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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**

Report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on its twenty-fourth session*

(Geneva, 21-23 January 2004)

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* The present report was adopted by the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, held from 21 to 23 January 2004.



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I. Introduction

1. The Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities held its twenty-fourth session at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) headquarters in Geneva from 21 to 23 January 2004. Donald Hinsman of WMO was elected Chairman. The list of participants is attached as annex I to the present report.
2. The Secretary-General of WMO opened the Meeting. He noted that the inter-agency meetings provided an important venue for the exchange of information and views on matters of mutual interest, as well as for the coordination of activities whereby United Nations entities could maximize benefits for member States. He noted that the inter-agency meetings had a positive impact on the meetings of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. New and emerging space technologies could be applied directly in the fields and disciplines within the mandates of United Nations entities and they would contribute to promoting an understanding of the environment and ultimately to sustainable economic and social development. The United Nations system had played and would continue to play an essential role in promoting the application of new and emerging space technologies through the coordination of current and future plans and programmes.
3. The Meeting adopted the agenda contained in annex II below.

II. Substantive issues considered at the Meeting

A. Coordination of plans and programmes and exchange of views on current activities in the practical application of space technology and related areas

1. **Discussion of 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**
 4. The Secretary of the Meeting briefed participants on the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies, bringing to their attention matters relating to inter-agency coordination. A representative of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat reported on the future orientation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and on activities planned for the Programme in 2004 and 2005, inviting organizations of the United Nations system to participate in activities of interest to them.
 5. The Meeting took note of the invitation from the Office for Outer Space Affairs to other United Nations entities to provide various types of in-kind support, such as expertise, educational materials and data, to the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations.
 6. Representatives of participating United Nations entities reported on their activities and plans for 2004, 2005 and beyond. Reports highlighted activities involving significant cooperation among United Nations entities.

7. The representative of the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported on the increasing focus of the international community on reducing risk and vulnerability in both the humanitarian and development areas. That was due in part to the recognition by the World Summit on Sustainable Development of the central importance of disaster reduction in long-term sustainable development. The representative requested the Inter-Agency Meeting to promote a wider understanding of disaster reduction by Member States and entities of the United Nations system.

8. The representative confirmed the engagement of the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in space applications for disaster management and prevention. The secretariat was particularly attentive to three main areas of focus: (a) international developments in the use of space applications for the full spectrum of natural disasters; (b) the UNOSAT programme (see below); and (c) participation in space-related activities, such as those organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, that allowed the Strategy to promote a shift in focus from response to prevention through the promotion and use of satellite applications in disaster management. The secretariat of the Strategy had cosponsored all of the regional workshops organized by the Office and was committed to participating in the wrap-up workshop, to be held in Munich, Germany, in November.

9. The representative of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) presented the UNOSAT programme, an initiative of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) carried out by UNOPS. The objective of the programme was to provide accurate and timely geographic information to United Nations entities, Governments and implementing partners so that they could best respond to humanitarian needs and fully incorporate geographic mapping into disaster reduction and prevention, development projects and monitoring programmes. The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction secretariat supported the UNOSAT programme and recognized the importance of directing attention to users' needs and requirements and facilitating the wider use of satellite applications in contexts ranging from prevention to response, including such areas as education, conflict resolution and poverty eradication.

10. Recently UNOSAT had been used by United Nations entities to respond to inter-agency mapping needs in Afghanistan (United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)), Benin (UNEP/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)), Iraq (for humanitarian planning maps), Nepal (UNEP), Nicaragua (UNITAR) and the West Bank Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

11. Other opportunities for continued inter-agency cooperation included the development of early-warning processes, the compilation of reference and baseline maps, the integration of Earth observation satellite systems, the strengthening of advanced pre-processing of satellite imagery in risk areas and participation in the development of satellite-based broadband, as well as in the areas of parallel or grid computing and data procurement.

