



Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Report on activities carried out in 2007 in the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 62/217 of 21 December 2007, endorsed the workplan for 2007 of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), along with the platform programme for the period 2007-2009 and the workplan for the period 2008-2009. At its fiftieth session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that progress reports on UN-SPIDER and its future workplans should be considered by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee under a regular agenda item on space-system-based disaster management support and that the agenda item should be included in the list of issues to be considered by its Working Group of the Whole.¹

2. The Committee also agreed that the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat should report to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-fifth session, on the activities carried out in the framework of UN-SPIDER in 2007. The present report includes an update on the implementation of such activities in 2007 with regard to the platform programme for the period 2007-2009 and on the establishment of the UN-SPIDER offices in Beijing and Bonn and of the liaison office in Geneva.

Background

3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 61/110 of 14 December 2007, decided to establish a programme within the United Nations to provide universal access to all countries and all relevant international and regional organizations to all types of space-based information and services relevant to disaster management to support the full disaster management cycle by being a gateway to space information for disaster management support, serving as a bridge to connect the disaster management and space communities and being a facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening, in particular for developing countries.

4. The implementation of UN-SPIDER will ensure that:

(a) All countries and relevant regional and international organizations have access to and develop the capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle; an increased number of countries will receive assistance in the definition of disaster management planning and policies with regard to the use of space-based technologies, as well as support in the implementation of risk reduction and emergency response activities using space-based information;

(b) Entities in the United Nations system and international bodies that work on space-related issues and disaster management benefit from increased coherence and synergy in using space science and technology and their applications as tools to advance human development and increase overall capacity development.

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/62/20)*, paras. 140-160.

5. The Office for Outer Space Affairs would: (a) facilitate capacity-building and institutional strengthening through the provision of technical advisory services, upon request, to Member States to update or initiate disaster management policies and plans with regard to the use of space-based technologies for disaster reduction; (b) expand the availability of international and regional workshops and meetings in various regions of the world so that individuals involved in disaster management and experts in the use of space technology for disaster management can learn how to take advantage of existing and planned opportunities; (c) contribute to establishing and maintaining a knowledge portal that includes case histories and best practices on the use of space-based data to support disaster management; (d) promote the development of regional and country profiles; (e) promote close collaboration among members of the space community to help them understand the specific needs of members of the disaster management community and to develop end-to-end solutions that meet the requirements of the user community; and (f) facilitate the preparation of reports on workshops, training courses, symposiums, conferences and seminars organized within the framework of UN-SPIDER.

6. The platform programme for the period 2007-2009 detailed 11 activities defined in the implementation framework. Accordingly, the UN-SPIDER office in Beijing will be responsible for awareness-raising, regional and country profiles, supporting national activities and supporting the establishment of national disaster management planning and policies; the UN-SPIDER office in Bonn will be responsible for the systematic compilation of relevant information, ensuring that relevant information is easily accessible and disseminated to all interested end-users, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, establishing communities of practice, managing and transferring knowledge and maintaining the platform for fostering alliances; and staff based in Vienna will be responsible for outreach activities and supporting capacity-building. In addition, the liaison office in Geneva will contribute to disseminating and integrating the work of the programme into the disaster reduction and humanitarian response communities in that city.

II. Organizational framework

7. The three cornerstones of the organizational framework of UN-SPIDER are the network of regional support offices, the national focal points and UN-SPIDER staff.

A. Network of regional support offices

8. In its resolution 61/110 the General Assembly agreed that UN-SPIDER should work closely with regional and national centres of expertise in the use of space technology in disaster management to form a network of regional support offices for implementing the activities of the programme in their respective regions in a coordinated manner and to take advantage of the important experience and capabilities being offered, and to be offered, by Member States, particularly by developing countries. The regional support offices should be leading national or regional institutions with notable expertise in the use of space technology for disaster management, each nominated by its Government or, in the case of a regional institution, by its governing body.

9. The network of regional support offices will gather together for the first time at an expert meeting to be held in Salzburg, Austria, from 7 to 9 February 2008. At the expert meeting, participants will define ways and means of efficiently coordinating and interacting within a network of regional support offices, assess how the network can contribute to the UN-SPIDER activities contained in the workplan for the period 2008-2009 and draft an operational plan detailing activities to be implemented by the network in the period 2008 and 2009.

