

III. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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31/8. International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3388 (XXX) of 18 November 1975,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,¹

Reaffirming the common interest of mankind in furthering the exploration and use of outer space for

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/31/20).

peaceful purposes and in extending to States the benefits derived therefrom as well as the importance of international co-operation in this field, for which the United Nations should provide a focal point, as expressed in General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI) of 20 December 1961,

Reaffirming the importance of international co-operation in developing the rule of law in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space,

Welcoming the entry into force on 15 September 1976 of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space,²

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

2. *Invites* States which have not yet become parties to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,³ the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space,⁴ the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects⁵ and the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space² to give early consideration to ratifying or acceding to those international agreements;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has:

(a) Achieved considerable progress by:

(i) Formulating nine draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements;

(ii) Formulating five draft principles and identifying three new common elements in the drafts submitted and the views expressed by Member States relating to the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space;

(b) Continued its work on the draft treaty relating to the moon, giving priority to the question of natural resources of the moon;

(c) Discussed questions relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities;

4. *Recommends* that the Legal Sub-Committee at its sixteenth session should:

(a) Continue, as matters of high priority:

(i) To consider the draft treaty relating to the moon;

(ii) To consider completing the elaboration of draft principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements;

(iii) To give detailed consideration to the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space, with the particular aim of formulating draft principles on the basis of common elements identified by it;

(b) Pursue its work on questions relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities in the remaining time available;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its thirteenth session,⁶ which, *inter alia*:

(a) Examines further the question of remote sensing of the earth from space, as set out in paragraphs 26 to 81 of the report, considering in detail both the current pre-operational/experimental as well as the possible future global/operational phase of remote sensing system or systems;

(b) Continues in effect the United Nations programme on space applications;

(c) Provides for further study of a possible United Nations conference on outer space matters;

6. *Recommends* that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should continue at its fourteenth session its work on the matters before it, giving priority to the three items contained in paragraph 71 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

7. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that full utilization be made by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies of their existing terms of reference with regard to the establishment of an appropriate co-ordinating role for the United Nations in the field of remote sensing;

8. *Further endorses* the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Secretary-General, for consideration by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its fourteenth session, should:

(a) Undertake the various studies and reports on remote sensing of the earth from space, as referred to in paragraph 42 of the report of the Committee;

(b) Prepare a study in depth on the question of convening a United Nations conference on space matters, as referred to in paragraphs 55 and 56 of that report;

(c) Request Member States to provide information on programmes or plans for the generation or transmission of solar energy by means of space technology, as referred to in paragraph 72 of that report;

9. *Endorses* the United Nations programme on space applications for 1977, as referred to in paragraph 46 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

10. *Approves* continuing sponsorship by the United Nations of the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in India and the CELPA Mar del Plata Station in Argentina and expresses its satisfaction at the work being carried out at those ranges in the peaceful and scientific exploration of outer space;

11. *Reiterates* its request to the World Meteorological Organization to pursue actively the implementation of its tropical cyclone project while continuing and intensifying its other related action programmes, including the World Weather Watch and, especially, the efforts being undertaken towards obtaining basic meteorological data and discovering ways and means to mitigate the harmful effects of tropical storms and to remove or minimize their destructive potential, and looks for-

² Resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex.

³ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

⁴ Resolution 2345 (XXII), annex.

⁵ Resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex.

⁶ A/AC.105/170.

ward to its report thereon in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions;

12. *Requests* the specialized agencies to provide the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with progress reports on their work, including particular problems in the fields within their competence relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the light of paragraph 73 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to consider strengthening the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Secretariat;

14. *Notes* the invitation extended by the Government of Austria to hold the twentieth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at Vienna in 1977 and accepts that invitation with appreciation;

15. *Requests* the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its work, as set out in the present and previous resolutions of the General Assembly, and to report to the Assembly at its thirty-second session.

*57th plenary meeting
8 November 1976*

31/9. Conclusion of a world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations⁷

The General Assembly,

Recalling the principle proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations that States shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force,

Noting with satisfaction that the principle of the non-use of force or the threat of force has been incorporated into a number of bilateral and multilateral international instruments, treaties, agreements and declarations, including resolutions adopted by the United Nations,

Noting the need for universal and effective application of this principle in international relations and for assistance by the United Nations in this endeavour,

Having considered the item entitled "Conclusion of a world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations",

Taking note of the draft World Treaty on the Non-Use of Force in International Relations⁸ submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

1. *Invites* Member States to examine further the above-mentioned draft World Treaty on the Non-Use of Force in International Relations as well as other proposals and statements made during the consideration of the item entitled "Conclusion of a world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations";

2. *Requests* Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General their views and suggestions on this subject not later than 1 June 1977;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session on the communications received by him pursuant to paragraph 2 above;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session the item entitled "Conclusion

of a world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations".

*57th plenary meeting
8 November 1976*

31/64. Incendiary and other specific conventional weapons which may be the subject of prohibitions or restrictions of use for humanitarian reasons

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the suffering of civilian populations and combatants could be significantly reduced if general agreement can be attained on the prohibition or restriction for humanitarian reasons of the use of specific conventional weapons, including any which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects,

Mindful that positive results as regards the non-use or restriction of use for humanitarian reasons of specific conventional weapons would serve, in addition, as encouragement in the broader field of disarmament and might facilitate subsequent agreement on the elimination of such weapons which were completely banned for use,

Recalling that the issue of prohibitions or restrictions for humanitarian reasons of the use of specific conventional weapons has been the subject of serious and substantive discussion for a number of years, notably at the sessions of the Conference of Government Experts on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons held, under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, at Lucerne from 24 September to 18 October 1974⁹ and at Lugano from 28 January to 26 February 1976,¹⁰ and at three sessions of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts and in the General Assembly since 1971,

Noting that the discussions and proposals regarding the prohibition or restriction for humanitarian reasons of the use of certain weapons have focused on napalm and other incendiary weapons, on indiscriminate methods of using land mines, on perfidious weapons and weapons which rely for their effect upon fragments invisible on X-ray, on certain types of small calibre projectile which may be especially injurious and on certain blast and fragmentation weapons,

Noting that the issue will come before the fourth session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, to be held at Geneva from 17 March to 10 June 1977,

Convinced that the work of the fourth session of the Diplomatic Conference should be inspired by a sense of urgency and the wish to attain concrete results which was stressed in the appeal by the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Colombo from 16 to 19 August 1976,¹¹

⁹ For the report of the first session, see *Conference of Government Experts on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons* (International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva, 1975).

¹⁰ For the report of the second session, see *Conference of Government Experts on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons* (International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva, 1976).

¹¹ See A/31/197, annex IV, sect. A, resolution 12.

⁷ See also sect. I above, foot-note 11, and sect. X.B.7 below, decision 31/410.

⁸ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Annexes*, agenda item 124, document A/31/243, annex.