12. The representative of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) presented the Commission's space-related activities in the areas of the environment, human settlements, transport and economic analysis. It was noted that the ECE Working

Group on Environmental Monitoring had established a Task Force on Remote Sensing, which had organized a Workshop on Remote Sensing Applications for Environmental Monitoring, held in Baku in November 2003. A proposal on remote sensing of the Eurasian environment had been made in cooperation with UNEP, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe and the European Environment Agency. A geographic information system (GIS) application of the European road traffic census was initiated in 1995 and the results of the 2000 census had been recently published on CD-ROM. A river information service incorporating electronic mapping had been developed under a recommendation of the ECE Working Party on Inland Water Transport. At the request of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group, ECE had organized, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), two meetings of Geneva-based users of GIS and initiated training on GIS and spatial data infrastructure.

13. The representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) provided an overview of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development and the second phase of the programme. The ESCAP representative briefed the Meeting on the inter-agency cooperation activities of ESCAP over the past two years with respect to its priorities of promoting regional cooperative mechanisms on space technology applications for disaster management and preparing the region for satellite broadband services and applications and expressed the intention to further strengthen cooperation with relevant United Nations entities in the biennium 2004-2005.

14. The representative of UNEP informed the Inter-Agency Meeting of a number of projects that were being carried out in collaboration with other agencies, such as the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. A joint Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. UNDP/UNEP initiative on environment and security was launched at the Fifth Ministerial Conference on "Environment for Europe", held in Kyiv in May 2003, and was well-received by ministers and Governments. The "Partnership for Peace" programme of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and many individual Governments were considering joining or making contributions to the environment and security project. While the project and its activities had initially focused on two subregions, South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia, in 2003, they had been expanded to include the Caucasus.

15. The representative reported that UNEP had continued its participation in the Sponsors' Group for the Global Observing Systems, helping to promote the Global Climate Observing System, the Global Ocean Observing System, the Global Terrestrial Observing System and the combined Global Observing Systems strategy, as well as remaining active in the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites. UNEP was currently serving as a co-chair of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group, led by the Cartographic Section of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and had co-hosted the previous global meeting of the Working Group held in Nairobi in November 2003, with the World Health Organization (WHO). UNEP had also closely followed the Group on Earth Observations, initiated by the United States of America, and had participated in the first Earth Observation

Summit, held in Washington, D.C., in July 2003, as well as in the second meeting of the Group on Earth Observations, held in Baveno, Italy, in November 2003. UNEP had also taken part in the subgroup on capacity-building, and had played a major role at the Second International Conference on Early Warning, held in Bonn, Germany, in October 2003.

16. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) informed the Meeting of its associate membership in the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) in 2003 and its chairmanship of the Integrated Global Observing Strategy from January 2002 to June 2003. As such, UNESCO was an active member of the CEOS Working Group on Education, Training and Capacity-Building and of the CEOS World Summit on Sustainable Development follow-up programme, module 1 (capacity-building) and module 2 (water management). UNESCO had been invited to participate in the first Earth Observation Summit and was a member of subgroups on capacity-building, international cooperation and data users of the Group on Earth Observations.

17. It was noted that the following new UNESCO initiatives and programmes would be contributing to the goals of the Summit and, in particular, to the New Partnership for Africa's Development, namely, the UNESCO/European Space Agency (ESA) Earth Observation for Integrated Water Resources Management in Africa/Space Hydrology International Partnership (TIGER/SHIP) project; the system-wide World Water Assessment Programme; the cross-cutting project on the application of remote sensing for integrated management of ecosystems and water resources in Africa; the open initiative on the use of space technology for the monitoring of World Heritage sites; and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's Regional Ocean Observing and Forecasting System for Africa.

18. UNESCO participated in action teams on capacity-building and disaster management established by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The UNESCO representative also informed the Meeting about the preparations for the launching of an "International Year of Planet Earth, 2006".

