities and building the enabling environment in the area of space-derived geospatial data, including the development of associated infrastructure and institutional arrangements;
- Promoting voluntary assistance to be rendered at the governmental or institutional levels by States with relevant expertise to countries wishing to develop their own capacity and expertise in the use of space-derived geospatial data;
- Engaging in or expanding international cooperation in the area of space-derived geospatial data and increasing awareness of existing initiatives and data sources; and
- Supporting the United Nations in its efforts to access and use geospatial information in its mandated programmes to assist all Member States.

C. “The Future We Want”: Framework for action and follow-up

Space-technology-based data in the context of Rio+20 outcome

12. In its outcome document entitled “The future we want”, annexed to the General Assembly resolution 66/288, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development recognized the importance of space-technology-based data, in situ monitoring and reliable geospatial information for sustainable development policymaking, programming and project operations, and noted the relevance of global mapping in that regard.

13. The full text of the para. 274 of the outcome document reads as follows: “We recognize the importance of space-technology-based data, in situ monitoring and reliable geospatial information for sustainable development policymaking, programming and project operations. In this context, we note the relevance of global mapping, and recognize the efforts in developing global environmental observing systems, including by the Eye on Earth network and through the Global Earth Observation System of Systems. We recognize the need to support developing countries in their efforts to collect environmental data.”

Thematic areas and cross-sectoral issues

14. The Rio+20 Conference further recognized that in order to achieve its objective, namely to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development focusing on the themes of a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the institutional framework for sustainable development, it committed to address remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, to address new and emerging challenges and to seize new opportunities through the actions enumerated in this framework for action, which encompassed the following areas of the Rio+20 outcome document as contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 66/288:

- Poverty eradication (paras. 105-107);
- Food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture (paras. 108-118);
- Water and sanitation (para. 119-124);
- Energy (paras. 125-129);
- Sustainable tourism (paras. 130-131);
- Sustainable transport (paras. 132-133);
- Sustainable cities and human settlements (paras. 134-137);
- Health and population (paras. 138-146);
- Promoting full and productive employment, decent work for all and social protection (paras. 147-157);
- Oceans and seas (paras. 158-177);
- Small island developing States (paras. 178-180);
- Least developed countries (para. 181);

- Landlocked developing countries (para. 182);
- Africa (paras. 183-184);
- Regional efforts (para. 185);
- Disaster risk reduction (paras. 186-189);
- Climate change (paras. 190-192);
- Forests (paras. 193-196);
- Biodiversity (paras. 197-204);
- Desertification, land degradation and drought (paras. 205-209);
- Mountains (paras. 210-212);
- Chemicals and waste (paras. 213-223);
- Sustainable consumption and production (paras. 224-226);
- Mining (paras. 227-228);
- Education (paras. 229-235); and
- Gender equality and women's empowerment (paras. 236-244).

15. The Conference reiterated that each country had primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies, domestic resources and development strategies could not be overemphasized. The Conference acknowledged that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels were essential for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger.

High-level political forum

16. The Conference decided to establish a universal, intergovernmental, high-level political forum, building on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and subsequently replacing the Commission. The high-level political forum would follow up on the implementation of sustainable development and avoid overlap with existing structures, bodies and entities in a cost-effective manner.

17. The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/203 of 21 December 2012, recalled that the Commission on Sustainable Development has been serving as the high-level body responsible for sustainable development within the United Nations system, and noted that it is to be replaced by the high-level political forum. The General Assembly further recalled the decision to launch an intergovernmental and open, transparent and inclusive negotiation process under the General Assembly to define the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum with the aim of convening its first meeting at the beginning of the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly, and, in this regard, called for the negotiations to start as soon as possible and to conclude by May 2013 in order to give enough time to prepare for convening of the first meeting of the high-level political forum at the beginning of the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly.

18. The General Assembly recommended that the Commission on Sustainable Development held one last session for a duration of one week at the beginning of May 2013 to, inter alia, make an overall assessment of its work, in particular in relation to the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and to review lessons learned, which would help with the establishment of the high-level political forum and ensure follow-up to the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

Open Working Group on Sustainable development goals (SDGs)

19. The Rio+20 Conference recognized the importance and utility of a set of sustainable development goals, based on Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which fully respect all the Rio Principles, taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and priorities, are consistent with international law, build upon commitments already made and contribute to the full implementation of the outcomes of all major summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the present outcome document. The Conference resolved that the goals should address and incorporate in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and their inter-linkages.

