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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

Draft report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

Addendum

III. Progress achieved in implementing recommendations

A. Progress made in the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

1. Achievements of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies in the consideration of agenda items

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee addressed some of the elements contained in the Vienna Declaration through consideration of items on their agendas at their annual sessions. The agreement reached by the Committee at its session, in 1999,[1] to revise the structure of the agendas of both subcommittees increased opportunities for the Committee and its subcommittees to address a number of new issues of interest to the members of the Committee. That agreement resulted in a revitalization of the work of those bodies and a strengthening of their role in promoting international cooperation in various areas of the peaceful uses of outer space. Annex […] to the present report contains a list of agenda items introduced

* A/AC.105/C.1/L.270.

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through the revised agenda structure and the achievements to date of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

2. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee agreed at its thirty-seventh session, in 2000, that the elements contained in the Vienna Declaration could be addressed through the consideration of agenda items under multi-year work plans. The following issues have been considered by the Subcommittee under multi-year work plans, with specific objectives to be achieved within a fixed time period, responding to actions called for in the Vienna Declaration: (a) means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within and among entities of the United Nations system;[2] (b) implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system;[3] (c) use of nuclear power sources in outer space;[4] (d) space debris;[5] and (e) space system-based telemedicine.

3. The results achieved under the item relating to inter-agency cooperation are described further in paragraphs [...] below. Under the item relating to disaster management, the Subcommittee identified national and regional space-based systems that could be considered for a global system to manage natural disasters. The Subcommittee recognized the importance of various international initiatives to enhance the effectiveness of space applications in disaster management, such as the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Disaster Management Support of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) and efforts of the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. The Subcommittee also identified models of international cooperation aimed at a global operational system for disaster management with the use of space technologies, such as the Charter on Cooperation to Achieve the Coordinated Use of Space Facilities in the Event of Natural or Technological Disasters (the "International Charter 'Space and Major Disasters'") (see para. 43 of document A/AC.105/C.1/L.272/Add.2) and the International Satellite System for Search and Rescue (COSPAS-SARSAT). The Subcommittee also examined existing satellite and data distribution systems that could be used for disaster management. The work conducted by the Subcommittee under the agenda item is being complemented by the work of the Action Team on Disaster Management. The activities carried out by the Office for Outer Space Affairs within the framework of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications also contributed to strengthening capacity, in particular that of developing countries, in the use of space technology for disaster management (see paras. [...]).

4. The item of the use of nuclear power sources had been on the agenda of the Subcommittee before UNISPACE III. Under the work plan adopted for the period 1998-2003, the Subcommittee, through its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, produced a review of international documents and national processes potentially relevant to the peaceful uses of nuclear power sources in outer space (A/AC.105/781). The Subcommittee took a step further by adopting a new work plan, for the period 2003-2006, for developing an international technically based framework of goals and recommendations for the safety of nuclear power source applications in outer space (A/AC.105/804, annex III). The Working Group benefited from the active participation of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the European Space Agency (ESA).

5. The item on space debris had also been on the agenda of the Subcommittee before UNISPACE III. Under the work plan adopted for the period 1996-1998, the Subcommittee prepared a technical report on space debris (A/AC.105/720), which reflected the collective knowledge and expertise of the members of the Committee on the measurements of space debris, modelling the space debris environment, risk assessment and space debris mitigation measures. Following UNISPACE III, the Subcommittee took a further step by reviewing international application of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) standards and recommendations of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) concerning the disposal of satellites in geosynchronous orbit at the end of their useful life. The Subcommittee also considered debris mitigation measures and the passivation and limitation of mission-related space debris for launch vehicles, including cost-benefit aspects. The Subcommittee also agreed on a new work plan for the period 2002-2005, according to which the Subcommittee will attempt to identify means of endorsing utilization of the IADC space debris mitigation guidelines.

6. Following its consideration of the use of space technology for the medical sciences and public health, the Subcommittee adopted a work plan for the period 2004-2006 to consider space-based telemedicine. By the end of the work plan, it is anticipated that the Subcommittee will have identified ways and means of enhancing the capacity of developing countries to use space-based telemedicine systems and possible bilateral or multilateral projects to develop further space-based telemedicine applications through international cooperation.