19. The Meeting was briefed on the developments in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) related to communication, navigation and surveillance/air traffic management (CNS/ATM) systems focusing on the application of satellite-based technologies. The Meeting noted the following primary areas of satellite technology applications that required inter-agency coordination: (a) implementation of the World Area Forecast System with WMO; (b) enhancements to aircraft emergency locator transmitters and related procedures with the International Satellite System for Search and Rescue programme; (c) requirements for the Global Navigation Satellite System with the International Maritime Organization with (IMO); and (d) radio frequency spectrum issues with IMO and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

20. The Meeting noted that, although the use of satellite technologies in support of aeronautical applications was growing steadily, their implementation was not progressing as fast as had been initially expected and the transition from the existing system to satellite-based systems was a long-term commitment. The Meeting also noted that the future work of ICAO in that area, as defined in its Global Air Navigation Plan for CNS/ATM Systems and directed by the Eleventh Air Navigation

Conference, would continue to be coordinated with the relevant agencies as appropriate.

21. The Meeting was briefed on the distribution of space-related activities within WHO (headquarters, regional offices and collaborating centres). As part of the restructuring at WHO, an E-Health Unit was established within the Evidence and Information for Policy Cluster. This Unit, located in the Department of Knowledge Management and Sharing, was composed of five working groups, including those dealing with remote sensing and geographic information systems and tele-health. The new E-Health Unit provided a good opportunity for WHO to collaborate with other United Nations entities, complementing its work in the health committee of the United Nations Task Force on Information and Communication Technologies.

22. In the area of tele-health, WHO headquarters had kept a low profile during the past few years, focusing on developing a strategy, while regional offices were carrying out projects, some of which had been carried out after the adoption of the strategy. During that period, the work plan of the strategy had been carried out primarily by the WHO collaborating centre for telemedicine in Norway.

23. WHO presented a possible area of collaborative work in the domain of improving the quality of data related to space technology, specifically, the possibility of using the global mosaic of satellite images as a ground reference for the evaluation and update of different layers of reference, such as roads or built areas.

24. The representative of ITU addressed the issue of a new frequency spectrum for global navigation satellite systems and Earth exploration satellite service applications and the harmonization of frequency bands, as well as cross-border circulation of equipment for public protection and disaster relief. It was noted that a lack of harmonization sometimes impeded relief efforts in emergencies owing to differences in the frequency bands used by relief organizations and the locally used communication frequency bands. Those issues had been discussed during the World Radiocommunication Conference, held in Geneva in June and July 2003.

25. The representatives of WMO briefed the Meeting on the Fourteenth WMO Congress, held in Geneva, in May 2003. The WMO Congress recognized the critical and fast-growing importance of data, products and services provided by the World Weather Watch's expanding space-based component of the Global Observing System to WMO programmes and WMO-supported programmes. The Congress decided to initiate a major new cross-cutting space programme to increase the effectiveness of satellite systems and their contribution to the development of the Global Observing Systems, as well as to other WMO-supported programmes and associated observing systems (Global Atmosphere Watch, Global Climate Observing System, World Climate Research Programme, World Hydrological Cycle Observing System and Global Ocean Observing System, through the provision of continuously improved data, products and services by both operational and research and development satellites.

26. The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) informed the Meeting of the preparation by IAEA of a status report on and review of the role of nuclear power sources in the peaceful exploration of space. The report was being reviewed and would be published shortly.

27. Apart from fostering information exchange among United Nations entities with regard to specific outer space activities, the report aimed at finding new potential sources of innovative reactor and fuel-cycle technology. In assessing the status and reviewing the role of nuclear power in the peaceful exploration of space, the report also aimed at initiating discussion on the potential benefits of space-related nuclear power technology for research and development related to innovative Earth-bound nuclear systems.

28. The Meeting was briefed on the major outcomes of the fourth meeting of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group, held in Nairobi in October 2003. The structure of the Working Group, as well as of the various task forces, was presented. The Meeting recognized that the Working Group was another excellent example of coordination among different United Nations entities.

