



Office for Outer Space Affairs
United Nations Office at Vienna



Overview of relevant UNGIWG-UNSDI activities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs

**UNSDI Global Partners Meeting
ESA-ESRIN, 1-2 March 2007**

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Overview OOSA

- Established in 1962
- Located in Vienna, Austria, since 1993
- 20 Staff Members (Scientists, Lawyers, Political Scientists)
- Organization of the Office
 - Office of the Director (Sergio Camacho, Mexico)
 - Committee Services and Research Section (Niklas Hedman, Sweden)
 - Space Applications Section (Alice Lee, United States)
- Acts as Secretariat of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its Subcommittees
- Implements the recommendations of the UNISPACE conferences held in 1968, 1982 and 1999



Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities

- Forum for the United Nations system to discuss practical applications of space technology, held since 1970
- Involves UNDP, UNESCO, UNIDO, FAO, WMO, UNHCR, ICAO, IMO, World Bank, UNEP, UNESCAP, UNOPS, UNITAR, ECA and others
- Items under consideration are
 - Space-related outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)
 - Implementation of recommendations of UNISPACE III
 - Participation of the entities of the United Nations system in the process of the Group on Earth Observations
 - Lessons learned from applications of space technologies in support of disaster relief efforts
- Website: www.uncosa.unvienna.org



UNGIWG Synergy with 27th Inter-Agency Meeting

- The Meeting expressed interest in the United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure initiative of UNGIWG as it provided an umbrella framework for policies, technologies, data, common standards, standard practices, protocols and specifications that facilitated discovery of, ready access to, evaluation of and dependable utilization of geospatial data, including satellite imagery and derivative products.
- In that context, the participants also acknowledged the significance of the growing installed base of GeoNetwork opensource geospatial metadata and map visualization software at United Nations organizations and member State agencies, especially since that platform featured a keyword-based search capability for geospatial data assets across the network of GeoNetwork nodes.
- The Meeting encouraged the incoming co-chairs of UNGIWG, namely OCHA and UNHCR, to forge a close working relationship with the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as the secretariat of the Inter-Agency Meeting.

Report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on its twenty-seventh session (Vienna, 17-19 January 2007)
A/AC.105/885, available at http://www.uncosa.unvienna.org/uncosa/en/reports/index.html#AC105_885



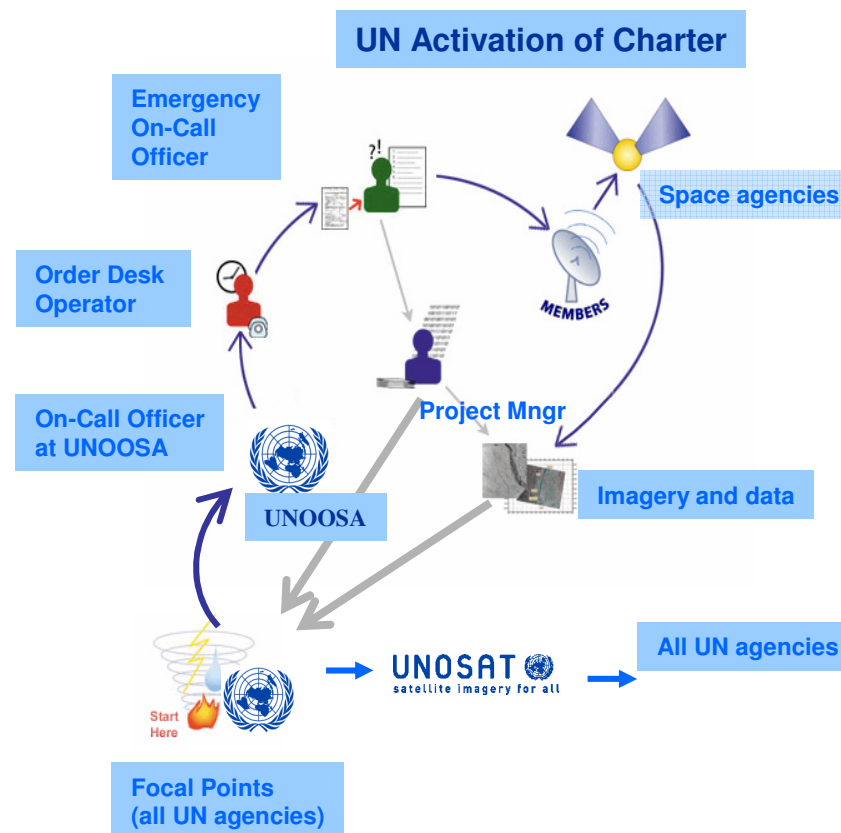
International Committee on GNSS (ICG)

- Based on a UNISPACE III recommendation (1999)
- Established in 2005 on a voluntary basis as an informal body for the purpose of
 - Promoting cooperation on matters related to civil satellite-based positioning, navigation, timing, and value-added services
 - Promoting compatibility and interoperability among the GNSS systems
 - Increasing their use to support sustainable development, particularly in the developing countries
- First meeting held in Vienna on 1 to 2 November 2006 (A/AC/.105/879). Second meeting of the ICG will be held in December 2007 in Bangalore, India.
- Workplan includes common geodetic reference frames for Africa, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean (AFREF, SIRGAS, EUPOS...)
- Website: www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/SAP/gnss/icg.html



International Charter “Space and Major Disasters”

- UNOOSA is a Cooperating Body to the Charter
- 24/7 hotline activated through OOSA 34 times since 2003
 - South Asia earthquake tsunami,
 - Hurricane Jeanne in Haiti, Hurricane Ivan in Grenada,
 - Earthquake in Afghanistan, floods in Dominican Republic and Haiti, and train crash in North Korea.
- Expand the availability of data to UN Focal Points and UN Field Offices (UNDP, OCHA, WFP, etc.)
- Website: www.disasterscharter.org





UN SPIDER

- Based on a UNISPACE III recommendation (1999)
- General Assembly Resolution A/RES/61/110 of 14 December 2006
- Established as a programme of the Office for Outer Space Affairs under the Director of the Office as an open network of providers of disaster management support with the Director of the Office responsible for the overall supervision of the programme.
- Mission is to “ensure that all countries have access to and develop the capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle”.



UN SPIDER

- UN SPIDER will be a
 - Gateway to Space-based Information for Disaster Management Support
 - Bridge to Connect the Disaster Management and Space Communities
 - Facilitator of Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening
- Offices in Beijing and Bonn and possibly a liaison office in Geneva
- Network of Regional Support Offices and National Focal Points
- Proposed Platform Programme 2007 – 2009 and Plan of Work for 2007 considered by the COPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
- Implementation of Plan of Work for 2007 ongoing



OOSA and UNGIWG/UNSDI

- Explore Synergies between UNGIWG/UNSDI and
 - International Charter “Space and Major Disasters”
 - United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (SPIDER)
 - International Committee on GNSS (ICG)
- It is proposed that the following meetings be held back to back with the 8th UNGIWG meeting in Bangkok
 - 4th UN-wide Meeting on the International Charter “Space and Major Disasters” (1 day)
 - SPIDER Coordination Meeting among United Nations Agencies (1 day)
- Points of Contact in OOSA are
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Thank you for your Attention

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