



General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Sixty-first session
Vienna, 29 January–9 February 2024**

Draft report

Addendum

D. General statements

1. Statements were made by representatives of the following member States during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). A statement was made by the representative of Ghana on behalf of the Group of African States and by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The representative of the European Union, in its capacity as permanent observer, made a statement on behalf of the European Union and its member States. Additional statements were made by the observers for APSCO, CANEUS International, COSPAR, ESA, ESO, For All Moonkind, the Global Satellite Operators Association, IAA, IAF, IAU, IPA, ITU, the Moon Village Association, NSS, SKAO, SGAC, SWF, UNISEC-Global and WSWA.

2. The Subcommittee heard the following scientific and technical presentations:

- (a) “Aerospace Team Graz: why and how students built rockets”, by the representatives of Austria;
- (b) “China’s deep space exploration”, by the representative of China;
- (c) “China Platform of Earth Observation System”, by the representative of China;
- (d) “Space technology in Egypt”, by the representative of Egypt;
- (e) “German Federal Government’s new space strategy”, by the representative of Germany;



(f) “Chandrayaan-3: India soft lands in the southern polar region of the Moon for scientific exploration”, by the representatives of India;

(g) “Aditya L1 and XPoSAT: India’s quest to demystify cosmic phenomena”, by the representative of India;

(h) “Examples of optical astronomy coordination requirements in satellite authorizations”, by the representatives of the United States;

(i) “United States Novel Space Activities Authorization and Supervision Framework”, by the representative of the United States;

(j) “Leveraging space technology for advancing agricultural development and ensuring food security”, by the observer for FAO;

(k) “IAASS at twenty”, by the observer for IAASS;

(l) “Opportunities and threats for astronomical observations from the Moon”, by the observer for IAU;

(m) “Cooperation to protect dark and quiet skies, outcomes of the IAU Symposium 385, ‘Astronomy and satellite constellations: pathways forward’”, by the observer for IAU;

(n) “The second International Moon Day results and outlook for 2024”, by the observer for the Moon Village Association.

3. The Subcommittee welcomed the election of Ulpia-Elena Botezatu (Romania) as Chair for a two-year term starting in 2024. The Subcommittee expressed its appreciation to the outgoing Chair, Juan Francisco Facetti (Paraguay), for his leadership and contribution to furthering the achievements of the Subcommittee during his term of office.

4. At its 995th meeting, the Chair of the Subcommittee made a statement in which she outlined the work of the Subcommittee at its sixty-first session. She recalled that the Subcommittee formed part of the unique intergovernmental platform comprised of the Committee and its two subcommittees, which together were the preeminent forums for fostering dialogue, reinforcing mutual understanding among nations and promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. She encouraged the international community to use the sixty-first session of the Subcommittee to maximize related vital multilateral work and expressed her openness to leading the work of the Subcommittee to increase the visibility of the Committee and highlight the importance of outer space on the global agenda.

5. The Chair welcomed EAS and Three Country – Trusted Broker as the newest organizations with observer status with the Committee.

6. Also at the 995th meeting, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs made a statement in which she recalled the Office’s role as the gateway to space in the United Nations system, and as a capacity-builder, a convener and a facilitator of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. She highlighted the recently launched United Nations Space Bridge (USB), which was aimed at engaging a variety of stakeholders to promote global dialogue that would enable local action, through targeted exchanges that would enhance international expertise and break down silos. She also made reference to the new vision and strategy of the Office, which were centred around five pillars focusing on space sustainability, on space for the Sustainable Development Goals, for the climate and for developing countries, and on how to engage the broader space ecosystem on relevant issues and topics.

7. The Subcommittee noted the landmark achievements that had been made by space programmes in areas such as space exploration, human space flight, space science and astronomy since it had held its sixtieth session, in 2023, including the new record, set during the present session, for the total time spent in space – more than 878 days.

