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Committee on the Peaceful

Uses of Outer Space

Forty-seventh session

Vienna, 2-11 June 2004

Provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session

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II. Annotations*

1. Opening of the session

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Election of officers

In paragraph 12 of its resolution 58/89 of 9 December 2003, the General Assembly agreed that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at the beginning of its session in 2004, should conduct the election of the officers agreed upon by the Committee at its forty-sixth session. At that session, the Committee agreed that Adigun Ade Abiodun (Nigeria) would be elected its Chairman, Ciro Arévalo Yepes (Colombia) would be elected its First Vice-Chairman and Parviz Tarikhi (Islamic Republic of Iran) would be elected its Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur.

4. Statement by the Chairman

Following the adoption of the agenda by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and in accordance with the proposed organization of work, the Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Committee that have taken place since its forty-sixth session.

5. General exchange of views

The Committee will begin its substantive work with a general exchange of views. At its forty-sixth session, the Committee agreed that, taking into account his valuable contribution, Vladimír Kopal (Czech Republic), who served as Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee from its thirty-eighth to forty-second sessions, would present to the Committee, at its forty-seventh session, a special lecture providing a historical perspective and his personal reflection on the development of the Committee.

6. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes

In paragraph 41 of its resolution 58/89, the General Assembly requested the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session; and agreed that, during its consideration of the matter, the Committee could consider ways to promote regional and interregional cooperation based on experiences stemming from the Space Conference of the Americas and the role space technology could play in the implementation of the recommendations emerging from the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

7. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

In paragraph 27 of its resolution 58/89, the General Assembly agreed that the Committee should include in the agenda of its forty-seventh session an item on the

* The annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Committee.

implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III. In paragraph 29 of that resolution, the Assembly noted with satisfaction that the Committee had made further progress in the preparation of its report under the agenda item on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III for submission to the Assembly, in order for the Assembly to review and appraise, at its fifty-ninth session, in 2004, the implementation of the outcome of UNISPACE III and to consider further actions and initiatives, and agreed that, in that context, the Working Group established by the Committee to prepare the above-mentioned report should be reconvened at the forty-seventh session of the Committee to complete its work.

At its forty-sixth session, the Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Working Group that the Committee, at its forty-seventh session, should allocate sufficient time for the Working Group to finalize the report to the General Assembly for endorsement by the Committee.¹

In accordance with paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 58/89, the Working Group held informal consultations during the forty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the forty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee. Pursuant to paragraph 19 of that resolution, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-first session, considered, through its Working Group of the Whole, the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III. The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole as contained in its report (A/AC.105/823, annex II, chap. III). The draft of the report of the Committee to the Assembly, which has been revised following the second round of the informal consultations of the Working Group, will be made available in document A/AC.105/L.255 and Add. 1-7.

8. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-first session

In accordance with paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 58/89, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-first session considered the substantive items below.

United Nations Programme on Space Applications

The report of the Subcommittee on its forty-first session contains a review of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and its activities for 2003 and 2004. The Subcommittee recommended the approval of the proposed programme of activities for the remainder of 2004 (A/AC.105/823, paras. 35-46). The Office for Outer Space Affairs will brief the Committee on the proposed activities for 2005.

Pursuant to paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 58/89, the Subcommittee considered the United Nations Programme on Space Applications through its Working Group of the Whole and endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group on the Programme (A/AC.105/823, para. 34 and annex II, paras. 3-5).

In paragraph 42 of its resolution 58/89, the General Assembly agreed that the Committee should continue to consider a report on the activities of the International Satellite System for Search and Rescue as a part of its consideration of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications under the agenda item entitled "Report

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/58/20), annex I, para. 22.*

of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee” and invited Member States to report on their activities regarding the System.

Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

The deliberations of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on this item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/823, paras. 55-71; see also the annotations for agenda item 7 above).

Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment

The deliberations of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on this item at its forty-first session are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/823, paras. 73-83).