2. Consideration of matters to be included in the report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system

29. The Meeting had before it the draft report of the Secretary-General entitled "Coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system: direction and anticipated results for the period 2004-2005". It was the twenty-eighth report on the subject, containing information received from United Nations entities in an integrated form and describing planned major new initiatives and/or activities involving two or more United Nations entities.

30. The Meeting recalled that the maximum length of reports originating from the Secretariat was 8,500 words (16 pages) and that it had agreed that future reports of the Secretary-General on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system should adhere to that limit.

31. The Meeting agreed that the emphasis of the report should be on inter-agency cooperation on and coordination of activities that supported sustainable development and that the report should be as inclusive as possible to reflect information provided by all entities of the United Nations system, bearing in mind that it should not include exhaustive accounts of individual activities.

32. The Meeting reviewed and amended the draft report and prepared a revised version. The Meeting was informed that the final text of the report would be before the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-first session.

33. The Meeting also recalled its agreement that detailed information provided by participants with regard to specific activities could be included in its report, within the limit for the maximum number of pages allowed for the report. The participants of the Meeting contributed summaries of the major activities and programmes that had not been reflected in the report of the Secretary-General for inclusion in the present report.

34. The Meeting also recalled that, on the basis of a proposal made in 2003, the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had invited United Nations entities to submit annual reports to the Subcommittee on specific themes. The Meeting agreed that a separate report should be prepared on the theme "New and emerging space-related technologies for inter-agency cooperation" for submission to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-second session, in 2005.

3. Methods to strengthen further inter-agency coordination and cooperation in space-related activities

35. In discussions of their current and future plans, the Meeting participants identified several areas of common interest for increased inter-agency coordination and cooperation.

36. The Meeting agreed that it was important to create, with the participation of members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, inventories of equipment, education and training materials, satellite data sets and other capacity-building resources provided by United Nations entities that carried out national or regional technical cooperation projects. The inventories should be available to all entities of the United Nations system in order that future technical cooperation projects or other development activities might build upon the existing capacity.

37. With regard to satellite data sets, the Meeting also agreed that an inventory should be carried out of all satellite data acquired by United Nations entities on a yearly basis. Such information would provide an opportunity for conducting collective negotiations on the purchase of satellite data, which would result in better terms of delivery, reduced costs and improved image quality.

38. In that regard, the Meeting agreed to discuss further the establishment of such inventories at its next session under a separate agenda item.

39. The Meeting took note of a proposed project on “demonstrating remote sensing for environmental assessment and management (DREAM)”, which would be prepared by UNEP, UNDP, ECE and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. The Meeting noted the invitation by UNEP to other entities to participate in the project and/or to assist in identifying possible sources of funding.

40. The Meeting also noted the proposal by ESCAP to carry out a survey of satellite broadband-related resources in Asia and the Pacific in cooperation with the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the Asia-Pacific Satellite Communications Council and any interested United Nations entities. ESCAP had also invited interested United Nations entities to join in a study on policy and technical guidance for space information products and services to support natural disaster management in Asia and the Pacific.

41. The Meeting noted that IAEA, WMO, WHO and the Office for Outer Space Affairs were cooperating to facilitate the exchange of information and the prompt provision of assistance in the event of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency, with the aim of minimizing the consequences in cases of radiological emergencies.

42. The Meeting noted that, while some entities of the United Nations system participated in project activities of the European Commission and the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security programme of ESA, they were not involved in those initiatives at the policy level. The Meeting agreed that it would be beneficial if United Nations entities with competence in areas relevant to such initiatives could be consulted and that the matter should be brought to the attention of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

43. The representative of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction secretariat invited the Office for Outer Space Affairs and all other United Nations entities interested in taking advantage of the forthcoming World Conference on

Disaster Reduction, to be held in Kobe, Japan, in January 2005, and its preparatory process, to place space-related issues prominently among the items to be discussed at the Conference. In particular, he recommended that the Office be entrusted with the coordination of a policy message to be delivered at the Conference, while other operational agencies could organize, in collaboration with UNOSAT, a side event on space applications for disaster management and prevention. He requested that the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee be fully apprised of the preparations for the Conference at their sessions in 2004.