20. The Conference underscored that sustainable development goals should be action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries, while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. It also recognized that the goals should address and be focused on priority areas for the achievement of sustainable development, being guided by the present outcome document. Governments should drive implementation with the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.

21. The Conference resolved to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals that is open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly. The Conference agreed that the open working group should comprise thirty representatives, nominated by Member States from the five United Nations regional groups, with the aim of achieving fair, equitable and balanced geographical representation.

22. On 22 January 2013, the General Assembly adopted the decision, formally entitled “General Assembly Open Ended Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals” (document A/67/L.48/Rev.1). The full text of the decision is as follows:

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Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals

The General Assembly, recalling its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in which it endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”:

(a) Decides to establish the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, in accordance with paragraph 248 of the outcome document;

(b) Welcomes the membership of the Open Working Group as designated by the five United Nations regional groups and as listed in the annex to the present decision.

Annex

Membership of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

1. Algeria/Egypt/Morocco/Tunisia
2. Ghana
3. Benin
4. Kenya
5. United Republic of Tanzania
6. Congo
7. Zambia/Zimbabwe
8. Nauru/Palau/Papua New Guinea
9. Bhutan/Thailand/Viet Nam
10. India/Pakistan/Sri Lanka
11. China/Indonesia/Kazakhstan
12. Cyprus/Singapore/United Arab Emirates
13. Bangladesh/Republic of Korea/Saudi Arabia
14. Iran (Islamic Republic of)/Japan/Nepal
15. Colombia/Guatemala
16. Bahamas/Barbados
17. Guyana/Haiti/Trinidad and Tobago
18. Mexico/Peru
19. Brazil/Nicaragua
20. Argentina/Bolivia (Plurinational State of)/Ecuador
21. Australia/Netherlands/United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
22. Canada/Israel/United States of America
23. Denmark/Ireland/Norway
24. France/Germany/Switzerland
25. Italy/Spain/Turkey
26. Hungary

27. Belarus/Serbia
28. Bulgaria/Croatia
29. Montenegro/Slovenia
30. Poland/Romania

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23. At the outset, the Open Working Group will decide on its methods of work, including developing modalities to ensure the full involvement of relevant stakeholders and expertise from civil society, the scientific community and the United Nations system in its work, in order to provide a diversity of perspectives and experience. It will submit a report, to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, containing a proposal for sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action.

24. The Rio+20 Conference recognized that progress towards the achievement of the goals needed to be assessed and accompanied by targets and indicators, while taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and levels of development. The Conference also recognized that there was a need for global, integrated and scientifically based information on sustainable development. In this regard, it requested the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support the regional economic commissions in collecting and compiling national inputs in order to inform this global effort.

Sustainable Development and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

25. The Rio+20 Conference underscored that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were a useful tool in focusing achievement of specific development gains as part of a broad development vision and framework for the development activities of the United Nations, for national priority-setting and for mobilization of stakeholders and resources towards common goals. The Conference recognized that process on formulation of Sustainable Development Goals needs to be coordinated and coherent with the processes to consider the post 2015 development agenda.

D. The Post-2015 Development Agenda and “Realizing the Future We Want for All”

High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

26. In July 2012, United Nations Secretary-General appointed High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The advisory Panel, comprising 26 members, including representatives of governments, the private sector, academia, civil society and youth, with the appropriate geographical and gender balance will advise the Secretary-General on the global development agenda beyond 2015.

27. The Secretary-General has appointed three co-chairs: President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia; President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia; and Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom. Other members of the Panel are: Fulbert Gero Amoussouga (Benin), Vanessa Petrelli Corrêa (Brazil), Yingfan

Wang (China), Maria Angela Holguin (Colombia), Gisela Alonso (Cuba), Horst Kohler (Germany), Naoto Kan (Japan), H.M. Queen Rania of Jordan (Jordan), Betty Maina (Kenya), Abhijit Banerjee (India), Andris Piebalgs (Latvia), Patricia Espinosa (Mexico), Paul Polman (Netherlands), Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria), Elvira Nabiullina (Russian Federation), Graça Machel (South Africa), Sung-Hwan Kim (Republic of Korea), Gunilla Carlsson (Sweden), Emilia Pires (Timor-Leste), Kadir Topbaş (Turkey), John Podesta (United States of America), Tawakel Karman (Yemen), and Amina J. Mohammed (ex officio). Panelists are members in their personal capacity.

