



Agenda item 21: Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space*

C O N T E N T S

<i>Document No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
First Committee:		
A/4987	Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.....	1
A/C.1/L.301	Australia, Canada, Italy and United States of America: draft resolution.....	1
Fifth Committee:		
A/C.5/909	Financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee in document A/5026: note by the Secretary-General.....	3
Plenary meetings:		
A/5026	Report of the First Committee.....	3
A/5051	Financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee in document A/5026: report of the Fifth Committee.....	4
	Action taken by the General Assembly.....	4
	Check list of documents.....	6

DOCUMENT A/4987

Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

[Original text: English]
[27 November 1961]

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which was established by the General Assembly on 12 December 1959, was convened on 27 November 1961 by the Acting Secretary-General in view of the response which he had received from members of the Committee.

2. After hearing the opening remarks of the Acting Secretary-General, the Committee, without objection, adopted its agenda and proceeded to elect its officers. Upon the nomination of Canada, seconded by the United Arab Republic, Mr. Franz Matsch (Austria) was elected Chairman; upon the nomination of Czechoslovakia, seconded by India, Mr. Mihail Haseganu (Romania) was elected Vice-Chairman; upon the nomination of the United States of America, seconded by

Sweden, Mr. Geraldo de Carvalho Silos (Brazil) was elected Rapporteur.

3. After statements by the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur, members proceeded to the discussion of other business before the Committee, during the course of which statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, India, Brazil, Italy, Poland and Australia. The attention of the General Assembly is invited to the verbatim record of the Committee's meeting (A/AC.105/OR.1) which includes the contents of those statements.

4. The Committee adjourned *sine die*.

DOCUMENT A/C.1/L.301

Australia, Canada, Italy and United States of America: draft resolution

[Original text: English]
[2 December 1961]

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE

A

The General Assembly,
Recognizing the common interest of mankind in
furthering the peaceful use of outer space and the

urgent need to strengthen international co-operation
in this important field,

Believing that the exploration and use of outer space
should be only for the betterment of mankind and to

* For the discussion of this item, see *Official Records of the
General Assembly, Sixteenth Session, First Committee*, 1210th
to 1214th meetings; and *ibid.*, *Plenary Meetings*, 1085th meeting.

the benefit of States irrespective of the stage of their economic or scientific development,

1. *Commends* to States for their guidance in the exploration and use of outer space the following principles:

(a) International law, including the Charter of the United Nations, applies to outer space and celestial bodies;

(b) Outer space and celestial bodies are free for exploration and use by all States in conformity with international law, and are not subject to national appropriations by claim of sovereignty or otherwise.

2. *Invites* the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to study and report on the legal problems which may arise from the exploration and use of outer space.

B

The General Assembly,

Believing that the United Nations should provide a focal point for international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space,

1. *Calls* upon States launching objects into orbit or beyond to furnish information promptly to the Secretary-General for the registration of launchings;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in connexion with the peaceful use of outer space and making the fullest possible use of existing resources:

(a) To maintain a record of information received concerning objects launched in orbit or beyond in accordance with paragraph 1 above and to communicate such data, upon request, to States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies;

(b) In consultation with appropriate specialized agencies, to maintain close contact with governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with outer space matters;

(c) To provide for the exchange of such information relating to outer space activities as Governments may supply on a voluntary basis, supplementing but not duplicating existing technical and scientific exchanges;

(d) At the request of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space or other appropriate international bodies, to assist in the study of measures for the promotion of international co-operation in outer space activities;

(e) To report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and to the General Assembly on the service arrangements undertaken for the performance of these functions and on such developments relating to the peaceful uses of outer space as he considers significant.