44. The Meeting noted that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had endorsed the recommendation of the Meeting that, in conjunction with its annual session, an informal open session should be held to which representatives of member States of the Committee would be invited. The Meeting also noted that the first informal open session would be held immediately after the twenty-fourth session of the Meeting.

45. The Meeting noted that the theme of the first informal open session, selected in consultations with the focal points for the Meeting, would be "Education and training in space-related areas: challenges and opportunities in the United Nations system". The agenda of the informal session is contained in annex III.

46. The Meeting agreed that the entities of the United Nations system should consider sharing expertise, lecturers and instructors, as well as jointly organizing training activities when and where appropriate, while keeping in mind the difficulty of exchanging resources among United Nations entities.

B. Involvement of United Nations entities in the Charter on Cooperation to Achieve the Coordinated Use of Space Facilities in the Event of Natural or Technological Disasters

47. The Meeting recalled that the Charter on Cooperation to Achieve the Coordinated Use of Space Facilities in the Event of Natural or Technological Disasters had been initiated by ESA and the Centre national d'études spatiales (CNES) of France when they announced at the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) their intention to establish a mechanism through which they would provide satellite images free of charge in response to major disasters. It was noted that the Charter, in which were currently involved such entities as CNES, ESA, the Canadian Space Agency, the Indian Space Research Organization, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States and the Comisión Nacional de Actividades Espaciales of Argentina, provided space data acquisition and value-added products, through authorized users, to disaster managers in the event of major disasters. Initially, the Charter could be accessed through the civil protection authorities of countries that were members of the Charter.

48. It was noted that in March 2003, the Office for Outer Space Affairs had become a cooperating body of the Charter, thus providing a mechanism through which entities of the United Nations system could access it. On 1 July 2003, the Office had set up a 24-hour/7-day-a-week disaster hotline and, together with UNHCR, WHO, UNEP, UNOPS and UNESCO, established a list of focal points who could send fax requests through the Office to the Charter for satellite images to

support disaster response efforts. Since August 2003, UNOPS had triggered the Charter three times, for floods in the Dominican Republic, floods and landslides in Nepal and landslides in the Philippines.

49. The Meeting agreed that action should be taken to promote the use of the Charter by more entities of the United Nations system and to examine the possibility of establishing non-United Nations focal points. Those focal points could be national institutions with a demonstrated ability to use satellite data.

50. The Meeting noted that in June 2004 there would be a one-year review by representatives of the Charter members, the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the focal points to exchange their experiences. The Meeting agreed that it was important that it be kept informed of developments with the Charter and the involvement of United Nations entities and that, for that purpose, the item should be retained on the agenda for its next session.

51. The Meeting noted the efforts of ESCAP and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites to contact national disaster authorities in developing countries in order to create synergy with the efforts of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to promote the use of space technology in disaster management by establishing links to entities outside the United Nations system, such as national remote-sensing centres.

C. Space-related outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

52. The Meeting had before it a document prepared by the Office for Outer Space Affairs that contained a draft list of space-related initiatives and programmes within the United Nations system that responded to recommendations contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.¹ The draft was prepared on the basis of information provided by the entities of the United Nations system following the agreement reached by the Meeting at its twenty-third session.

53. The Meeting noted that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had endorsed the proposal made by the Meeting and had invited member States of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to complete the list by submitting information on space-related initiatives and programmes that they would carry out in response to specific actions recommended in the Plan of Implementation.

54. The Meeting noted that the list would be made available on the web site of the Office. The Meeting agreed that the entities of the United Nations system should be invited to add to the list information as it became available, in particular the Internet addresses of the relevant web sites at which further information on the programmes and initiatives contained in the list could be obtained online.

55. The Meeting agreed that the list, including additional information provided by the end of January 2004, should be submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-first session. Further revisions to the list, after more in-depth review, should be provided by entities of the United Nations system by the end of April 2004 and would be submitted to the Committee at its forty-seventh

session. The Meeting also agreed that at its twenty-fifth session, in 2005, it should again review the list.

