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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF
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Declaration of San Francisco de Quito
of the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas
Regional Space Agreement for Human Security and Development
and
Action Plan

DECLARATION OF SAN FRANCISCO DE QUITO

FIFTH SPACE CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS Regional Space Agreement for Human Security and Development

The countries of the region, meeting in the framework of the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas (V SCA), held in San Francisco de Quito, Republic of Ecuador, on July 25-28, 2006, in compliance with the mandate of United Nations Resolutions No. 59/116 and 60/99 and in conformity with the commitments made in the framework of the Fourth SCA:

1. Recognize the contributions made by the Space Conferences held in Costa Rica in 1990, Chile in 1993, Uruguay in 1996, and Colombia in 2002, which, bearing in mind prevailing asymmetries, have contributed to improving knowledge and understanding of space science, have promoted cooperation among the countries of the Americas and from outside the region, and have benefited the member countries through the exchange of knowledge and experiences in space science and technology.

2. Express their great satisfaction at the participation of the States, international organizations and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations from both the region and outside of it.

3. For the purpose of contributing to maintaining international peace and security, as well as promoting cooperation among all the peoples of the Earth, they reiterate their adherence to, and respect for, the legal principles on which the exploration and peaceful use of outer space are based, such as:

- a. the principle of freedom of exploration and use of outer space by all the countries, irrespective of their level of economic and scientific development;
- b. the principle of freedom of access to outer space for the benefit of all States on a basis of equality and without any discrimination, in conformity with international law;
- c. the principle of freedom of scientific research to stimulate and support international cooperation in the field of scientific research; and
- d. the principle of non-appropriation of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, which cannot be the object of national appropriation by States, by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means.

4. Agree with the tenets adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, set forth, among other United Nations instruments, in the Millennium Declaration, United Nations Resolution 55/2, Part III, number 20, paragraph 5, and Part IV, numbers 22 and 23, which incorporates, among others, the decision of the States to “ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, [...] are available to all,” and in the Resolution of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Use of Outer Space (UNISPACE III): “Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development” (A/CONF.184/6, Resolution 1), which contains a

strategy to address world challenges and recommendations to improve international cooperation in the field of space science and technology and their applications.

5. Also state their adherence to UN General Assembly Resolution 54/67 entitled "International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space," UN General Assembly Resolution 51/122 "Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, especially bearing in mind the needs of developing countries," and UN General Assembly Resolution 54/68 adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Furthermore state that it is appropriate to emphasize, in particular, item 5 of Resolution 51/122, stating that international space cooperation should be aimed at attaining the goal of "fostering the development of relevant and appropriate space capabilities in interested States."

6. Reaffirm the importance and validity of the instruments adopted at the Rio Summit also known as the Earth Summit, especially Agenda 21 and Principles 9, 10, and 19 of the Declaration on Environment and Development.

7. Encourage Member States and observers of the Fifth SCA to ratify the international treaties and conventions adopted in this matter, to strengthen the legal framework on the exploration and peaceful use of outer space.

8. Recognize the full validity of the commitments made at the Preparatory Meeting of the Fifth SCA, held in Santiago de Chile on March 28-29, 2006, especially the decision to emphasize space applications for the security and sustainable development of mankind in areas such as distance education, telemedicine, natural disaster prevention and mitigation, preservation of the environment, and protection of cultural heritage.

9. Highlight the advantage and need to establish effective cooperation and coordination mechanisms for the region, for the purpose of promoting the development of space activities in the countries of the Americas, as well as for the application and peaceful use of technologies stemming from them.

10. Underscore the need to foster interest among new generations in space science and the peaceful use of outer space for the purpose of promoting synergies that could be structured for the knowledge and development of this science through universities and higher learning institutions, as well as scientific research centers.

11. Support the work that is being conducted by the Regional Center of Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (RECTEALC) for the benefit of the countries of the hemisphere and welcome Colombia's offer to become involved in this process by establishing the Regional Geo-Space Technology Telecenter of the Agustín Codazzi Geographical Institute (IGAC) for the purpose of strengthening Andean region cooperation projects that integrate and complement educational actions on the continent.

12. Highlight the increasingly important role played by women in the region's countries in the development of knowledge, research, exploration and peaceful use of outer space and express their decision to increment this participation.

