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**Committee on the Peaceful Uses
of Outer Space**
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fifty-fifth session
Vienna, 29 January - 9 February 2018

**Thematic priority 1. Global partnership in space exploration
and innovation**

Procedural note

1. During its fifty-ninth session in 2016, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space endorsed the seven thematic priorities of UNISPACE+50, as well as their objectives and mechanisms (A/71/20, paragraph 296). At the same session, the Committee called upon States members of the Committee to put forward nominations to lead and co-lead a new action team, to be established under thematic priority 1: global partnership in space exploration and innovation (A/71/20, paragraph 298).
2. In July 2016, a note verbale was dispatched by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat asking States members of the Committee for nominations for participation in the Action Team on Exploration and Innovation. A follow up information circular was also distributed to States in October 2016.
3. In December 2016, a formal communication was sent to permanent observer organizations of the Committee and relevant United Nations entities inviting them to also become members of the Action Team.
4. Austria, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Luxembourg, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Committee on Space Research, European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere, European Science Foundation, European Space Agency, Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology, International Law Association, National Space Society and United Nations Environment Programme became members of the Action Team, with China, Jordan and the United States volunteering to act as Co-Chairs.
5. The Action Team met on the margins of the fifty-fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in 2017 with a view to preparing its terms of reference and report (A/AC.105/1138, paragraph 291).

6. On 26 April 2017 the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Committee on Space Research Action Team member spoke at the European Geosciences Union General Assembly Planetary Sciences Business Meeting, introducing UNISPACE+50 and the Action Team.

7. At the request of the Action Team Co-Chairs, in May 2017, the Office for Outer Space Affairs contacted entities with significant expertise in the area of space exploration and innovation to: 1) inform them of the Action Team's work and 2) request such entities provide inputs that may support the work of the Action Team. Replies were received from the European Union and the Hague Space Resources Governance Working Group and were shared with Action Team members for their consideration.

8. On 6 June 2017, the Action Team held an event in connection with the Global Space Exploration Conference, which took place in Beijing in 2017 (GLEXP2017). The panel discussion brought together the Action Team Co-Chairs, the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the Chinese National Space Administration and Global Space Exploration Conference participants, making use of video conference technology.

9. The Action Team continued to negotiate its terms of reference in the intersessional period, and the final terms of reference was made available to the Committee at its sixtieth session in 2017 in conference room paper A/AC.105/2017/CRP.21. The Action Team met on the margins of the sixtieth session of the Committee and formed small drafting groups to further develop sections of the report.

10. A meeting of the Action Team was arranged to take place in connection with the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics SPACE Forum, in Orlando, United States in September 2017. The meeting was, however, cancelled due to an extreme weather event - Hurricane Irma.

11. Replacement meetings were organized and held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 13 and 17 October 2017, scheduled to take place in connection with the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly's consideration of International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. During these meetings, the Action Team considered the draft report, which consisted of texts developed by the small drafting groups, as well as additional proposals for edits.

12. During the New York meetings, the Action Team decided it needed more time to consider its draft report. An additional teleconference/meeting was therefore arranged and took place in Vienna on 3 November 2017.

13. A further meeting of the Action Team took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 10 November 2017, in connection with the United Nations/United Arab Emirates High Level Forum on Space as a Driver for Socioeconomic Sustainable Development. During this meeting the Action Team reached consensus on its report, including the following seven recommendations:

(a) The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should consider including on its agenda an item entitled "Space exploration and innovation";

(b) Member States and observers of the Committee should be encouraged to provide their views on space exploration and innovation and on how to organize work under such an agenda item, including on the possibility of establishing a working group on that agenda item;

(c) The Committee should review ways and means of working with non-governmental entities, including industry and private sector entities, in order to better consider all aspects of space exploration and innovation;

(d) Bilateral and multilateral cooperation involving States and international intergovernmental organizations in space exploration and innovation should be

encouraged. New mechanisms and/or forums for cooperating in space exploration activities should be identified, including by considering the participation of industry and States with emerging capabilities in space exploration;

(e) All States should conduct their space exploration activities taking into account the long-term sustainable and peaceful use of outer space;

(f) The Office for Outer Space Affairs should be requested to include capacity-building activities (including workshops and/or exchange or international fellowship programmes) on space exploration and innovation, with particular emphasis on STEM;

(g) The Office for Outer Space Affairs should develop, within existing resources, a section on its website to assist in the dissemination of information on space exploration and innovation, particularly taking into account the needs of developing countries.

14. The report on thematic priority 1 is before delegations at fifty-fifth session of the Subcommittee as document A/AC.105/C.1/114.

15. The Action Team acknowledged that the Second International Space Exploration Forum (ISEF2), scheduled to take place on 3 March 2018 in Tokyo, is an important space exploration event and therefore decided that the outcome of the ISEF2 should be included in the report on thematic priority 1. The Action Team requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to add, in March 2018, a summary of the outcome of ISEF2 to the agreed report text found in A/AC.105/C.1/114. The updated document will be before delegations at the sixty-first session of the Committee in 2018 as document A/AC.105/1168.

16. The Action Team Co-Chairs underscored the significance of the report on thematic priority 1, which represents the first time the United Nations has examined, in a comprehensive way, human and robotic exploration beyond low-Earth orbit, and provides a basis for further consideration of how the United Nations system may contribute to a new era in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

17. The Action Team Co-Chairs thanked the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the substantive and secretariat support it provided the Action Team.