C

The General Assembly,

Noting with gratification the marked progress for meteorological science and technology opened up by the advances in outer space,

Convinced of the world-wide benefits to be derived from international co-operation in weather research and analysis,

1. *Recommends* to all Member States and to the World Meteorological Organization and other ap-

propriate specialized agencies the early and comprehensive study, in the light of developments in outer space, of measures:

(a) To advance the state of atmospheric science and technology so as to provide greater knowledge of basic physical forces affecting climate and the possibility of large-scale weather modification;

(b) To develop existing weather forecasting capabilities and help Member States make effective use of such capabilities through regional meteorological centres;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of national Governments on these matters and, in consultation with the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and other appropriate specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations such as the International Council of Scientific Unions, to arrange for the submission of a report to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-fourth session regarding appropriate organizational and financial arrangements to achieve these ends, with a view to their further consideration by the General Assembly at its seventeenth session;

3. *Requests* the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as it deems appropriate, to review the report and submit its comments to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly.

D

The General Assembly,

Believing that communication by means of satellite should be available to the nations of the world as soon as practicable on a global and non-discriminatory basis,

Convinced of the need to prepare the way for the establishment of effective operational satellite communications,

1. *Notes* with satisfaction that the International Telecommunication Union plans to call a special conference in 1963 to make allocations of radio frequency bands for outer space activities;

2. *Recommends* that the International Telecommunication Union consider at this conference the aspects of space communications in which international co-operation will be required;

3. *Notes* the potential importance of communication satellites for use by the United Nations and its principal organs and specialized agencies for both operational and informational requirements;

4. *Invites* the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance to give sympathetic consideration to requests from Member States for technical and other assistance for the survey of their communication needs and for the development of the domestic communication facilities so that they can make effective use of space communication;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the International Telecommunication Union and other appropriate specialized agencies and Member States, to report on the implementation of these proposals to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-fourth session and to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session;

6. *Requests* the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as it deems appropriate, to review this report and submit its comments to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

E

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1472 (XIV) of 12 December 1959,

Noting that the terms of office of the members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space expire at the end of 1961,

DOCUMENT A/C.5/909

Financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee in document A/5026

Note by the Secretary-General

[Original text: English]
[13 December 1961]

1. The First Committee at its 1214th meeting, on 12 December 1961, adopted a draft resolution calling on the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to undertake a number of new tasks in 1962 (A/5026, para. 9).

2. In accordance with rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General submits the following statement of the financial implications which might result from the implementation of the draft resolution.

3. The new tasks assigned to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will almost certainly necessitate a strengthening of the servicing staff. The Secretary-General will endeavour to meet these needs so far as possible from within existing resources of the Secretariat.

4. However, in the event that recourse to temporary recruitment of additional substantive and clerical staff becomes necessary or, as may prove essential, the employment of some technical scientific experts is required to assist the Committee in its work, the Secretary-General will report fully to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as soon as the related financial implications can be assessed.

5. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, it would be the intention of the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in 1962 in regard to such additional costs which might arise under paragraph 4 above under the terms of paragraph 1 of the resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the financial year 1962.

DOCUMENT A/5026

Report of the First Committee

[Original text: English]
[13 December 1961]

At the fifteenth session of the General Assembly, consideration of the item "Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" had been deferred until the sixteenth session, as recommended by the First Committee in its report (A/4749), which had been noted by the General Assembly at its 995th plenary meeting. Accordingly, the item was included in the provisional agenda of the sixteenth session.

At its 1014th plenary meeting, on 25 September 1961, the General Assembly decided, on the recommendation of the General Committee (A/4882), to include the above-mentioned item in the agenda, and at its 1018th plenary meeting, on 27 September 1961, it referred the item to the First Committee for consideration and report.

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its first organizational meeting on 27 No-

vember 1961, and submitted its report (A/4987) to the General Assembly.

4. At its 1209th meeting, on 30 November 1961, the First Committee decided to consider the item as the fifth item on its agenda.

5. The First Committee considered the item at its 1210th to 1214th meetings, between 4 December and 11 December 1961.

6. At the 1210th meeting on 4 December 1961, the representative of the United States introduced a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.301) sponsored by Australia, Canada, Italy and the United States of America. A revision of this draft resolution (A/C.1/L.301/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1) was submitted to the Committee on 11 December at its 1214th meeting, with the following sponsors: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia,

A/RES/1721 (XVI)

1022
1021/ST/SER/L.1291