Space debris

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered this item in accordance with the work plan adopted at its thirty-eighth session (A/AC.105/761, para. 130). The deliberations of the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/823, paras. 85-107).

Pursuant to paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 58/89, the Subcommittee established a Working Group on Space Debris to consider comments received from member States of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the proposals on debris mitigation presented by the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) to the Subcommittee at its fortieth session. The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group as contained in its report (A/AC.105/823, para. 93 and annex III).

Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered this item under the work plan adopted at its fortieth session (A/AC.105/804, annex III). The deliberations of the Subcommittee on the item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/823, paras. 109-118).

Pursuant to paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 58/89, the Subcommittee at its forty-first session reconvened its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. The report of the Working Group was endorsed by the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/823, para. 117 and annex IV).

The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendation of the Working Group that it should continue intersessional work on the topics described in the multi-year work plan for the period 2003-2006 and agreed that, to facilitate those discussions among interested members of the Working Group, consultations of the Working Group should be held in Vienna on 7 and 8 June 2004 (and possibly be extended up to 9 to 11 June 2004), during the forty-seventh session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. As requested by the Working Group, to prepare for the above-mentioned informal meeting the Secretariat made available the following documents in all official languages of the United Nations: (a) a working paper submitted by the United States, entitled “Proposed outline of objectives, scope and attributes for an

international technically based framework of goals and recommendations for the safety of planned and currently foreseeable nuclear power source applications in outer space” (A/AC.105/L.253); and (b) a draft paper submitted by the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, entitled “Preliminary draft of flow charts for potential implementation options for establishing an international technically based framework of goals and recommendations for the safety of planned and currently foreseeable nuclear power source applications in outer space (A/AC.105/L.254).

Space-system-based telemedicine

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered this item in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Committee at its forty-sixth session.² Pursuant to the work plan, States members of the Committee made presentations on the status in their countries of telemedicine applications in general and space-system-based telemedicine in particular and on commercially available telemedicine systems and their capacity to use space systems. The deliberations of the Subcommittee on the item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/823, paras. 120-127).

Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continued its consideration of this agenda item as a single issue/item for discussion. The deliberations of the Subcommittee on the item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/823, paras. 129-133).

Implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered this agenda item as a single issue/item for discussion. The deliberations of the Subcommittee on the item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/823, paras. 135-150).

In paragraph 43 of its resolution 58/89, the General Assembly noted that in connection with the consideration of the implementation of an integrated space-based global natural disaster management system, under the agenda item entitled “Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee”, during the forty-seventh session of the Committee, a one-day workshop for industry would be organized with the participation of Member States and communication satellite operators to discuss how satellite-based communications could be used during natural disasters.

² Ibid., para. 138.

Solar-terrestrial physics

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered this agenda item as a single issue/item for discussion. The deliberations of the Subcommittee on the item are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/823, paras. 152-158).

Draft provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

Pursuant to paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 58/89, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee requested its Working Group of the Whole to consider a draft provisional agenda for its forty-second session. The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole concerning the draft provisional agenda, as contained in its report (A/AC.105/823, para. 160 and annex II, para. 20).

The Working Group of the Whole agreed to continue the practice of alternating each year the organization of the symposium by the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and the symposium to strengthen the partnership with industry. The Working Group agreed that, in 2005, the symposium by COSPAR and IAF would be organized and the industry symposium would be suspended. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that the next COSPAR/IAF symposium should address high-resolution and hyperspectral satellite data integration for precision farming, environmental monitoring and possible new applications. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that the symposium should be organized during the first week of the forty-second session of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/823, annex II, paras. 21 and 22).

9. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-third session

In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 58/89, the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-third session considered the substantive items below.

Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space

The Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item. The deliberations of the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/826, paras. 28-36). In accordance with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 58/89, the Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on this agenda item. The Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/826, para. 34 and annex I).