7. Some of the new issues were considered as single issues/items for discussion, for consideration at one session only, unless otherwise agreed. Some of those items addressed recommendations of UNISPACE III. For example, in 2002 and 2003 the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered an item on the mobilization of financial resources to develop capacity in space science and technology applications, which relates to the recommendation to identify new and innovative funding sources to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III. The Subcommittee concluded that such mobilization of financial resources could be achieved through, among other things, partnerships between technical agencies, donor countries and organizations, the private sector and users in developing countries involved in sustainable development. The Subcommittee considered it important that the Committee bring the immense potential of space applications to the attention of development banks and other international funding institutions that finance development projects in developing countries. The Subcommittee also emphasized the significance of cooperation between developed and developing countries in particular to promote opportunities for greater access to space science and technology and thereby building and strengthening capacity. The work conducted by the Subcommittee under the agenda item was complemented by the Action Team on New and Innovative Sources of Funding as well as by the United Nations/International Astronautical Federation (IAF) Workshop held in 2001, which examined the operational aspects of pilot projects, including strategies for funding.

[8. The item of the status and application of the five United Nations treaties related to outer space[6] had been on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee since before UNISPACE III. The item responded directly to one of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, which calls for action to promote the efforts of the Committee in the development of space law by inviting States to ratify or accede to, and inviting

intergovernmental organizations to declare acceptance of, the outer space treaties developed by the Committee.[7] Following UNISPACE III, the Subcommittee agreed to establish a working group, to be convened from 2002 to 2004, to consider the item. The terms of reference of the working group included a review of the status of the treaties, their implementation and obstacles to their universal acceptance, as well as promotion of space law, especially through the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. As agreed by the Subcommittee in 2002, the working group would also review the application and implementation of the concept of the "launching State", as reflected in the conclusions of the Subcommittee's consideration of the three-year work plan on the review of the concept of the "launching State".]

[9. The consideration of a new agenda item, "Practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects", under the multi-year work plan for the period 2004-2007, would also contribute to implementing the above-mentioned recommendation of UNISPACE III. By the end of the work plan, the Legal Subcommittee is expected to identify common practices and to make recommendations for enhancing adherence to the Registration Convention. The entire work of the Legal Subcommittee, in fact, contributes to the implementation of that recommendation, as it calls for action to consider the further development of space law to meet the needs of the international community, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.]

2. Progress achieved by action teams established by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

[*Note. This section will require revision on the basis of the updated information to be provided by the action teams on their final recommendations.*]

10. The mechanism of implementing some of the recommendations of UNISPACE III through the establishment of action teams, under the voluntary leadership of Governments, has proved to be very successful.

11. Each of the action teams assessed the capability and use of space technology in particular to meet the needs of developing countries within the thematic area assigned to it. The assessment conducted by the action teams was unprecedented in both scope and depth. Their analyses of the current situation, their findings on the impediments to making space technology work effectively to solve the most acute problems faced by humanity and their recommendations on how to do so constitute a solid foundation for the implementation phase. The implementation of any of the recommendations of the action teams would yield significant social and economic benefits for all people, in particular in developing countries.

12. The achievement of the action teams went beyond merely completing the work plans as endorsed by the Committee: the teams brought together both countries and international organizations to achieve common objectives and dedicated individuals with diverse expertise from different countries and organizations to work together for the benefit of all humanity, regardless of differences in the current policies pursued by their respective countries and beyond the limits of their social and cultural backgrounds. The progress made by the action teams owes much to the

commitment and dedication demonstrated by individual members, in particular those who acted as chairpersons, in working to bring the practical benefits of space science and technology and their applications to all people.

13. The action teams were established on the understanding that there would be no budget implications for the United Nations. The States, organizations or individuals who contributed to the work of the action teams dedicated their time, expertise and, in some cases, financial resources on a voluntary basis. Those who served as chairpersons in particular made extraordinary efforts to ensure the progress in their action teams by, among other things, generating ideas, coordinating the views of the members, preparing a number of documents for use by their teams and responding to numerous requests by the Committee to report on their work and to provide inputs for the work of the Committee and its subcommittees.

