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**Committee on the Peaceful
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Legal Subcommittee
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Draft report

Addendum

IX. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 78/72, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 11, entitled “General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space”, as a single issue/item for discussion.
2. The representatives of India, Indonesia, Mexico and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under agenda item 11. A statement was made by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were made by representatives of other member States.
3. The Subcommittee had before it a conference room paper entitled “Compendium on mechanisms adopted in relation to non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space: submissions by Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Ghana, Morocco, the Russian Federation and Slovakia” (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.6).
4. The Subcommittee took note of the compendium on mechanisms adopted by States and international organizations in relation to non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space, which was available on a dedicated page on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and encouraged States members of the Committee and international intergovernmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee to continue to share information on their practices related to non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space.
5. The Subcommittee noted that non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space complemented and supported the existing United Nations treaties on outer space and were important mechanisms for further enhancing the safety, security and sustainability of outer space activities.
6. The Subcommittee noted that some States were implementing non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space through their national legislation and that further capacity-building was important in that regard.



7. Some delegations recalled General Assembly resolutions 1721 A and B (XVI) on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and the Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space (Assembly resolution 1962 (XVIII)), and encouraged States launching objects into orbit to furnish information on those objects to the Secretary-General and to consider establishing a national registry for the purpose of exchanging information on space objects, as appropriate.
8. Some delegations recalled the Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space and highlighted the importance of promoting the availability of remote sensing data on a non-discriminatory basis, as such data were essential for sustainable development and promoted transparency and confidence among States.
9. Some delegations recalled the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries, and expressed the view that it was an important instrument for the further promotion of international cooperation with a view to maximizing the benefits of space applications for all States, highlighting that, in the Declaration, all spacefaring nations were called upon to contribute to promoting and fostering international cooperation on an equitable basis. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that particular attention should be given to the interest of developing countries and that the Committee should be strengthened in its role as the main platform for the exchange of information in the field of international cooperation.
10. Some delegations expressed the view that non-legally binding United Nations instruments should be implemented effectively and that compliance should be ensured, as those instruments played an essential role in fostering cooperation and promoting good practices.
11. The view was expressed that it was important to increase interaction with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and to promote the development of binding international instruments addressing critical issues in space activities. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that it was necessary to review and update the five United Nations treaties on outer space with a view to strengthening the guiding principles governing the space activities of States, in particular their peaceful use of and equal access to outer space without discrimination.
12. The view was expressed that modifying the existing United Nations treaties on outer space could compromise the principles contained therein, and that non-legally binding instruments provided guidance on good practices and contributed significantly to fostering international cooperation in space activities.
13. The view was expressed that the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee (A/74/20, annex II) were vital non-legally binding instruments aimed at ensuring the safe and sustainable use of outer space. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that changes in the space environment required the adoption of newer and revised guidelines, especially in the light of increasing launch traffic, frequent atmospheric re-entries and the proliferation of large constellations and small satellites, and that, owing to the growing interest in exploring Mars and the Moon, there was a need to consider the development of instruments comprising a deep space regulatory regime.
14. The view was expressed that, with regard to the Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space, the sensed State should be granted preferential access to the data. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that the use of spectrum frequencies for remote sensing should be prioritized for national development and the public interest.