The Working Group approved the text of a model letter, together with information material to be attached thereto, that the Secretary-General might wish to send to the ministers for foreign affairs of States that had not yet become parties to the United Nations treaties on outer space (A/AC.105/826, annex I, para. 6 and appendix I). The Working Group also agreed that a similar letter should be sent to international intergovernmental organizations that had not yet declared their acceptance of the rights and obligations under those treaties.

The Working Group agreed on the text of a draft General Assembly resolution on the application of the concept of the "launching State" (A/AC.105/826, annex I, para. 7 and appendix II).

The Legal Subcommittee endorsed the recommendation that the mandate of the Working Group should be extended for one additional year. It was agreed that the Subcommittee, at its forty-fourth session, in 2005, would review the need to extend the mandate of the Working Group beyond that period.

Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law

The Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item. The deliberations of the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/826, paras. 38-47).

The Subcommittee agreed that the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other international organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had an important role to play in strengthening the work of the Subcommittee and should be encouraged to participate actively in its work. The Subcommittee also agreed that international intergovernmental organizations conducting space activities could enhance the legal framework applicable to space activities by encouraging their member States, if they had not yet become parties to the international treaties governing outer space, to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to the treaties in order to enable those international organizations to declare their acceptance of the rights and obligations under those treaties (A/AC.105/826, paras. 41-42).

Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

The Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item. The deliberations of the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/826, paras. 49-59).

In accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 58/89, the Legal Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on this item only to consider matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space. The Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/826, para. 58 and annex II).

Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space

The Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item as a single issue/item for discussion. The deliberations of the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/826, paras. 61-66).

Examination of the preliminary draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment (opened for signature in Cape Town on 16 November 2001)

The Legal Subcommittee considered this item as a single issue/item for discussion. The Subcommittee considered two sub-items under this agenda item: (a) considerations relating to the possibility of the United Nations serving as supervisory authority under the preliminary draft protocol; and (b) considerations relating to the relationship between the terms of the preliminary draft protocol and the rights and obligations of States under the legal regime applicable to outer space.

The deliberations of the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/826, paras. 68-101).

In accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 58/89, the Legal Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on this item. The Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/826, para. 100 and annex III).

The Working Group agreed to establish an open-ended ad hoc working group, made up of at least two representatives from each of the regional groups, to continue between the forty-third and forty-fourth sessions of the Subcommittee, by electronic means, the consideration of the question of the appropriateness of the United Nations acting as the supervisory authority, with a view to preparing a report, including the text of a draft resolution, to be submitted to the Subcommittee for consideration at its forty-fourth session, in 2005. The Working Group agreed to appoint the Netherlands as the coordinator of the open-ended ad hoc working group (A/AC.105/L.826, annex III, para. 18).

Contributions by the Legal Subcommittee to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the preparation of its report to the General Assembly for its review of the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

The Legal Subcommittee considered this agenda item as a single issue/item for discussion. The deliberations of the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/826, paras. 103-108; see also the annotations for agenda item 7 above).

Practice of States and international organizations in registering space objects

The Legal Subcommittee considered this agenda item in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its forty-sixth session.³ The deliberations of the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/826, paras. 110-120).

In accordance with the work plan, member States and international organizations informed the Subcommittee of their practice in registering space objects and submitting the required information to the Office for Outer Space Affairs for inclusion on the Register.

Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session

The deliberations of the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/826, paras. 122-135). The Subcommittee agreed on the items to be proposed to the Committee for inclusion in the agenda of the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session, as contained in its report (A/AC.105/826, para. 130).

³ Ibid., para. 199.

10. Spin-off benefits of space technology: a review of current status

In paragraph 44 of its resolution 58/89, the General Assembly requested the Committee to continue to consider, at its forty-seventh session, its agenda item entitled “Spin-off benefits of space technology: a review of current status”.