14. Most of the work of the action teams has been carried out through exchange of electronic mail (e-mail) and teleconferences among members. Many action teams convened their meetings during the annual sessions of the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, taking advantage of the presence of members participating in those sessions. All the action teams fulfilled their reporting responsibilities by presenting their progress reports to the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at each of their sessions since 2002.

15. Nearly all the action teams conducted comprehensive assessments at the global level to identify ongoing or planned efforts and to identify needs in the thematic areas under their responsibility, in particular the needs of developing countries. Many action teams conducted surveys among Member States, the entities of the United Nations system and the organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee.

16. The Action Team on Disaster Management, the Action Team on the Global Navigation Satellite Systems and the Action Team on Capacity-Building met in connection with the workshops organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs that addressed themes relevant to their work. The Action Team on Disaster Management and the Action Team on Capacity-Building also held meetings on the margins of annual meetings of IAF. The Action Team on the Global Navigation Satellite Systems also met immediately following the 2002 session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, providing an opportunity for interested United Nations entities participating in the Inter-Agency Meeting also to take part in the work of the Action Team. The Action Team on Disaster Management convened an open forum to which it invited high-ranking senior officials of international organizations and space agencies and other interested experts.

17. A summary of the findings, recommendations, actions taken to date to implement the recommendations and impediments to the implementation is contained in annex […] to the present report. [*Note. Revision to document A/AC.105/L.247 to be attached as an annex*.] By the session of the Committee, two action teams, on sustainable development and new and innovative funding sources, had submitted their final reports in accordance with their work plans (A/AC.105/C.1/L.264 and A/AC.105/C.1/L.246, respectively).

18. The work of the 12 action teams collectively provides the most complete picture ever drawn of the wide range of applications that space technologies can address. At the same time, a close review of the actual products that would result

from various applications reveals their complementary nature and the synergies that could be built between them. For instance, the use of GNSS technologies supports protection of the environment, management of natural resources, agriculture, telemedicine and disaster management, to name a few applications that support various aspects of sustainable development. At the same time, products from programmes to protect the environment would serve as a basis for managing natural resources, disaster management, global health and in many other areas of application. Through organized and coordinated dissemination and exchange of information of products between areas of application, the results achieved in one area can serve as a stepping stone for many other areas, thus building synergies and avoiding duplication. The challenge lies in determining whether the products of any given application meet the requirements for other applications.

19. In their assessment of the current situation, many action teams emphasized the usefulness of space technologies for decision-making in areas relating to environmental monitoring strategy, management of natural resources, public health, disaster management and sustainable development. The Action Team on the Management of Natural Resources pointed out that Earth observation technologies were being used operationally to allow for policy formulation and planning while keeping in mind the need to preserve the ecosystem. In the area of public health services, there was a legitimate need for space-based services for telemedicine. Space-based technologies were recognized as being useful in improving public health by monitoring emergence of certain types of disease, conducting surveillance of the spread of infectious diseases as well as providing continuing education for medical professionals. GNSS and their augmentation systems were recognized increasingly as useful tools for a wide range of civil and commercial applications.

20. However, many action teams recognized that there was much more to be accomplished before practical benefits from the operational use of space technologies could be reaped or increased. The focus on reaping space benefits should shift from the experimental or demonstration phase to an operational phase, so as to gain economic and societal benefits that responded to practical needs of countries, communities or individuals. From the assessments conducted by the action teams, the following emerged as major requirements: capacity-building; exact identification of user needs; involvement of all stakeholders in the development of space-based systems and services; increasing awareness of policy makers; development of long-term strategies; and political commitment.

21. In order to enhance and promote educational and training opportunities at all levels, the Action Team on Capacity-Building considered it important to improve access to education and training information, for example, by disseminating information on best practices. The Action Team also indicated that there should be more effective utilization of existing training opportunities within the United Nations system. The final report of the Action Team included recommendations for a number of projects that could be undertaken by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), CEOS and other relevant international entities building upon existing coordination and cooperation efforts and policy framework, such as those of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities of the United Nations system, the ad hoc Working Group on Earth Observation Education and Training of CEOS and the

Subgroup on Capacity-Building of the Group on Earth Observations, which resulted from the Earth Observation Summit, held in July 2003 in Washington, D.C.