10. Members of the network of regional support offices should be able to contribute to any of the specific activities included in the workplan by funding and implementing a specific activity within the framework of UN-SPIDER and in coordination with UN-SPIDER staff. Such activities could include hosting a regional workshop, promoting capacity-building activities in a region, carrying out missions in a region to support national disaster management planning, supporting national and regional vulnerability assessments, providing mapping support during emergencies, contributing to the systematic compilation of relevant information (including the development of country profiles and the compilation of specific geospatial databases), supporting awareness-raising campaigns and promoting the establishment of regional and national communities of practice.

B. National focal points

11. A national focal point is a national institution representing the disaster management and space application communities nominated by the Government of the country hosting the institution to work with UN-SPIDER staff to strengthen national disaster management planning and policies and to implement specific national activities that incorporate space-based technology solutions in support of disaster management. The nominated national focal point will be the main institution with which UN-SPIDER staff will work at the national level to help promote access to and the use of space-based solutions for disaster management in the country. Governments may nominate more than one national focal point.

12. In inviting Governments to nominate a national focal point, the Office for Outer Space Affairs specifically requested Governments to consider the possibility of nominating the same focal point that had been appointed for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005 (A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2). UN-SPIDER staff are working closely with the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action.

13. The Hyogo Framework of Action is the 10-year international road map for disaster risk reduction. In the Hyogo Framework of Action, the World Conference recognized the need to promote the use, application and affordability of recent information, communication and space-based technologies and related services, including Earth observations, to support disaster risk reduction, particularly for training and for the dissemination of information among different categories of users.

14. In 2007, the Office for Outer Space Affairs requested Member States from South-East, East and West Asia and North and East Africa to nominate national focal points. In 2008, the Office will be sending such requests to the remaining Member States. Each of the following Member States has already nominated a national focal point: Egypt, Morocco, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Syrian Arab Republic.

C. Staff of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response

15. The Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs is the supervisor of UN-SPIDER and is responsible for its implementation. The Director will be assisted by a programme coordinator and a programme assistant in planning, coordinating and managing activities, as well as by the leading programme officer from each office (Beijing, Bonn and Vienna). The staff of UN-SPIDER will be working at one of those offices or at the liaison office in Geneva, where they will be carrying out the activities listed in the platform programme for the period 2007-2009.

16. As stated above, the network of regional support offices will give significant support for the implementation of the planned activities by providing expertise and in-kind contributions and by carrying out, within the regions covered by the support offices, specific parts of the activities under the management and coordination of the respective leading programme officer.

17. The successful implementation of all activities will depend on the establishment of a decentralized, cohesive and knowledgeable management team. The core function of the management team and, more specifically, of the three leading programme officers and the programme coordinator, is to ensure that the offices coordinate the implementation of activities and that advantage is taken of the support and expertise that will be made available through the network of regional support offices by assigning parts of the activities detailed in the workplan to the support offices and ensuring that the work is carried out as planned.

18. To carry out the activities detailed in the workplan for the period 2008-2009, 13 staff members will be needed: 7 staff members in the Professional category (1 P-5, 3 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 P-2), 4 staff members in the General Service category and 2 national officers. In addition, senior experts, to be made available on secondment, will be needed to work at the Beijing and Bonn offices. The responsibilities of each required staff member are specified in the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.9, subsequently adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 62/217 (A/C.5/62/14, paras. 17 and 18).

III. Activities carried out in 2007

19. The activities carried out in 2007 in the framework of UN-SPIDER focused on setting up the offices in Beijing and Bonn and the liaison office in Geneva, as well as on ensuring that all the activities presented in the platform programme for the period 2007-2009 were initiated.

20. In order to carry out the activities, in 2007 the Office for Outer Space Affairs made available the part-time services of one staff member in the Professional category and one executive assistant to coordinate with all partners the implementation of activities contained in the platform programme for 2007. This was done in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/110, in which the Assembly agreed that the programme would be supported, if necessary, through a rearrangement of priorities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

21. Also in 2007, the Government of Austria made available the services of an associate expert to contribute to the implementation of the activities in the framework of UN-SPIDER.

A. Establishment of the offices of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response

22. The UN-SPIDER office in Bonn was officially opened during a ceremony held on 29 October 2007. On the occasion, representatives of the United Nations Office at Vienna, the Ministry of Economics and Technology of Germany, the German Aerospace Center (DLR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the city of Bonn highlighted the importance of UN-SPIDER and welcomed the establishment of the new Bonn office. The ceremony was followed by a reception hosted by the Ministry for Economics and Technology of Germany. Together with DLR, the Ministry is supporting UN-SPIDER activities in Bonn. Office space has been reserved for UN-SPIDER staff in the Langer Eugen building, which is used by United Nations entities in Bonn. The office space is located directly below offices occupied by staff of the Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

23. The liaison office in Geneva is scheduled to open during the first quarter of 2008. It will be located in the International Environment House 2, which is also home to offices of the United Nations Organization Satellite (UNOSAT), a programme of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. The office in Beijing is scheduled to open during the second quarter of 2008.

24. In order to expedite the opening of the offices, several coordination missions were carried out in 2007: to Bonn from 26 to 30 March and from 29 to 31 October; to Beijing from 12 to 19 May and on 9 October; and to Geneva on 13 December 2007.

B. Implementation of the activities presented in the platform programme for the period 2007-2009

25. In its function as a gateway to space-based information for disaster management support, UN-SPIDER helps to ensure access and dissemination of information, including case histories and best practices on the use of space-based data in support of disaster management. Activities that fall under the gateway

function include the systematic compilation of relevant information (activity 1), ensuring that relevant information is easily accessible and disseminated to all interested end-users on a “24/7” basis (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) (activity 2), awareness-raising (activity 3), outreach activities (activity 4) and supporting the development of regional and country profiles (activity 5).

26. Within the scope of its outreach activities, UN-SPIDER funds enabled 14 professionals from developing countries to participate in the seven meetings listed in annex I. In addition, the funds were used to organize two workshops and a United Nations meeting: an international UN-SPIDER workshop on space-based information and solutions for disaster management and emergency response was held in Bonn from 29 to 31 October 2007; a regional UN-SPIDER workshop on building upon regional space-based solutions for disaster management and emergency response was held in Shenzhen, China, from 3 to 5 December 2007; and the fourth United Nations meeting on the use of space technologies for emergency response and humanitarian assistance was held in Bangkok on 27 November 2007 (see paragraphs 37-38 below).

27. The workshop held in Bonn, which was organized jointly with DLR and with the support of the Government of Germany, brought together 90 participants from 39 countries. The workshop received financial support from several companies. The following organizations were also involved in organizing the workshop: the Institute for Environment and Human Security of the United Nations University, UNESCO, the Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the Group on Earth Observations and the German Committee for Disaster Reduction.

28. The programme of the workshop was centred on the activities assigned to the Bonn office. It included plenary sessions, during which 11 presentations were given, and discussion sessions, in which participants were divided into four working groups. Group 1 discussed the platform for fostering alliances and user requirements, in coordination with task DI-06-09 of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), Group 2 also discussed the platform for fostering alliances but focused on horizontal coordination, Group 3 discussed the knowledge portal and Group 4 discussed knowledge management and capacity-building (activity 11, in coordination with GEOSS task CB-07-02). More information on the outcome of the workshop and the presentations made during the workshop are available at <http://www.unspider.org>.

29. The workshop held in Shenzhen, China, was organized together with the China National Space Administration and with the support of the Government of China. The first regional workshop of its kind, it brought together 50 participants from 17 countries. The workshop received support from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and from the Asia-Pacific Multilateral Cooperation in Space Technology and Applications.

30. The workshop provided an opportunity to review the current status of space technology for disaster management and emergency response in the region, to discuss the UN-SPIDER awareness-raising strategy proposal (which builds upon examples of similar successful strategies that have been carried out by other organizations in the region), to discuss the development of country profiles and to define ways and means of efficiently coordinating and interacting with national

focal points and the network of regional support offices. More information on the presentations made during the workshop and the outcomes of the meeting are available at <http://www.unspider.org>.

31. In 2007, a draft strategy for identifying and compiling relevant information was prepared. The strategy will be implemented in 2008, once all offices have become operational. A website dedicated to UN-SPIDER was set up and a specific domain was registered (<http://www.unspider.org>). Relevant information is being gathered systematically by UN-SPIDER staff and is being made available to the public through monthly updates. Two electronic newsletters were also published and made widely available in 2007. This information was distributed directly to nearly 11,000 experts from both the space and disaster management communities.

32. A concept model for the knowledge portal was discussed at the Bonn workshop. An initial proposal for the structural concept of the knowledge portal will be finalized and then discussed by participants at the meeting of experts to be held in Salzburg, Austria.

33. A draft awareness-raising strategy and a strategy for the compilation of country profiles and of regional and subregional vulnerability assessments were presented and discussed at the workshop in Shenzhen, China. On the basis of the feedback received from the workshop participants, both strategies will be finalized in 2008.

34. In its function as a bridge to connect the disaster management and space communities, UN-SPIDER is contributing through the establishment of communities of practice (activity 6), knowledge management and transfer (activity 7) and the establishment of a platform for fostering alliances (activity 8).

35. Activity 7 on the development of a knowledge management and transfer framework was discussed at the Bonn workshop by Group 4, which focused on knowledge management and capacity-building. Also as part of that activity, the Office for Outer Space Affairs is co-leading GEOSS Task CB-07-02 on knowledge sharing for improved disaster management and emergency response.

36. In 2007, the elements of a horizontal coordination framework were identified. The framework will be finalized in 2008. It will consider the need for all relevant international and regional initiatives to work closely together so as to ensure coordination of activities. It will also take into account the need for UN-SPIDER staff to participate in relevant forums and coordinate with relevant programmes, including the Group on Earth Observations, the programme for Global Monitoring for Environment and Security, the secretariat of ISDR including the Advisory Group of the Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning, the Global Platform of Disaster Risk Reduction and the Hyogo Framework of Action, UNESCO, the International Charter "Space and Major Disasters", Sentinel Asia, the Mesoamerican Regional Visualization and Monitoring System (SERVIR) and other relevant activities. Moreover, the framework will include a definition of parameters for coordinating activities with all United Nations initiatives, thus building upon the work of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities and the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group. It will also include a proposal for a mechanism for facilitating coordination with European Union and other relevant international initiatives.

37. Through UN-SPIDER, the Office for Outer Space Affairs organized, together with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the fourth United Nations meeting on the use of space technologies for emergency response and humanitarian assistance in Bangkok on 27 November 2007. That meeting was held immediately before the eighth meeting of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group, which was held, also in Bangkok from 28 to 30 November 2007 (information on that meeting is available at <http://www.ungiwg.org>).

38. At the meeting on the use of space technologies for emergency response and humanitarian assistance, participants discussed the operational aspects of benefiting from the Charter on Cooperation to Achieve the Coordinated Use of Space Facilities in the Event of Natural or Technological Disasters and other existing initiatives, such as Sentinel Asia. They evaluated the work carried out by the United Nations and partner institutions and organizations with a view to better understanding what worked and what needed to be improved, particularly with regard to making such opportunities available to an even wider group of United Nations agencies, especially at the field level. Participants discussed the establishment of a user focus group that would help entities of the United Nations system and partners to continue building upon available opportunities. Finally, participants updated the “Common Vision”, a text that outlines how United Nations agencies view available opportunities, how they plan to work together by building upon existing synergies and which changes those agencies consider necessary for maximizing the benefits of such opportunities to entities of the United Nations system.

39. Annex II of the present document includes a list of official missions that were undertaken to coordinate the activities to be carried out in the framework of UN-SPIDER with those of other relevant international and regional initiatives and to promote UN-SPIDER at relevant international and regional meetings.

40. As a facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening, UN-SPIDER is ensuring support to national activities (activity 9), support to the establishment of national disaster management planning and policies (activity 10), and support to capacity-building (activity 11).