28. The work of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda will inform the work of the intergovernmental Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals in order to ensure both processes are mutually reinforcing, and the High-Level Panel will advise the Secretary-General on how the SDGs relate to the broader Post-2015 development agenda.

29. The output of the Panel will be a report to the Secretary-General which will include: (a) Recommendations regarding the vision and shape of a Post-2015 development agenda that will help respond to the global challenges of the 21st century, building on the MDGs and with a view to ending poverty; (b) Key principles for reshaping the global partnership for development and strengthened accountability mechanisms; and (c) Recommendations on how to build and sustain broad political consensus on an ambitious yet achievable Post-2015 development agenda around the three dimensions of economic growth, social equality and environmental sustainability, taking into account the particular challenges of countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.

30. The Panel will present its report to the Secretary-General in the second quarter of 2013. The report will serve as a key input to the Secretary-General's report to the special event to follow up on efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and to discuss the possible contours of the Post-2015 Development Agenda to be organized by the President of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly in September 2013.

United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda (UNTT)

31. Within the United Nations system, in order to initiate preparation for the formulation of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, the target date for the Millennium Development Goals and following on the outcome of the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations Secretary-General established in September 2011 the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda to support United Nations system-wide preparations in consultation with all stakeholders. The Task Team is co-chaired by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme and brings together senior experts from over 50 United Nations entities and international organizations to provide system-wide support to the post-2015 consultation process, including analytical input, expertise and outreach.

32. The first report prepared by the United Nations System-wide Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda, entitled "Realizing the future we

want for all: Report to the Secretary-General”, was published in June 2012 and serves as a first reference for the broader consultations on Post-2015 Development Agenda to take place. As a supplement, participating entities of the United Nations System Task Team have prepared a number of “think pieces” on thematic issues central to this report. These notes are available from <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/beyond2015.shtml> and may also serve as references for further consultations on the Post-2015 United Nations development agenda.

33. There are many areas covered in that report where space-based technologies and data are of crucial importance, for example paragraph 73, which acknowledges that improved scientific understanding and knowledge-sharing on climate change, natural hazards, the space environment and natural resource limits will be necessary for effective policymaking for sustainable development, as well as paragraph 79, which brings to attention the importance of improved access to geographical information and geospatial data and the building of capacities to use scientific information for more accurate environmental and social impact assessments and more informed decision-making at all levels.

34. In September 2012, the following United Nations system groups were established under the framework of the United Nations System-wide Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda:

1. Technical Support Team on SDGs;
2. Working Group on Global Partnership for Development;
3. Working Group on Monitoring and Target Setting (in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Expert Group (IAEG) on MDG Indicators).

35. In broad terms, the Technical Support Team on SDGs is responsible for: (i) preparation of the initial input of the United Nations system to the intergovernmental Open Working Group on sustainable development goals, drawing, inter alia, on consultations with national governments (including via a questionnaire to be sent to all Member States); (ii) provision of additional inputs and any other technical support at the request of the Open Working Group. The UNTT’s first report to the Secretary-General, “Realizing the Future We Want for All”, was among the key documents shared with the Open Working Group at the outset.

36. The Working Group on Global Partnership for Development is vested with the task of further elaborating on the characteristics of the global partnership for development that will be required for the implementation of the post-2015 global development agenda. It will broaden the understanding of the means of implementation for a post-2015 global development agenda. The outcome of this exercise will be a paper to serve as an input to the broader post-2015 discussions. As of January 2013, the Working Group on the Global Partnership for Development has finalized its first round of work with the submission of the final drafts of nine think pieces co-authored by different agencies. The Working Group is currently in the process of developing a synthesis report that will be ready for publication in mid-February so that it can also feed into the March meeting of the High Level Panel to be held in Bali, which will focus extensively on global partnerships.