13. Note the predominant role being played by the United Nations and its specialized agencies and especially the Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA) and the Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space (COPUOS) and their contribution to the strengthening of space law and the development of space science and technology.

14. Urge UNESCO, UNDP, IOM, WHO/PAHO, UNICEF, EIRD, UNEP, ITU, UPU, FAO, IDB and the World Bank, as well as the Organization of American States (OAS), and government agencies, to participate more actively in the programs and projects of the Space Conferences of the Americas to achieve, through space technology applications, the economic and social development of the countries of the Americas.

15. Emphasize the great value of space science and its applications for the security and sustainable development of the region's countries, as a result of which they called upon government agencies and the private sector of the continent of the Americas, specialized agencies of the United Nations, as well as countries and space agencies from outside the region to establish even closer international cooperation ties.

16. Agree that space science and technology are extremely useful for the development, use, and management of humanitarian networks for the prevention and mitigation of natural and man-made disasters, climate change, rescue of persons at risk in open sea, meteorological applications, remote sensing of Earth, distribution of early warning data, rational planning of water resources, tele-education, telemedicine, medical services and rural medicine, protection of the environment and protection of cultural heritage of a historical and architectural nature. Regarding the latter, UNESCO was recognized for its important role.

17. Emphasize the need to strengthen the Space Conferences of the Americas as a suitable mechanism to obtain further knowledge about space science and technology, as well as promote cooperation between States, agencies and institutions of the region, as well as those from outside the continent. As a result, they decided that SCA should be held every three years and that the Pro Tempore Secretariat should be the mechanism to implement the Conference's decisions.

18. Agree that, for the purpose of ensuring the continuity of the implementation of the proposals contained in the Conference's Plan of Action, as well as developing medium and long-term strategies that strengthen the use of space science and technology to support sustainable development through regional and inter-regional cooperation, coordination and cooperation should be established between the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the previous Conference, the current Conference, and the country that will host the following Conference.

19. Recognize the valuable contribution of the Group of International Experts to the Pro-Tempore Secretariat, with which they will continue to cooperate in coordination activities, draw up international cooperation projects, and provide advisory services for the implementation of the Plan of Action. To this end, the Pro-Tempore Secretariat shall conduct consultations on a continuous basis with the participating States to disseminate and promote projects and programs related to the development and application of space science and technology.

20. Recommend the establishment of working groups focusing on the study of International Space Law, technological breakthroughs, and the drafting of projects related to the use of space science and technology, as well as to promote the exchange of information and experiences between space agencies from within and outside the region.

21. Indicate the advisability of having each Member State study the possibility of establishing a national space body, which would contribute to the subsequent establishment of a regional space body, as focal points aimed at promoting knowledge and application of space science and technology for the benefit of the region's countries. In this regard, welcome with satisfaction the establishment of the Colombian Space Commission and the Venezuela Space Center.

22. Underscore as well the work that other countries of the region are conducting for the prompt establishment of space agencies.

23. Highlight the advisability of adopting policies and actions aimed at raising the awareness of the societies of the region's countries related to space science and technology and their applications, to achieve sustainable development.

24. Indicate that the dynamic participation of the private sector of the States of the Americas in the programs to be developed by the Pro-Tempore Secretariat of the SCA is important not only to achieve its objectives and goals, but also in the joint efforts to promote development and well-being of its peoples, through the use of space science and technology.

25. Express gratitude and congratulations to the Government of the Republic of Colombia for the work undertaken by the Pro-Tempore Secretariat of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas.

26. Instruct the Pro-Tempore Secretariat to initiate actions aimed at implementing the Plan of Action, which is an integral part of the present Declaration, and the commitments made in the framework of the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas and urge all government and nongovernmental organizations and the private sector of the countries of the region and outside the region to cooperate decisively with it.

27. Pledge their support and cooperation for the benefit of the Pro-Tempore Secretariat under the responsibility of the Government of Ecuador and express their wish for the successful completion of the activities and work entrusted to it.

28. Welcome with pleasure and satisfaction the proposal to hold the Sixth Space Conference of the Americas in 2009 in Santiago de los Caballeros de Guatemala (Antigua), Republic of Guatemala.

29. Also note with satisfaction the offers made by the delegations of the Republic of Peru and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to host the Seventh Space Conference of the Americas.