8. The Subcommittee noted with regret the passing of Mr. José Monserrat Filho of Brazil, who had been a dedicated contributor to the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, in particular the work of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space of the Legal Subcommittee.
9. The Subcommittee agreed that it, together with the Committee and the Legal Subcommittee, and with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, remained a unique international forum for promoting international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space and offering a suitable environment to discuss matters that had a great impact on the development of States for the betterment of humankind.
10. Some delegations expressed the view that it was crucial that developing countries did not get left behind and were not left unfairly disadvantaged by space exploration efforts, that space technology applications must produce concrete benefits for developing countries and that, in order to achieve that goal, the transfer of technology on favourable terms for developing countries, as well as associated capacity-building, were of vital importance. The delegations expressing that view encouraged States to strengthen international, multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.
11. Some delegations noted the most recent signatories of the Artemis Accords on the Principles for Cooperation in the Civil Exploration and Use of the Moon, Mars, Comets, and Asteroids for Peaceful Purposes, a common set of principles for the safe, sustainable and transparent civil exploration and use of outer space.
12. Some delegations noted that additional States were cooperating on the international lunar research station initiated by China and the Russian Federation.
13. Some delegations noted the progress made in establishing the African Space Agency, paving the way for the further strengthening of African cooperation and the realization of the African Union goals enshrined in its Agenda 2063.
14. Some delegations expressed the view that the increasing use of outer space for security purposes was of grave concern and that an arms race in outer space ran contrary to the principle of the peaceful uses of outer space.
15. Some delegations expressed the view that issues concerning the use of outer space for security purposes were more appropriately discussed in forums whose mandates focused on those issues.
16. Some delegations expressed the view that the deployment of megaconstellations, if not carried out sustainably and equitably, might pose a risk of congestion in low Earth orbit, which would be a significant disadvantage in the use and exploration of space by developing countries and that, consequently, the importance of observing the principle of equitable access to outer space and, in particular, in low Earth orbit was greater than ever.
17. The view was expressed that commercial space activities had made the benefits of outer space more accessible to more people, with over 71 million people connected to commercial satellite broadband services last year, helping to bridge the digital divide.
18. The Subcommittee was informed of the conference room paper submitted by the Moon Village Association containing reports on the Global Expert Group on Sustainable Lunar Activities and on International Moon Day (A/AC.105/C.1/2024/CRP.11).
19. The Subcommittee agreed on the following text and noted that Romania, in its capacity as holder of the Chair of the Subcommittee, would seek its inclusion in the outcome document of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to be held in July 2024: “Promote the use of space science, technology, data and applications for agriculture, food security and climate action, and advance

capacity-building, education and training in space science and applications, in particular for developing countries.

20. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation the poster exhibition by the International Space Weather Initiative presented in the rotunda of the Vienna International Centre in conjunction with its sixty-first session.

21. The Subcommittee expressed its gratitude to the organizers of the following events, held on the margins of the sixty-first session of the Subcommittee:

(a) “Space – youth – future generations”, co-organized by the Government of Austria, SGAC and the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(b) “Outer space in the zero draft of the pact of the future: perspectives and next steps”, co-organized by the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(c) “United Nations/Portugal Conference on Management and Sustainability of Outer Space Activities”, co-organized by the Government of Portugal and the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(d) “Reception by Romania and the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee”, co-organized by the delegation of Romania to the Subcommittee and the Chair of the Subcommittee;

(e) “Dark and quiet skies for science and society”, co-organized by the Permanent Mission of Spain, the Permanent Mission of Chile, ESO, SKAO and the IAU Centre for the Protection of the Dark and Quiet Sky from Satellite Constellation Interference;

(f) “Spacetalk – Space Operations Coordination Platform”, organized by Switzerland;

(g) “IADC at 30: the work of IADC in tackling the challenges of attaining sustainability in the space environment”, co-organized by ESPI and the United Kingdom Space Agency;

(h) “United Kingdom/Office for Outer Space Affairs collaboration on space sustainability: announcing phase 4”, co-organized by the United Kingdom and the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(i) “Initiative for the International Year of Planetary Defence”, organized by ESA;

(j) “The strategic value of Earth observation: maximizing the benefits for Governments and the international community”, co-organized by ESPI and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing;

(k) “World Space Week Association reception”, organized by WSWA;

(l) “Office for Outer Space Affairs leadership strategy”, organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(m) “Space4Women: progress and updates”, organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(n) “Access to Space For All: overview and updates for 2024”, organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs.