D. Electronic information networking in the United Nations system

56. The Office for Outer Space Affairs briefed the Meeting about its web site on the coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system (www.uncosa.unvienna.org). The web site contained news and announcements, a schedule of upcoming activities, information on space-related programmes and initiatives, background information for the directory of participating organizations, an archive of official documents and information relating to the Inter-Agency Meeting. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the Office for maintaining the web site.

57. The Meeting agreed that the focal points of the Meeting should provide the Office with updated information on their space-related programmes and activities and the relevant web site addresses, as well as upcoming activities to be posted on the site.

58. The representative of ITU also briefed the Meeting on the web board, established and hosted by ITU to support the work of the Meeting, and demonstrated its functionality. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to ITU for maintaining the web board.

59. The Meeting noted the usefulness of the web board, in particular for the exchange of views and drafts of the documents prepared for the Meeting. The Meeting encouraged the focal points of United Nations entities to use the web board in preparing for future sessions of the Meeting. The Meeting agreed that the participants of the Meeting should post their presentations made under agenda item 4 (a) on the web board.

60. The Meeting agreed that at its twenty-fifth session, in 2005, it would review further experience with the use of the web board.

E. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

61. The Secretary briefed the Meeting on the progress made in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III and the status of the work of the 12 action teams that had been established by the Committee.

62. The Meeting noted that the work of the action teams could help support the programmes and activities of the entities of the United Nations system. The Meeting noted that in its final report, the Action Team on Enhanced Weather and Climate Forecasting, which was co-chaired by Portugal and WMO, made recommendations to support the implementation of the WMO long-term plan and WMO programmes. The Meeting agreed that entities of the United Nations system should consider actively participating in these action teams, such as those on public health and on

global navigation satellite systems, that had relevance to the mandates and activities of United Nations entities and that were exploring ways to advance their work.

63. The Meeting recalled that the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, in 2004, would review the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III. The Secretary informed the Meeting of the progress made by the Committee in preparing its report for submission to the Assembly for review. The Meeting had before it the part of the draft report that contained subsection III. C on the activities of the entities of the United Nations system that contributed to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

64. The Meeting agreed that the information to be included in subsection III. C. 3 should focus on major accomplishments of entities of the United Nations system that would not be reflected in the work of the action teams or the Inter-Agency Meeting, which would be included in other sections. The Meeting invited those entities to provide input for the text of subsection III. C. 3 to the Office for Outer Space Affairs within one week following the conclusion of the twenty-fourth session of the Meeting.

F. Draft revised brochure on “Space solutions for the world’s problems: how the United Nations family is using space technology for sustainable development”

65. The Meeting noted with appreciation that, in accordance with an agreement reached at its twenty-third session, the Office for Outer Space Affairs had printed a revised version of the brochure entitled “Space solutions for the world’s problems: how the United Nations family is using space technology for sustainable development”. The revised brochure was distributed during the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society and at the General Conference of UNESCO.

66. The Meeting noted that some important areas of sustainable development, such as health and bridging the digital divide, should be included in the brochure. The Meeting agreed that by its twenty-fifth session, in 2005, it should have developed an outline of a revised brochure, including a possible revision of the title, and invited entities of the United Nations system, particularly those that had proposed modifications to the brochure, to provide input for the outline by May 2004. The Meeting invited interested United Nations entities to consider providing funding and in-kind support for the printing of the brochure.