22. Some action teams indicated the need to move beyond simple efforts to increase awareness. While recognizing the need to continue efforts to increase awareness among policy makers, the Action Team on the Global Navigation Satellite Systems stressed the need to provide assistance to developing countries in the integration of GNSS into basic infrastructure. It also recognized the urgent need to provide assistance to national and regional authorities to establish a mechanism for identifying and eliminating sources of interference that could degrade signals from GNSS and their augmentations.

23. Some of the action teams recognized that the recommendations under their responsibility could best be implemented by supporting existing initiatives and efforts. The Action Team on Weather and Climate Forecasting recognized that the plans of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) provided for many of the needed activities. The Action Team therefore recommended that Member States strengthen their support for the implementation of the WMO long-term plan, including by providing financial support. It was important that Governments support the national and international organizations that provided space systems, which could meet operational as well as research and development requirements.

24. The recommendations formulated by the action teams respond to the major requirements identified to increase the benefits to be gained from the operational use of space technologies (see para. 20). Some of the common elements found in the recommendations of the action teams include better dissemination of and access to information; better coordination of existing efforts; development of policies, long-term plans and guidelines; enhancement of efforts to provide training opportunities; and raising awareness of the benefits of space activities among policy makers.

25. Regarding measures to achieve better coordination, some action teams suggested the creation of international entities to respond to existing needs that were not being and would not in the near future be addressed by any existing coordination and cooperation efforts and mechanisms. The Action Team on Disaster Management recommended the establishment of an international entity, a disaster management international space coordination organization, to provide coordinated support with space systems to cover all phases of disaster management with the use of all kinds of space-related technology. The Action Team on the Global Navigation Satellite Systems suggested the establishment of a GNSS coordination board consisting of service providers, users and international entities involved in promoting the use and applications of GNSS. Such a board would also include standard-setting international organizations that were relevant to the use and applications of GNSS, such as ITU, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Other action teams identified existing organizations to assume the coordination role. The Action Team on Near-Earth Objects considered that better coordination of activities related to near-Earth objects (NEOs) could be achieved through the consideration by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of an agenda item on NEOs.

26. Many action teams recommended the enhancement of training and education opportunities. The Action Team on the Management of Natural Resources and the Action Team on the Global Navigation Satellite Systems proposed that the Office

for Outer Space Affairs organize workshops or training courses to provide capacity-building or outreach activities. The latter team also suggested that the Office set up a web site to provide information relating to GNSS activities.

27. The development of long-term strategies and policies was considered necessary by the Action Team on Environmental Monitoring Strategy and the Action Team on Sustainable Development. The latter urged each State to develop the necessary policy, commensurate with its capacity, for sustainable development programmes with the use of space science and technology. The Action Team on Sustainable Development urged African and West Asian countries to emulate the regional-level activities of the Space Conference of the Americas and the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

28. Most of the action teams have compiled compendiums of existing efforts or success stories in the areas of their responsibility. The Action Team on the Management of Natural Resources has collected success stories from all parts of the world concerning the use of space science and technology and their applications in enhancing natural resource management and a compendium of those stories will be its principal product. Similarly, the Action Team on Increasing Awareness has conducted a survey among all Member States as well as all international organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on their efforts to increase awareness of the importance of space activities. The compilation of successful efforts in increasing awareness is the principal product of the Action Team. It will be made available electronically and will continue to be updated so as to become a comprehensive, dynamic source of information on awareness-increasing efforts.

29. While the compilation of information collected on a global basis was an intermediate step and not necessarily their principal product, the Action Team on Disaster Management, the Action Team on the Global Navigation Satellite Systems, the Action Team on Sustainable Development and the Action Team on Capacity-Building, for example, have also gathered information globally on user needs and national capacity in the use of space technology for disaster management, GNSS-related activities and training opportunities, successful applications of the results of space research in sustainable development efforts and ongoing capacity-building efforts, respectively. The information compiled by them will serve as useful, comprehensive reference sources.

