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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Sixty-first session**

Vienna, 29 January–9 February 2024

Item 5 of the provisional agenda¹

**Space for sustainable development: technology and
its applications, including the United Nations
Programme on Space Applications**

**Explanatory note to the draft resolution entitled “Space
science and technology for promoting peace”**

Submitted by the Russian Federation

The present conference room paper contains the explanatory note, submitted by the Russian Federation, to the draft resolution entitled “Space science and technology for promoting peace”, as contained in conference room paper A/AC.105/C.1/2024/CRP.7. The information was reproduced in the form it was received.

The world has been witnessing the alarming trend of a dramatic increase in the number of satellites, in particular private and commercial units, which tend to be used for purposes other than their declared and intended peaceful ones.

This trend is rapidly gaining momentum, putting at risk the peaceful exploration of outer space and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Numerous social and economic processes provided by the same commercial satellites around the world are also at risk.

Addressing this issue the delegation of the Russian Federation together with cosponsors has submitted for consideration of the 61st session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) the UNGA draft resolution “Space Science and Technology for Promoting Peace”.

Drawing attention to this issue comes in line with the recommendations of the United Nations Secretary-General contained in his Policy Brief 7 “For all Humanity: The Future of Outer Space Governance”, proposed for consideration to Member States as a basis to prepare the Summit of the Future (September 2024).

The wording of the draft resolution is unifying and reflects many space-related concerns, especially those of developing countries. It focuses on a specific issue and does not compete with the annual omnibus resolution “International Cooperation in

¹ A/AC.105/C.1/L.412.



the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space”, which is usually adopted by consensus and fixes the results of the COPUOS session.

The preambular paragraphs (PP1 to PP4) of this new draft refer to the previous resolutions related to the legal framework of the peaceful uses of outer space, aimed at promoting international cooperation, engaging space technology to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and implement the “Space2030” Agenda. PP5 to PP7 recall the confidence-building measures, emerging threats to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and to the need to improve information exchange to enhance safety of outer space operations. PP8 to PP10 recognize the role of COPUOS in increasing transparency and confidence among States and promote the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

Operative paragraphs (OP1 to OP2) reconfirm the need to ensure equal, non-discriminatory access to space technologies, seek effective coordination and facilitate international cooperation and understanding in relation to outer space activities. OP3 to OP4 support the United Nations Office on Outer Space Affairs capacity-building and technical advisory activities, including in promoting the role of women and youth in exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. OP5 to OP6 urge Member States to use space technology to maintain international peace and security as well as building trust and cooperation.

New OP7 urges Member States, international organizations and the private sector to refrain from conducting activities that may harm the space environment and give rise to concerns of other space players that space systems, technology and services are not used in the declared and intended peaceful purposes.

OP8 to OP10 call upon the State Parties to the Open Space Treaty (1967) to bear, pursuant to its Article VI, their international responsibility for national activities in outer space conducted by governmental, related non-governmental or international entities. These OPs also invite COPOUS to address the safety of space operations and propose to include the sub-item “Space science and technology for promoting peace” in the agenda item “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space” of the 80th session of the UNGA.

The delegation of the Russian Federation looks forward to the proposals of Member States to develop a text that can gain the support of the United Nations General Assembly as well as to establish a focused dialogue on the issue within the COPUOS.

We thank Member States for their continued cooperation on the matter.
