



UNITED NATIONS  
Office for Outer Space Affairs

# **COPUOS and the UN Development Agenda**

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Imagery Date: 8/16/2011  2003

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# Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

- Established 1959. In 1961 establishment of two Subcommittees
  - Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC)
  - Legal Subcommittee (LSC)
- Membership to date: 71 member States and 29 organizations with permanent observer status
- Reports to the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly
- Adopts an annual resolution on “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space”





# Highlights of COPUOS and its two Subcommittees

## Recent achievements

- Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines (2007)
- GA Resolution on enhancing the practice of States and international intergovernmental organizations in registering space objects (2007)
- Safety Framework for the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (2009)

## Current issues - Space Agenda Today:

Long-term sustainability of outer space activities

Space debris

Space weather

Nuclear-power sources

Near-Earth objects

Space and sustainable development

Space and climate change

Space and water

National space legislation

International mechanisms for space cooperation

Definition and delimitation of outer space and use of Geostationary orbit



## SPACE AND DEVELOPMENT

- Three major United Nations conferences on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, held in Vienna in 1968, 1982 and 1999 (**UNISPACE**) outlined a wide variety of actions.
- **United Nations Programme on Space Applications**, implemented by UNOOSA, was established in 1971 on the recommendation of UNISPACE I
- **UNISPACE III adopted “The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development” in 1999 and emphasized a variety of actions to:**
  - ▶ Protect the global environment and manage natural resources;
  - ▶ Increase the use of space applications for human security, development and welfare;
  - ▶ Protect the space environment;
  - ▶ Increase developing countries’ access to space science and its benefits;
  - ▶ Enhance training and educational opportunities, especially for young people.
- UNISPACE III also led to the establishment of:  
**United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER)**

**International Committee on GNSS (ICG)**



## **COPUOS and CSD and towards Rio+20**

**UNISPACE III lead to reports by COPUOS to the Commission on Sustainable Development:**

- **2006-2007 (A/AC.105/872)**
- **2008-2009 (A/AC.105/892)**
- **2010-2011 (A/AC.105/944)**

**COPUOS contribution to Rio+20 (A/AC.105/993)**

**“Harnessing the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development”**

- **National spatial data infrastructures**
- **National capabilities and infrastructures**
- **International cooperation**



## Rio+20 and Space

### GA Resolution 66/288 of 11 September 2012 “The Future We Want”

- **Para 274:**

“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”



## Post-2015 UN Development Agenda

- **United Nations System Task Team (UNTT) report to the Secretary-General “Realizing the Future We Want for All”, June 2012**
  - **Para 73: scientific understanding of the space environment**
  - **Para 79: improved access to geographical information and geospatial data for more accurate environmental and social impact assessments and more informed decision-making at all levels**