30. As a means to disseminate information widely and to facilitate access to it, the establishment of a single portal of relevant web sites or databases has been recommended by the Action Team on Disaster Management, the Action Team on the Global Navigation Satellite Systems and the Action Team on Capacity-Building, which suggested that the Office for Outer Space Affairs could possibly host such a portal.

31. Impediments to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III identified by the action teams included limited resources, low priority given to space activities and limited political support, as well as lack of qualified personnel. Those impediments were closely related to the set of prerequisites identified by the Action Team on New and Innovative Funding for any development project that involved the use of space applications. In its final report, the Action Team identified

funding, political commitment, education and training as the main prerequisites. The lack of funding, according to the Action Team, was linked to limited awareness of the requirements and possibilities for securing adequate financial resources to support priority programmes. It was also linked to difficulties in calculating the cost-benefit advantages of space applications. The Action Team also indicated that government support was essential for projects for which international funding would be sought.

32. The recommendations of the Action Team on New and Innovative Funding covered the work to be conducted through the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to strengthen partnerships with the space industry, to increase contributions to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and to increase the awareness of development banks and aid agencies of the potential of space applications to support and enhance the projects or programmes that they carry out.

3. Additional members of the Committee and additional organizations that have been granted permanent observer status with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

33. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was established first as an ad hoc body of the General Assembly in 1958, with 18 members. When it was established as a permanent body, in 1959, membership was increased to 24 States. Between 1959 and 1999, when UNISPACE III was convened, membership was enlarged five times, to reach a total of 61 States.

34. Following UNISPACE III, the membership of the Committee has been expanded twice [as at October 2003]. In its resolution 56/51 of 10 December 2001, the General Assembly terminated the practice of sharing seats on a rotating basis between Cuba and Peru and between Malaysia and the Republic of Korea and decided that Saudi Arabia and Slovakia should become members of the Committee, increasing the membership to 64. (Pursuant to its decision 45/315 of 11 December 1990, Yugoslavia had ceased to be a member of the Committee.) In the following year, the Assembly took note of Algeria's request to become a member of the Committee and decided to accept its membership.

35. The Committee has continued its customary practice of allowing States that are not members of the Committee to participate in the open meetings of the Committee and its subcommittees and to address those bodies. The expansion of membership of the Committee resulted in an increased number of States that have opportunities to contribute to the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies by participating in all meetings and submitting proposals for consideration by those bodies for action. If such opportunities were fully utilized by all members of the Committee, it would lead to a strengthened role of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies in leading global efforts for the exploration and peaceful use of outer space, responding to one of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.[8]

36. The Committee began in 1962 to invite to its meetings international organizations that promote the peaceful uses of outer space. At its second meeting the Committee invited COSPAR, along with such United Nations entities as UNESCO, ITU and WMO, as observers. Organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee have received a standing invitation to its annual sessions

and those of its subsidiary bodies and have been given opportunities to address the Committee and its subsidiary bodies in their open meetings. At the time of UNISPACE III, 11 organizations had permanent observer status with the Committee.

37. Non-governmental entities contributed to the success of UNISPACE III through their participation in the Technical Forum. Many of the inputs from over 40 technical seminars and workshops of the Technical Forum, including the Space Generation Forum, organized by and for young professionals and university students interested in space activities, were included in the final report of UNISPACE III and the Vienna Declaration. The participation of non-governmental entities continued to be one of the important elements of the follow-up to UNISPACE III, as recognized by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/68 of 6 December 1999.

38. Since UNISPACE III, there has been an increase in the number of intergovernmental and non-governmental entities granted permanent observer status with the Committee. Some of those organizations had responded to specific requests by the Committee to contribute to its work. As at December 2003, the General Assembly had granted permanent observer status with the Committee to 7 more international organizations, increasing the number of organizations with such status to 18.

4. Increased number of States parties to the five United Nations treaties related to outer space

39. The Vienna Declaration called for action to promote the efforts of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the development of space law by inviting States to ratify or accede to and inviting intergovernmental organizations to declare acceptance of the outer space treaties developed by the Committee. Following UNISPACE III, the number of ratifications of all five treaties related to outer space increased. As at January 2003, the number of States that had ratified the Outer Space Treaty had increased from 95 in 1999 to 98; for the Rescue Agreement, the figure rose from 85 to 88; for the Liability Convention, from 80 to 82; for the Registration Convention, from 40 to 44; and for the Moon Agreement, from 9 to 10. The Legal Subcommittee, in particular, is continuing its efforts and is considering further measures to increase the numbers of States that ratify or accede to the outer space treaties and of intergovernmental organizations that declare acceptance of them.