III. Future programme of work

67. The Meeting agreed that at its twenty-fifth session, in 2005, it would consider the following items:

1. Coordination of plans and programmes and exchange of views on current activities in the practical application of space technology and related areas:

- (a) Discussion of 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) Consideration of matters to be included in the report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system: direction and anticipated results for the period 2005-2006;
 - (c) Consideration of matters to be included in a report on the new and emerging space-related technologies for inter-agency coordination;
 - (d) Methods to strengthen further inter-agency coordination and cooperation in space-related activities.
2. Ways and means of establishing inventories of space-related resources, in particular datasets, space-based devices and educational and training materials.
 3. Involvement of United Nations entities in the Charter on Cooperation to Achieve the Coordinated Use of Space Facilities in the Event of Natural or Technological Disasters.
 4. Space-related outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
 5. Electronic information networking in the United Nations system.
 6. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
 7. Preparation of a revised brochure entitled "Space solutions for the world's problems: how the United Nations family is using space technology for sustainable development".

68. The participants expressed their appreciation to WMO for hosting the twenty-fourth session of the Inter-Agency Meeting. The Meeting recalled its agreement that the venue of the annual session should alternate between Vienna and other cities and noted that its twenty-fifth session would be held at the United Nations Office at Vienna towards the end of January 2005. The Meeting noted that the dates of the Meeting would be determined and communicated to United Nations entities by the Office for Outer Space Affairs at a later stage, bearing in mind the need to avoid conflicts with the schedules of major space-related conferences. The Meeting noted with appreciation that UNESCO had offered to host the twenty-sixth session of the Meeting in Paris in 2006.

Notes

¹ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2003* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Annex I

List of participants at the twenty-fourth session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, held in Geneva from 21 to 23 January 2004

Chairman: D. Hinsman (World Meteorological Organization)

Secretary: T. Chiku (Office for Outer Space Affairs)

United Nations Secretariat

United Nations Office for Project Services	A. Retière E. Bjorgo I. McClellan
Office for Outer Space Affairs	S. Camacho H. Haubold S. Sulaymanov
Economic Commission for Europe	B. Wachs
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	Wu Guoxiang
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	F. Pisano

United Nations programmes and funds

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	J.-Y. Bouchardy
United Nations Environment Programme	R. G. Witt

Specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Y. Berenguer
International Civil Aviation Organization	V. Iatsouk
World Health Organization	S. Y. Kwankam S. Ebener
International Telecommunication Union	Y. Henri A. Matas
World Meteorological Organization	Y. Tanaka

International Atomic Energy Agency	A. Stanculescu

Annex II

Agenda for the twenty-fourth session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, held in Geneva from 21 to 23 January 2004

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of the Chairperson.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Coordination of plans and programmes and exchange of views on current activities in the practical application of space technology and related areas:
 - (a) Discussion of 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) Consideration of matters to be included in the report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system: directions and anticipated results for the period 2004-2005 and the report to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on major accomplishments and work of the United Nations system in space-related areas;
 - (c) Methods to strengthen further inter-agency coordination and cooperation in space-related activities.
5. Involvement of United Nations entities in the Charter on Cooperation to Achieve the Coordinated Use of Space Facilities in the Event of Natural or Technological Disasters.
6. Space-related outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
7. Electronic information networking in the United Nations system.
8. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
9. Draft revised brochure entitled "Space solutions for the world's problems: how the United Nations family is using space technology for sustainable development".
10. Other matters.

Annex III

Agenda for the informal open session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, held in Geneva on 23 January 2004

Theme: “Education and training in space-related areas: challenges and opportunities in the United Nations system”

Introductory remarks	Chairman of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities
Introduction of participants	All participants
Education and training programmes in the United Nations system:	
United Nations Programme on Space Applications and regional centres for space science and technology education affiliated with the United Nations	Office for Outer Space Affairs
World Meteorological Organization space programme and training for meteorological and hydrological services	WMO
Space Education Programme	UNESCO
Training activities of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research	UNITAR
Educational and training activities of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	ESCAP
Briefing on educational and training activities	China
Summary of issues of interest and concern to United Nations entities	Director, Office for Outer Space Affairs
Questions and answers	
Briefing on the background of the United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development and plans	UNESCO
Open discussion: “Contributions of the space community to the Decade”	
Discussions among United Nations entities and members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	
Concluding remarks	Chairman of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities