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Planned contributions of the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices to the implementation of the planned 2012-2013 Programme Activities

1. Background Info

1. In its resolution 61/110, the General Assembly agreed that the UN-SPIDER Programme should work closely with regional and national centres of expertise in the use of space technology in disaster risk management to form a **network of regional support offices** for implementing the activities of the programme in their respective regions in a coordinated manner, taking advantage of the important experience and capabilities being offered, and to be offered, by Member States, particularly by developing countries.
2. The network of regional support offices should be able to contribute to any of the specific activities included in the UN-SPIDER workplan by taking on the responsibility for funding and implementing a specific activity jointly 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 networks of experts.
3. UN-SPIDER regional support offices are currently being hosted by the following eight national organizations (in parenthesis the date the Cooperation Agreement was signed): the Algerian Space Agency (07 October 2009), the Agustín Codazzi Geographic Institute of Colombia (29 September 2011), the Iranian Space Agency (04 June 2009), the Károly Róbert University of Hungary (07 February 2012), the National Space Research and Development Agency of Nigeria (04 June

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2009), the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (09 February 2010), the Romanian Space Agency (04 June 2009) and the State Space Agency of Ukraine (10 February 2010). They are also hosted by the following four regional organizations: the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), based in Kobe, Japan (04 June 2009); the Regional Center for Mapping of Resources for Development, based in Nairobi (22 June 2010); the University of the West Indies, based in St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago (08 October 2010); and the Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean, based in Panama City (15 April 2010).

4. Additionally, the following five countries have indicated their commitment to host a UN-SPIDER Regional Support Office: Argentina, Indonesia, the Russian Federation, South Africa and Turkey.

5. Information on each Regional Support Office can be found on the UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal: <http://www.un-spider.org/content/5699/regional-support-offices>

6. The UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices meet every year, on the side-lines of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to review the work carried out during the previous year and plan future joint activities, aiming at implementing the agreed upon plan-of-work. The first meeting of the established and prospective UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices was held from 9 - 10 February 2010, and focused on the work of the network of Regional Support Offices and their involvement in the implementation of the programme. From 8 - 9 February 2011, the second UN-SPIDER Regional Support Office meeting was held building upon the discussions of the previous year and benefitting from the presence of representatives from several leading existing mechanisms that make space-based information available for emergency response during the “**Expert Meeting on Space-based Technologies and Emergency Response**” which was held jointly on the second day of the RSO meeting.

7. The third meeting of the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices (RSOs) was carried out from 6 - 7 February 2012 on the side-lines of the forty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

2. Outcome of the 3rd Annual UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices Meeting – 6 – 7 February 2012

8. The 3rd Annual UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices meeting was attended by representatives of nine of the twelve established RSOs and from four of the five prospective RSOs.

9. The two-day meeting allowed:

(a) RSOs to share information on activities conducted in 2011 and to comment on proposed activities to be conducted in 2012.

(b) RSOs to liaise with the various region desk officers (Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia and the Pacific) to coordinate the conduction of activities in all countries where the programme is active.

(c) UN-SPIDER staff to discuss with RSOs the various requests for inputs to specific activities including the knowledge portal, capacity building efforts and the VALID project.

(d) RSOS to become more engaged in activities foreseen in the 2012-2013 UN-SPIDER Work Plan, in particular through an agreement on activities to be conducted, specific outputs and deadlines for the completion of such activities.

(e) the finalisation of a revised proposed UN-SPIDER workplan for the biennium 2012-2013 which was subsequently shared with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space during its forty-ninth session (see A/AC.105/C.1/2012/CRP.22).

10. Annex I presents a summary of the planned contributions of the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices to the implementation of the proposed 2012-2013 Programme Activities as discussed during the 3rd Annual meeting and as subsequently confirmed by nine of the twelve RSOs. The RSOs from the I.R. Iran and from ADRC and CATHALAC have not yet communicated officially their various commitments to the workplan.

Annex I: Planned contributions of the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices to the implementation of the planned 2012-2013 Programme Activities

Activity	Specific Sub-Activity(ies)	Specific contributions from the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices
1 Knowledge Management	Maintaining and expanding content in the Knowledge Portal	<p>The UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices will have an increasing role in this activity ensuring on the one hand that information available at the national and regional level is incorporated into the Knowledge Portal and on the other hand ensuring that end users do indeed access the information available. Emphasis will be placed on expanding and updating knowledge in the Space Application Guides and Technology Guides sections of the portal contributing to keeping end users informed on new technology and applications development.</p> <p>During the 3rd annual meeting it was decided that the RSOs would work jointly to develop “Recommended Practices” on how to access and make use of space based information to carry out rapid mapping of floods, droughts and forest fires. These Recommended Practices would then be inserted into the Space Application Matrix. Proposed date of completion was February 2013. The following RSOs indicated their commitment to this specific task:</p> <p>Floods: Algeria, Hungary, Nigeria, Pakistan, Ukraine, Colombia, Romania, RCMRD, UWI Droughts: Colombia and CATHALAC Forest fires: Algeria, Indonesia and the Russian Federation (these last two are prospective RSOs)</p> <p>These same groups of RSOs agreed to also consider developing specific “Recommended Practices” on how to access and make use of archived imagery to carry our an assessment regarding how land-use changes in recent years have modified flood, drought and forest fire hazards. These case studies would be ready by February 2014.</p> <p>Additional booklets are also being prepared by the RSOs in Asia (I.R. Iran, Pakistan and ADRC) more specifically Pakistan will develop a booklet on “Considerations for effective use of space-based information to assess impact of massive flood – lesson learnt from the 2010 Pakistan floods”. Also the RSO in Algeria has indicated that it will contribute to the area of locust activity (building on the work carried out already in April 2012). Also the RSO in Ukraine indicated that it will focus additionally in the area of geo-information services for rapid flood mapping. RCMRD has indicated that it will be focusing also on sharing its experience in rapid mapping of flooding and landslide events through the International Charter Space and Major Disasters and through the implementation of the GARNET-E project rapid mapping component.</p> <p>It was also agreed that the RSOs would assist in the evaluation of the Knowledge Portal throughout 2012 (Colombia, Hungary, Nigeria, Romania, UWI).</p>

Activity	Specific Sub-Activity(ies)	Specific contributions from the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices
	Development of additional applications within the Knowledge Portal	During the 3 rd annual meeting it was agreed that all RSOs would contribute to the design of the KP segment dedicated to the RSOs and would introduce content to their respective sites (Algeria, Colombia, Hungary, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Ukraine, RCMRD, UWI).
	Information Sharing	<p>UN-SPIDER RSOs will continue contributing to UN-SPIDER's sharing efforts through the Knowledge Portal with printed and online publications including Newsletters and electronic Updates and also through social media tools such as Google+, Facebook and Twitter.</p> <p>RSOs will, during 2012, provide information to the VALID project which targets the value of geo-information in disaster management. This project is a follow-up to the JBGIS/UNOOSA publication "Geoinformation for Disaster and Risk Management – Examples and Best Practices" and is being developed jointly with JBGIS addressing the monetary and operational value of geo-information in disaster management. (Algeria, Colombia, UWI)</p> <p>Several RSOs have already or are in the process of implementing specific web sites aimed at supporting their network of end users and communities (Algeria, Colombia, Nigeria, RCMRD). RCMRD will specifically make available forecast, early warning, emergency response related information derived from EO and models on specific information outlets and portals.</p>
2. Support Humanitarian and Emergency Response	<p>Assisting end-users to build their capacity to use all space-based information</p> <p>Providing support to countries that request international support</p>	<p>Together with RSOs, the UN-SPIDER Programme will aim at helping end-users build capacity to use all space-based information made available to support emergency events by existing mechanisms and initiatives, aiming at ensuring closer working relationships and agreements with all existing opportunities and mechanisms, working jointly with existing mechanisms aiming at ensuring space-based information is available to support early warning (monitoring), emergency response as well as early recovery. This support is to be provided during the biennium. (Algeria, Colombia, Hungary, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Ukraine, RCMRD, UWI)</p> <p>RSOs will take a lead in providing support to the countries that request international support in case of disasters, particularly in the context of space-based information. This support is to be provided during the biennium. (Algeria, Colombia, Hungary, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Ukraine, RCMRD, UWI)</p> <p>Several RSOs also committed to helping channel satellite imagery and value added products directly to the end users, including taking advantage of the satellites they manage or have access to (Algeria, Nigeria, RCMRD) and the RSO Ukraine confirmed its continuous commitment to the Namibian Sensor Web Pilot Project.</p>

Activity	Specific Sub-Activity(ies)	Specific contributions from the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices
3. Outreach activities	<p>Workshops and Expert Meetings</p> <p>Support to workshops and other events organized by partners</p>	<p>RSOs agreed to continue during 2012-2013 taking part in workshops, seminars, and expert meetings organized by UN-SPIDER in all regions of the world as well as organizing specific regional events in their respective regions. (Algeria, Colombia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Ukraine, RCMRD, UWI).</p> <p>The RSO in Ukraine has also indicated it will be organising a UN-SPIDER Special Session during the GEO-UA Conference to be held in Crimea, Ukraine from 3-7 September 2012.</p> <p>RSOs agreed to continue participating and promoting UN-SPIDER in workshops and other events organized by partners. This support is to be provided during the biennium. (Algeria, Colombia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, RCMRD, UWI).</p> <p>The expected outcomes from all these outreach activities is to ensure a larger demand for capacity-building activities; and the establishment of more formal links between space agencies, disaster management and emergency response agencies.</p>
4 Capacity building	<p>Working with partners in the development of training curricula</p> <p>Development and maintenance of a learning segment in the KP</p> <p>Facilitation of the realization of short and long term training activities</p>	<p>Capacity-building and the strengthening of institutional arrangements at all levels is key to increasing the ability of organizations and individuals to effectively access and make use of space based services for disaster preparedness, response and recovery. The capacity building strategy emphasises the need to work with the established Regional Centres for Space Science and Technology Education affiliated to the United Nations, the network of UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices, as well as other national and regional centres of excellence in the training of the end users and in the strengthening of national institutions. The target audience includes practitioners from the disaster management and space communities working in government agencies and staff from academia and research centres devoted to exploring means to bridge the two communities through the development of methods and tools.</p> <p>During the 3rd annual meeting the RSOs agreed to contribute to the development of training curricula and the corresponding content material. This support is to be provided during the biennium. (Algeria, Colombia, Hungary, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, RCMRD, UWI).</p> <p>Additionally, RSOs agreed to contribute to the design of the learning segment on the knowledge portal and use it in the subsequent conduction of training activities. This support is to be provided during the biennium. (Algeria, Colombia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, RCMRD).</p> <p>Finally several RSOs confirmed their intent to contribute to the conduction of short and long term training activities. This support is to be provided during the biennium. (Algeria, Colombia, Hungary, Pakistan, Romania, Ukraine, RCMRD, UWI). The RSO in Romania confirmed its plan to organise the</p>

Activity	Specific Sub-Activity(ies)	Specific contributions from the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices
		Summer School for Disaster Management (building upon two similar training activities carried out already in 2010 and 2011) and to continue organising information workshops in neighbouring countries as was the case in Moldova (November 2010 and March 2012)
5. Networks of Experts	<p>Network of National Focal Points</p> <p>Networks of Experts</p>	<p>Network of National Focal Points - A national focal point is a national institution nominated by the Government of the respective country representing the disaster management and space application communities. The role of the national focal point is to work with UN-SPIDER staff and UN-SPIDER RSOs to strengthen national disaster management planning and policies and to implement specific national activities that incorporate space-based technology solutions in support of disaster risk management. All RSOs should involve nominated NFPs when providing support to any requesting country.</p> <p>Networks of Experts - UN-SPIDER aims at fostering and supporting expert communities of any kind, as far as their issues are related to the intersection of disaster management and space-based information. During the 2012-2013 biennium UN-SPIDER will continue supporting and working with and through relevant networks of experts, especially at the regional level, ensuring that the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices take the leading role in working with these established regional networks. RSOs will take a leading role in working with established regional networks of experts. This task will be carried out throughout the biennium. (Algeria, Colombia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, RCMRD, UWI).</p>
6. Support at the national level	<p>Provision of technical advisory support</p> <p>Strengthen technical advisory support at the regional level</p>	<p>The UN-SPIDER programme, in close coordination with the UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices, will continue to respond to requests from Member States regarding the provision of technical advisory support, including carrying out technical advisory missions. This will contribute to ensuring that countries receive systematic and continuous technical advisory assistance for incorporating space-based solutions and opportunities in disaster management plans and policies and in the implementation of risk reduction activities.</p> <p>During the 3rd annual meeting the RSOs agreed to continue taking part in Technical Advisory Missions to countries that indicate their interest in receiving such support. This support is to be provided during the biennium. (Algeria, Colombia, Hungary, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, RCMRD, UWI).</p> <p>Additionally, the RSOs agreed to contribute to the organization of regional expert meetings aiming at building upon the work initiated in the countries that have already hosted a technical advisory mission. This support is to be provided during the biennium. (Algeria, Colombia, Hungary, Pakistan, RCMRD, UWI).</p>