

## SPEAKING NOTES

### **For the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-19)**

The General Assembly in its annual resolution on “international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space” requests the Office for Outer Space Affairs, which serves as Secretariat to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), to participate in the Commission on Sustainable Development. This is done in view of a recommendation of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) held in 1999, by which Member States of COPUOS seek a closer coordination with CSD.

Since 2004 COPUOS has submitted reports contributing to the work under the thematic clusters of CSD. These reports, covering the thematic clusters 2006-2007; 2008-2009; and currently 2010-2011, highlight the benefits of space science and technology and their applications with regard to the thematic clusters being addressed by CSD in those periods. These reports, which are official United Nations document in all official languages, are endorsed by the 70 Member States of COPUOS. The present report, which is available on the website of CSD-18, addresses the role of space technology in transport; space technology solutions for sustainable resource management, consumption and production; and capacity-building and training opportunities for developing countries in space science and technology and their applications.

As agreed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/97 of 10 December 2010, COPUOS is currently preparing its report to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) - Rio+20 - with the theme of harnessing space-

derived geospatial data for sustainable development. The report, which will be adopted by COPUOS in June this year, addresses governance and the institutional framework at the international level in the strengthening of mechanisms to use space-derived geospatial data in areas of sustainable development.

This year, COPUOS is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of human space flight, in particular commemorating the first human space flight of Yuri Gagarin on 12 April 1961, and looking into future prospects of human space flight research and exploration for meeting challenges to humanity in particular in the areas of climate change, food security and global health. Emphasis is placed on the need for closer coordination between COPUOS and intergovernmental bodies involved in the global development agenda of the United Nations.

The Office for Outer Space Affairs is serving as Secretariat to the United Nations wide Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (IAM), which is the central coordination mechanism in the United Nations system related to space-related activities. Last year in 2010, the IAM issued a special report on space benefits for Africa. This year, the 31<sup>st</sup> meeting was held in March 2011 hosted by UNHCR. A special report on Space and Climate Change has been prepared by the IAM focusing on the need for coherency and strengthened coordination among UN entities, including through the Chief Executive Board (CEB) Climate Change Action Framework. From next year, 2012, the IAM will issue its regular Secretary-General report on coordination of space-related activities in the United Nations system, on a biannual basis, with special focus on the forthcoming thematic cluster of work of CSD.

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