B. Progress achieved by regional mechanisms

40. There are many forms of regional mechanism to promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space that have contributed to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III. ESA, for example, has been playing an important role in promoting the cooperation and coordination of space activities among European countries. ESA has also long been one of the major sponsors of a number of activities organized by the United Nations Programme on Space Applications that correspond to recommendations of UNISPACE III. Shortly after the Conference, in November 1999, the International Relations Committee of ESA identified priority areas for follow-up to UNISPACE III and the activities

organized jointly with the Office for Outer Space Affairs reflect those priority areas. With the conclusion of the framework agreement to strengthen cooperation with the European Union, it is anticipated that Europe will further strengthen its efforts to respond to the needs of society through the use of space science and technology and their applications to enhance the human condition, which would also respond to many of the actions called for in the Vienna Declaration.

41. Countries of Asia and the Pacific launched the second phase of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP) at the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in New Delhi in November 1999, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The Ministerial Conference served to put the recommendations of UNISPACE III into a regional context in the second phase of RESAP. The priorities of RESAP are capacity-building, in particular in least developed countries of the region, in the application of space technology to bridge the digital divide, to improve the quality of life and to enhance disaster management.

42. The initiatives of Asia-Pacific Multilateral Cooperation in Space and Technology Applications (AP-MCSTA), originally proposed by China, Pakistan and Thailand in 1992, have evolved to become a regional, intergovernmental mechanism for multilateral cooperation. Through joint projects, AP-MCSTA has contributed to the implementation of recommendations of UNISPACE III in the region in such areas as management of natural resources and disaster management. A series of training courses on space technology and remote sensing applications organized by its secretariat have contributed to capacity-building in the region. Discussions are currently under way on the institutionalization of AP-MCSTA by establishing an Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, that would carry out, among other things, fundamental research in space technology and its applications, identification and execution of projects of common interest and organization of education and training activities.

43. Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean considered the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III at the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in May 2002. The Conference adopted the Declaration of Cartagena de Indias, which urged States of the region to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III. Among other things, a Plan of Action, also adopted by the Conference, instructed the pro tempore secretariat of the Conference to promote cooperation and coordination of programmes or projects in such areas as protection of environment, disaster management, space law, education and research and development in science, technology and space applications. In its resolution [...] of [...], the General Assembly noted the desire of Member States of the region to institutionalize the Space Conference of the Americas.

44. Countries of Asia and the Pacific are also pursuing cooperation in space activities through less formal mechanisms, such as the Asia-Pacific Space Agency Forum. Since its first meeting in 1993, the Forum has evolved from a forum for the exchange of general information among countries of the region into an action-oriented entity that addresses specific issues of interest to the region and implements recommendations resulting from its plenary meetings.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/54/20 and Corr.1), annex.

[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.I.3, chap. I, resolution 1, para. 1 (e) (iii).

[3] Ibid., para. 1 (b) (ii).

[4] Ibid., para. 1 (b) (iv).

[5] Ibid., para. 1 (b) (ii).

[6] The existing treaties and agreements are the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (the "Outer Space Treaty"), which was adopted on 19 December 1966, opened for signature on 27 January 1967 and entered into force on 10 October 1967; the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (the "Rescue Agreement"), which was adopted on 19 December 1967, opened for signature on 22 April 1968 and entered into force on 3 December 1968; the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (the "Liability Convention"), which was adopted on 29 November 1971, opened for signature on 29 March 1972 and entered into force on 1 September 1972; the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (the "Registration Convention"), which was adopted on 12 November 1974, opened for signature on 14 January 1975 and entered into force on 15 September 1976; and the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (the "Moon Agreement"), which was adopted on 5 December 1979, opened for signature on 18 December 1979 and entered into force on 11 July 1984.

[7] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.I.3, chap. I, resolution 1, para. 1 (f) (iv).

[8] Ibid., para. 1 (e) (i).