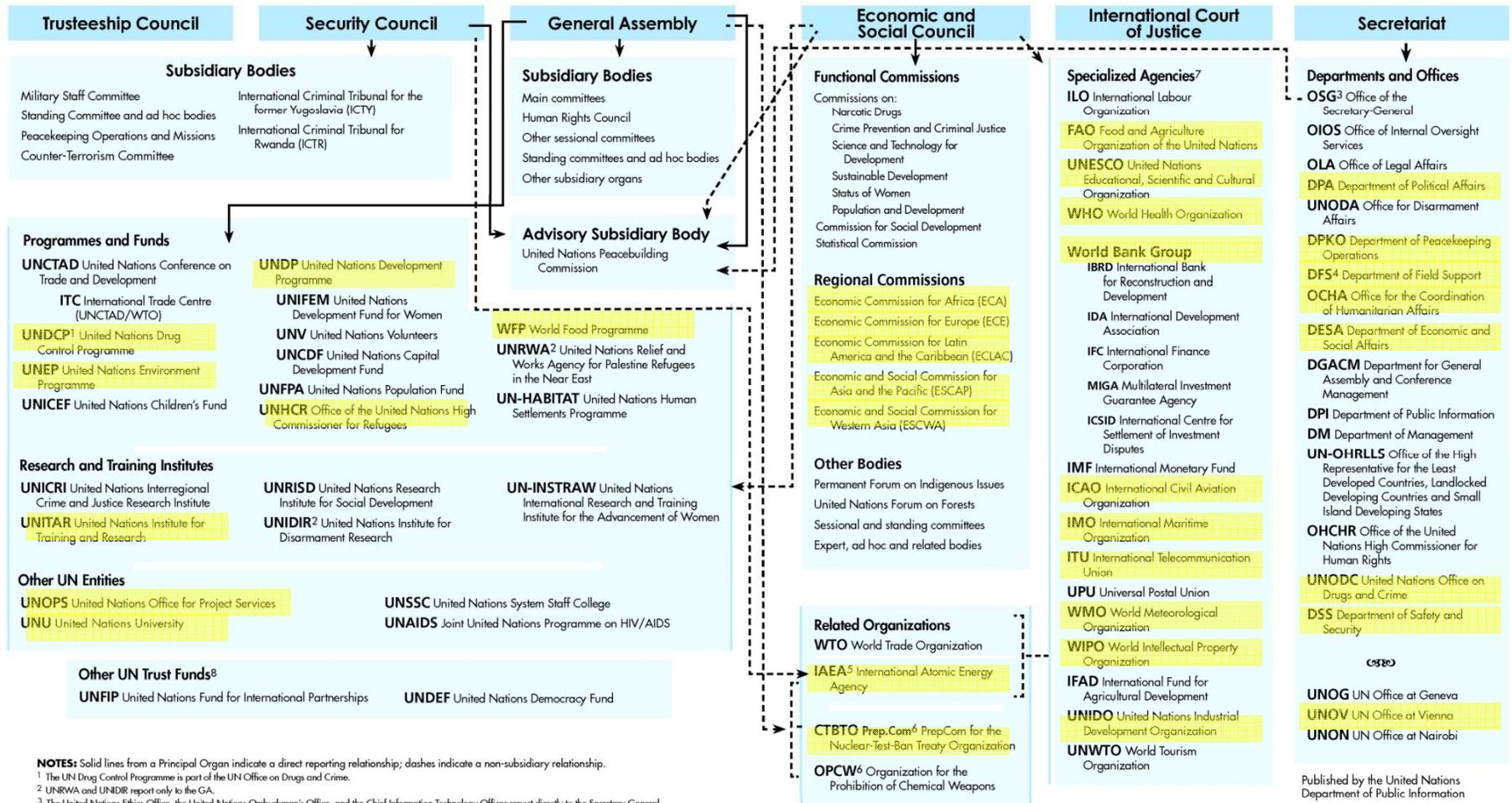


## Inter-agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities

- **The central coordination mechanism in the United Nations system for United Nations organizations to cooperate and create synergy in space-related programmes, avoid duplication in these programmes and foster new inter-agency initiatives.**
- **UNOOSA serves as the Secretariat and coordinator of the Inter-Agency Meeting and has been organizing its annual meetings since 1975.**
- **Active contributors: Secretariat (DPKO, Cartographic Section), ECA, ESCAP, FAO, IMO, ICAO, UNISDR, ITU, OCHA, UNEP, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNITAR/UNOSAT, WFP, WMO, WHO, UNHCR, UNOCHA and others.**
- **Space benefits for Africa (A/AC.105/941).**
- **Space and climate change (A/AC.105/991).**
- **Secretary-General report on coordination of space-related activities in the UN system for the period 2012-2013 – the use of space derived geospatial data for sustainable development (A/AC.105/1014).**



# Space and the United Nations System



**NOTES:** Solid lines from a Principal Organ indicate a direct reporting relationship; dashes indicate a non-subsidiary relationship.

<sup>1</sup> The UN Drug Control Programme is part of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

<sup>2</sup> UNRWA and UNIDIR report only to the GA.

<sup>3</sup> The United Nations Ethics Office, the United Nations Ombudsman's Office, and the Chief Information Technology Officer report directly to the Secretary-General.

<sup>4</sup> In an exceptional arrangement, the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support reports directly to the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

<sup>5</sup> IAEA reports to the Security Council and the General Assembly (GA).

<sup>6</sup> The CTBTO Prep.Com and OPCW report to the GA.

<sup>7</sup> Specialized agencies are autonomous organizations working with the UN and each other through the coordinating machinery of the ECOSOC at the intergovernmental level, and through the Chief Executives Board for coordination (CEB) at the inter-secretariat level.

<sup>8</sup> UNFIP is an autonomous trust fund operating under the leadership of the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General. UNDEF's advisory board recommends funding proposals for approval by the Secretary-General.



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**THANK YOU!**

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