41. In 2007, emphasis was placed on the development of a draft capacity-building framework specific to disaster management activities and on the nomination of national focal points.

42. A draft capacity-building framework was prepared for presentation to the participants of the upcoming workshop, to be held in Salzburg, Austria. The draft framework calls for consideration of the development of a database of training opportunities that use space-based solutions in disaster management, identifies possible partners who could contribute to the development of training curricula that promote the use of space-based solutions for disaster management and emergency response and adopts a conceptual approach to developing e-learning opportunities that take into consideration the kind of facilities that exist within the United Nations and elsewhere.

IV. Voluntary contributions

43. The activities carried out in 2007 were implemented successfully thanks, in part, to the support and voluntary contributions (cash and in kind) received from a number of Member States and Government and non-governmental organizations and private companies, including:

(a) The Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology of Austria, which contributed 150,000 euros in support of capacity-building and outreach activities and also arranged for a senior expert to assist UN-SPIDER staff in such activities;

(b) The Government of Germany, which contributed €150,000 a year for four years in support of the activities of the Bonn office;

(c) The Government of Indonesia, which contributed 20,000 United States dollars to UN-SPIDER activities;

(d) The Ministry for European and International Affairs of Austria, which provided for the services of an associate expert;

(e) The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, which contributed 240,000 Swiss francs, thus enabling the United Nations Organization Satellite to offer office space, complete with information technology services and office furniture, to the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the liaison office in Geneva;

(f) The Government of China, which provided for the part-time services of experts from the National Disaster Reduction Centre of China to work on the activities assigned to the future UN-SPIDER Beijing office;

(g) The China National Space Administration, which supported the UN-SPIDER workshop in Shenzhen, China, by defraying the costs of local organization, facilities and local transportation, as well as of room and board for 22 participants from developing countries;

(h) DLR, which supported the UN-SPIDER workshop in Bonn, Germany, by defraying the costs of local organization, facilities and local transportation, as well as of room and board for 11 participants from developing countries;

(i) The companies Infoterra (<http://www.infoterra-global.com/>), RapidEye (<http://www.rapideye.de/>) and LogicaCMG (<http://www.logicacmg.com/>), which contributed to defraying the costs of the UN-SPIDER workshop in Bonn.

V. Implementing the workplan for the period 2008-2009

44. Resource requirements for the period 2008-2009 are estimated at \$1,538,000 for 13 posts (for details, see para. 18 above) and at up to \$562,000 for non-post resources, for a total of \$2,100,000 (A/C.5/62/14, para. 20).

45. In addition to the staff needs listed above, the expertise of seconded professionals to be based at the Beijing and Bonn offices will be needed. As of January 2008, two senior experts will be seconded to the Bonn office by DLR. They will be responsible for defining and implementing the knowledge portal (which also means being responsible for defining and implementing a framework for the

compilation of relevant information), assisting in the definition of a horizontal coordination strategy and supporting existing and new communities of practice.

46. The Office for Outer Space Affairs will continue to rearrange its priorities to enable it to provide additional support as needed, in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 61/110. More specifically, in 2008 the Office will continue to make available the full-time services of one staff member in the Professional category and the part-time services of one executive assistant to assist the Director of the Office in planning, coordinating and managing UN-SPIDER.

47. Two-thirds of the resources needed to successfully carry out the workplan approved by the General Assembly in paragraph 42 of its resolution 62/217 will come from extra-budgetary funds (i.e. from the voluntary contributions of those Member States that have committed or have indicated commitment to providing financial and in-kind support for UN-SPIDER). Those voluntary contributions are expected to cover the cost of 10 posts (4 staff members in the Professional category, 4 in the General Service category and 2 national officers), for a value of \$1,064,000, and for non-post requirements, for a value of \$432,000. The Office for Outer Space Affairs will continue to work closely with all Member States to ensure that the voluntary contributions are made available to UN-SPIDER.