11. Space and society

In paragraph 45 of its resolution 58/89, the General Assembly requested the Committee to continue to consider, at its forty-seventh session, its agenda item entitled “Space and society”, and agreed that a special theme for the focus of discussions for the period 2004-2006 should be “Space and education”, in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Committee at its forty-sixth session.⁴

According to the work plan, the Committee, at its forty-seventh session, in 2004, would (a) hear presentations by member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental entities on their efforts to bring space into education and to develop human resources in space science and technology and ensure the availability of professionals in space-related areas for the future; (b) identify elements of success; (c) identify impediments to efforts to incorporate outer space into education and to develop human resources in space-related areas; (d) discuss possible solutions to eliminate those impediments; and (e) develop a plan of action, including the possible implementation of small projects.

12. Space and water

In paragraph 46 of its resolution 58/89, the General Assembly agreed that a new item entitled “Space and water” should be included in the agenda of the Committee at its forty-seventh session. On the basis of the work accomplished and progress made in 2004, the Committee would decide at that session whether to continue to include that item on its agenda.⁵

13. Composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2006-2007

In paragraph 13 of its resolution 58/89, the General Assembly agreed that the Committee should reach agreement on all the officers of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the next term, starting in 2006 for the duration of two years, and that for such purpose, the Committee should include in the agenda at its forty-seventh session an item on the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2006-2007. In paragraph 14 of the same resolution, the Assembly urged each of the five regional groups to ensure that agreement within the group on the officer to be determined for the period 2006-2007 was reached before the forty-seventh session of the Committee.

⁴ Ibid., para. 239.

⁵ Ibid., para. 248.

14. Other matters

Membership of the Committee

In paragraph 47 of its resolution 58/89, the General Assembly welcomed the continued interest of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in becoming a member of the Committee, and, to that end, requested that constructive consultations be conducted as soon as possible within the Committee as well as among regional groups, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution, with a view to reaching a positive and final decision on the membership of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

By a note verbale dated 26 April 2004, members of the Committee were also informed of the interest of Thailand in becoming a member of the Committee.

Participation in the work of the Committee

In paragraph 48 of its resolution 58/89, the General Assembly requested the Committee to consider ways to improve participation by member States and entities with observer status in its work, with a view to agreeing on specific recommendations in that regard at its forty-eighth session. The Committee may wish to start its consideration on the matter at its forty-seventh session, in 2004.

Other matters

The Committee may wish to discuss other matters as appropriate.

Annex

Indicative schedule of work*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Wednesday, 2 June 2004	1	Opening of the session	5	General exchange of views
	2	Adoption of the agenda	6	Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes
	3	Election of officers		
	4	Statement by the Chairman		
	5	General exchange of views		
Thursday, 3 June 2004	5	General exchange of views	5	General exchange of views
	6	Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes	6	Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes
	7	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III ^a	7	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III ^a
Friday, 4 June 2004	7	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III ^a	7	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III ^a
	8	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-first session	8	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-first session
	9	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-third session	9	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-third session
Monday, 7 June 2004	7	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III ^a	7	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III ^a
	8	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-first session	8	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-first session
	9	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-third session		Workshop for industry on satellite-based communications for use during natural disasters

* At its thirty-eighth session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that member States would continue to be provided with an indicative schedule of work, which would be without prejudice to the actual timing of consideration of specific agenda items (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/50/20)*, para. 169 (b)).

<i>Date</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Tuesday, 8 June 2004	8	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-first session	9	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-third session
	9	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-third session	10	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status
	10	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status	11	Space and society
Wednesday, 9 June 2004			13	Composition of the bureaux
	10	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status	11	Space and society
	11	Space and society	12	Space and water
	12	Space and water	13	Composition of the bureaux
Thursday, 10 June 2004	14	Other matters	14	Other matters
	11	Space and society	7	Implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III ^a
	12	Space and water	14	Other matters
	13	Composition of the bureaux		
Friday, 11 June 2004	14	Other matters		
	15	Report of the Committee to the General Assembly	15	Report of the Committee to the General Assembly

^a The Working Group to be reconvened by the Committee pursuant to paragraph 29 of General Assembly resolution 58/89 would meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 7. The Committee would resume its consideration of item 7 on Thursday, 10 June, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.