30. Finally, express their special appreciation to the Government and people of Ecuador, as well as to the National Preparatory Committee of the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas, for the efficient preparation and holding of the Fifth SCA, as well as for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to all the participating delegations.

San Francisco de Quito, July 28, 2006

ACTION PLAN

The States participants in the V Confers Space of the America (V CEA), carried out in San Francisco's city of I Remove, between the 25 and July of 2006, 28 they formulate the following instructions and recommendations to the Secretary Pro Tempore of the Conference, with the purpose that they are carried out the following activities.

FIRST. - to Elaborate the politicians and strategies of medium and I release term tendientes to motivate and to promote the use of the sciences and space technologies in the thematic areas examined during the V CEA, that is: space education, access to the knowledge, telemedicina, epidemiology, natural disasters, conservation of the environment and protection of the cultural patrimony.

SECOND. - to Impel the conducive actions to achieve that the States leaves of the Conference that you/they have not still made it, adhere to the treaties and international conventions adopted in this matter for the invigoration of the effective juridical régime for the exploration and use of the space ultraterrestre with peaceful ends.

THIRD.- To stimulate the development and better knowledge of the Space International Right, through the execution of academic programs, forums and shops of high level with the participation of jurists and experts coming from the countries of the region and outside of her.

FOURTH.- To carry out periodic consultations with the States leaves of the Conference with an eye toward proposing, to select and to impel the execution of projects and relating programs to the application of the sciences and space technologies.

FIFTH.- To coordinate the establishment of programs of cooperation technician-scientific, as well as the exchange of information and experiences among the regional space agencies and extra-regional, for benefit of the participant States of the Conference.

SIXTH.- To optimize the existent synergies between the organisms of the system of the United Nations and the regional space agencies and extra-regional, through the execution of projects and programs that contribute to the sustainable development of the countries of the region, by means of the use of the sciences and space technologies.

SEVENTH.- To contribute to the invigoration institutional and better use of the mechanisms of alert early, prevention and mitigation of, and answer to, the

natural disasters and antropogénicos, by means of the use of the sciences and space technologies.

To impel the actions tendientes to the prevention, it alerts early, rescue operations and mitigation of the effects of the natural disasters and antropogénicos. To this purpose, the Conference has taken due note of the project to SERVE that constitutes a successful experience in the use of the systems of terrestrial observation; reason for which is suggested to expand the system to the region of South America in reason that it facilitates the generation from the basic and thematic information of support to the environmental administration and of sustainable development of the American continent.

To coordinate the offer of Colombia that has the support of Chile and Argentina, so that he/she is carried out in the city of Bogotá, during the first semester of 2007, a Shop on the project to SERVE, in the headquarters of the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM), with projection to the whole region.

OCTAVE.- To propitiate the participation of the academic and scientific sector of the countries part of the Conference, in the popularization works and diffusion of the advantages and derived benefits of the application of the sciences and space technologies, by means of the realization of seminars, shops and publications, as well as through the teaching in the pre levels and post grade in the universities and superior institutes, so much public as private.

NOVENA.- To foment a dynamic participation of the private sector of the States of the American continent in the programs and activities tendientes to the application of the space technologies that will carry out the Secretary Pro Tempore, guided to reach the economic development and their populations' well-being.

TENTH.- To carry out the conducive necessary actions to the creation of cooperation spaces among the European Center for the Space Right and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, by means of the interaction and the exchange of information, as well as the inclusion in the place web of this Center of a segment dedicated to the region.

TENTH PRIMERA.- To promote the development of a strategy of regional cooperation between the Space Conference of the America and the Regional Center of Education in Science and Space Technology for Latin America and the Caribbean (CRECTEALC).

TENTH SECOND.- To propitiate initiatives tendientes to improve the existent conectividad in the countries of the region, indispensable factor for the execution of the projects and programs linked with the application of the space technologies.

TENTH THIRD.- To maintain periodic meetings with the Group of International Experts with the purpose of to homologate and to harmonize the actions tendientes to the execution of the projects and programs assigned to the Secretary Pro Tempore.

TENTH FOURTH.- To negotiate the necessary financial resources for the normal operation of the Secretary Pro Tempore.

TENTH FIFTH.- To inform periodically to the countries members of the Conference on the advances registered in the execution of the present Plan of Action

The present Plan of Action is approved in San Francisco's city of I Remove, in July 28 2006.