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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**

**Fifty-sixth session**

Vienna, 12-21 June 2013

**Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its  
fifty-second session**

**New agenda item on general exchange of information on  
non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer  
space**

**Working paper submitted by Japan, and co-sponsored by Austria,  
Canada, France, Nigeria and the United States of America<sup>\*</sup>**

1. A number of non-legally binding instruments such as declarations, principles, resolutions, guidelines and frameworks related to outer space activities and to maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes have been developed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Subcommittees and have been adopted or recognized by the General Assembly in its various resolutions. Those instruments support the existing United Nations treaties on outer space. With the development of space technology and the increase and diversification of space actors, it is a pressing necessity to consider the safe and sustainable use of outer space. To address contemporary challenges in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, it is necessary to gain a better understanding of non-legally binding United Nations instruments and related practices thereto. Hence, Japan has proposed a new agenda item on general exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space and the related practices thereto.

**Objective and scope**

2. The objective of this agenda item is to facilitate exchange of views on this topic and to share information on specific measures taken by member States and international organizations in relation to non-legally binding United Nations

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<sup>\*</sup> This conference room paper contains a revised version of the proposal for a new agenda item which was made available in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.291 during the fifty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee in 2013.



instruments such as declarations, principles, resolutions, guidelines and frameworks, as identified in paragraph 1, which contribute to the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and, if necessary, to undertake a detailed study with a view to seeking a common understanding on how to promote those instruments to address contemporary challenges in the exploration and use of outer space.

3. While the scope of this agenda item would primarily focus on the eleven non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space,<sup>1</sup> other pertinent United Nations General Assembly resolutions related to the agenda of the Committee, as well as new non-legally binding United Nations instruments could be discussed during the exchange of views.

### **Method of work**

4. It is proposed that member States are firstly encouraged to provide their views and experiences regarding the objective and scope of this document identified in paragraphs 2 and 3.

5. Once the exchange of views has been completed, the Legal Subcommittee would discuss further modalities to seek a common understanding on how to promote those instruments to address contemporary challenges. The Legal Subcommittee would consider the feasibility of establishing a Working Group for further elaboration of the activity under this agenda item.

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<sup>1</sup> The 11 non-legally binding United Nations instruments are contained in “United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space, related General Assembly resolutions and other documents” (ST/SPACE/61):

- (1) Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in Exploration and Use of Outer Space (General Assembly resolution 1962 (XVIII) of 13 December 1963);
- (2) Principles governing Use by States of Artificial Earth Satellites for International Direct Television Broadcasting (General Assembly resolution 37/92 of 10 December 1982);
- (3) Principles relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space (General Assembly resolution 41/65 of 3 December 1986);
- (4) Principles relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (General Assembly resolution 47/68 of 14 December 1992);
- (5) 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 Need of Developing countries (General Assembly resolution 51/122 of 13 December 1996);
- (6) General Assembly resolution 1721 A and B of 20 December 1961: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space;
- (7) Paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 55/122 of December 2000: International cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space;
- (8) General Assembly resolution 59/115 of 10 December 2004: Application of the concept of the launching state;
- (9) General Assembly resolution 62/101 of 17 December 2007: Recommendations on enhancing the practice of States and international intergovernmental organizations in registering space objects;
- (10) Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; and
- (11) Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space.