Annex I

Outreach activities carried out in 2007 in the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response

- A. Workshops, meetings and courses relevant to the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response attended by professionals from developing countries who received support from the programme**
1. Geo-information for Food Security, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26-30 March
 2. Writing for Research Proposals and Publication, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2-6 April
 3. Joint CIG/ISPRS Conference on Geomatics for Disaster and Risk Management, Toronto, Canada, 23-25 May
 4. GMOSS Summer School 2007, Madrid, 2-9 September
 5. The User and GEOSS Architecture XVII, a workshop on the use of Earth observation for managing water and health in Africa, Ouagadougou, 15-16 September
 6. AfricaGIS 2007 Conference, Ouagadougou, 17-21 September
 7. International workshop on the use of regionally owned space infrastructure for disaster management in West and North Africa: status quo and prospects, Abuja, 15-16 October
 8. Geotechnologies for Natural Disasters Warning and Mitigation for Brazilian Southern Region and MERCOSUL, Santa Maria, Brazil, 27-29 November
- B. Outreach activities: workshops and expert meetings organized by staff of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response**
1. International UN-SPIDER workshop on space-based information and solutions for disaster management and emergency response, Bonn, Germany, 29-31 October
 2. Fourth United Nations meeting on the use of space technologies for emergency response and humanitarian assistance, Bangkok, 27 November
 3. Regional UN-SPIDER workshop on building upon regional space-based solutions for disaster management and emergency response, organized jointly with the Government of China, Shenzhen, China, 3-5 December

C. Provision of expert speakers

1. United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security, Bonn, Germany, 30 March
2. Sustainable neighbourhood: from Lisbon to Leipzig through research (L2L), Leipzig, Germany, 8-10 May
3. The User and GEOSS Architecture XVII, a workshop on the use of Earth observation for managing water and health in Africa, Ouagadougou, 15-16 September
4. AfricaGIS 2007 Conference, Ouagadougou, 17-21 September
5. Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on GEOSS Information Access, Beijing, 10-11 October
6. International workshop on the use of regionally owned space infrastructure for disaster management in West and North Africa: status quo and prospects, Abuja, 15-16 October
7. Third International Geohazards Workshop, Frascati, Italy, 6-8 November
8. Global Forum on the Effective Use of Telecommunications and Information and Communication Technologies for Disaster Management: Saving Lives, Geneva, 10-13 December

Annex II

Major international and regional meetings in which staff of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response participated in 2007

1. First Advisory Group Meeting of the International Early Warning Programme of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Bonn, Germany, 26-27 March
2. United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security, Bonn, Germany, 30 March
3. Seventeenth Meeting of the Executive Secretariat of the International Charter "Space and Major Disasters", Tokyo, 11-13 April
4. 36-month Integration Meeting of the Global Monitoring for Security and Stability, The Hague, Netherlands, 16-17 April
5. Annual Stakeholder Meeting of the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System, Graz, Austria, 24-25 April
6. Sustainable Neighbourhood: from Lisbon to Leipzig through Research (L2L), Leipzig, Germany, 9-10 May
7. Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2007: Working Together for a Safer World, Astana, 25-27 June
8. International Workshop on Early Warning and Monitoring Earthquake by Using Electromagnetism Detecting Satellite, Jakarta, 25-27 July
9. GMOSS Summer School 2007, Madrid, 2-9 September
10. First GEO Donor Capacity-Building Symposium for Earth Observations, Seville, Spain, 10-11 September
11. Fifth GEO Capacity-Building Committee Meeting, Seville, Spain, 12-13 September
12. The User and GEOSS Architecture XVII, a workshop on the use of Earth observation for managing water and health in Africa, Ouagadougou, 15-16 September
13. AfricaGIS 2007 Conference, Ouagadougou, 17-21 September
14. Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on GEOSS Information Access, Beijing, 10-11 October
15. General Assembly panel on space tools and solutions for climate change, New York, 24 October
16. Third International Geohazards Workshop, Frascati, Italy, 6-8 November
17. Second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, New Delhi, 7-8 November

18. Eighth Meeting of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group, Bangkok, 28-30 November
 19. GEO Ministerial Summit, Cape Town, South Africa, 30 November
 20. Global Forum on the Effective Use of Telecommunications and Information and Communication Technologies for Disaster Management: Saving Lives, Geneva, Switzerland, 10-13 December
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