37. Working Group on Monitoring and Target Setting (in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Expert Group on MDG Indicators). In close coordination with the Inter-agency Expert Group on MDG Indicators (IAEG), the Working Group on Monitoring and Indicators will undertake a systematic evaluation of the lessons learned from the MDG monitoring framework, in terms of target setting and data availability, to inform the formulation of the Post-2015 United Nations development agenda. As part of this assessment exercise, the working group will also develop recommendations on how new challenging issues, such as population dynamics and inequalities, might be captured into the monitoring framework for the Post-2015 United Nations development agenda. The work of the Working Group on Monitoring and Indicators was delayed by Hurricane Sandy which caused the cancellation of the IAEG meeting in Geneva in November 2012.

E. United Nations inter-agency coordination for promoting the use of space science and technology for sustainable development — use of space-derived geospatial data

38. The Rio+20 outcome document demands dedicated efforts of United Nations entities to mainstream sustainable development in their work. To ensure a coordinated response from the United Nations system, the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, in a letter addressed to the executive heads of United Nations system organizations, called for joint actions to respond to mandates explicitly addressed to the United Nations system in Rio+20.

Secretary-General's report on the coordination of space-related activities (2012-2013)

39. The use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development within the United Nations system has been discussed in the framework of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities. In particular, the thirty-second session of the Inter-Agency Meeting, organized jointly by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (the secretariat of the Meeting) and the World Food Programme from 7 to 9 March 2012 in Rome, Italy, finalized 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 2012-2013 — the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development (A/AC.105/1014). The Committee, at its fifty-fifth session in June 2012, welcomed with appreciation the Report and noted the recommendations for increasing the use of space-derived geospatial data within the United Nations system, contained in paragraph 86 (a)-(f) of that report, whereby the use of space-derived geospatial data within the United Nations system could be increased by addressing gaps and bottlenecks through the following:

- (a) Raising awareness of the benefits of space-derived geospatial data;
- (b) Understanding and meeting the requirements of United Nations entities in terms of data discovery, data access and technical capabilities for information processing;
- (c) Developing the overall capabilities of the United Nations entities relying on space-derived geospatial data in support of their operations;

(d) Using existing coordination mechanisms, such as the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) and the United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI), and existing United Nations support mechanisms, such as UN-SPIDER, UNITAR/UNOSAT, to the maximum extent possible, taking into account emerging and innovative sources of information;

(e) Promoting partnerships with the private sector, academia and Government agencies;

(f) Establishing, in a timely manner and where required, informal coordination mechanisms on the use of space-derived geospatial data on specific thematic areas on a voluntary basis.

Open informal session on 12 March 2013 on resilience of human settlements: urban planning, land use and rural development

40. The 33rd session of the United Nations Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities will be held from 12 to 14 March 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland, hosted by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). On Tuesday, 12 March 2013, a full-day open informal session with participation of Member States will be organized on a theme related to space and disasters in the context of land use and urban planning. The open informal session will aim at promoting dialogue among United Nations entities, Member States and other stakeholders by demonstrating examples of how the United Nations system responds to this overall theme.

41. The two-panel session will focus on central concepts of resilience in human settlement, namely urban planning, land use planning and rural development, and will look into common perspectives for the development of sustainable spatial data infrastructures. The morning panel will discuss a wider use of geospatial data in urban planning for enhanced resilience of cities. The afternoon panel will review challenges and opportunities in mainstreaming space technology in land use planning and rural development strategies for effective disaster management.

42. The open informal session will provide a forum to draw upon The Making Cities Resilient campaign, founded by UNISDR in May 2010 in collaboration with twenty partners, and an opportunity to reflect on the views of the United Nations system in light of the preparation for the fourth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Geneva from 19 to 23 May 2013. The aim of the fourth session of the Global Platform will be to continue the momentum into a durable and sustained effort from all actors (governments, NGOs and civil society, international agencies and organizations, academic and technical institutions, and the private sector) to take shared responsibility in reducing risks and reinforcing resilience in communities.

43. The focus on the use of space technology and its applications to enhance resilience to disasters in the context of land use and urban planning as the theme for this open informal session of the Inter-Agency Meeting reflects a mounting recognition for the important role of space-derived data and information in making informed decisions for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

44. The theme of the open informal session also accords with the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference, which recognized the economic and social significance of good

land management, including soil, and its contribution to economic growth, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and food security, eradicating poverty, women's empowerment, addressing climate change and improving water availability.
