



General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Forty-seventh session
Vienna, 2-11 June 2004

Draft report

Chapter I

Introduction

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its forty-seventh session in Vienna from 2 to 11 June 2004. The officers of the Committee were as follows:

Chairman: Adigun Ade Abiodun (Nigeria)

First Vice-Chairman: Ciro Arévalo Yepes (Colombia)

Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur: Parviz Tarikhi (Islamic Republic of Iran)

The unedited verbatim transcripts of the meetings of the Committee are contained in documents COPUOS/T.518- [...].

A. Meetings of subsidiary bodies

2. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had held its forty-first session in Vienna from 16 to 27 February 2004, under the chairmanship of Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu (Romania). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/823).

3. The Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had held its forty-third session in Vienna from 29 March to 8 April 2004, under the chairmanship of Sergio Marchisio (Italy). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/826). The unedited verbatim transcripts of the meetings of the Subcommittee are contained in documents COPUOS/Legal/T.693-710.



B. Adoption of the agenda

4. At its opening meeting, the Committee adopted the following agenda:
 1. Opening of the session.
 2. Adoption of the agenda.
 3. Election of officers.
 4. Statement by the Chairman.
 5. General exchange of views.
 6. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
 7. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
 8. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-first session.
 9. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-third session.
 10. Spin-off benefits of space technology: a review of current status.
 11. Space and society.
 12. Space and water.
 13. Composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2006–2007.
 14. Other matters.
 15. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Election of officers

5. At the 518th meeting, on 2 June, Adigun Ade Abiodun (Nigeria) was elected Chairman of the Committee, Ciro Arévalo Yepes (Colombia) as its First Vice-Chairman and Parviz Tarikhi (Islamic Republic of Iran) as its Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur, for a two-year term of those offices.

D. Membership

6. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1472 A (XIV) of 12 December 1959, 1721 E (XVI) of 20 December 1961, 3182 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 32/196 B of 20 December 1977, 35/16 of 3 November 1980, 49/33 of 9 December 1994, 56/51 of 10 December 2001 and 57/116 of 11 December 2002 and decision 45/315 of 11 December 1990, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was composed of the following 65 States: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic

of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela and Viet Nam.

E. Attendance

7. Representatives of the following [...] States members of the Committee attended the session: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela, Viet Nam and [...].

8. At its 518th and [...] meeting[s], the Committee decided to invite, at their request, representatives of Angola, the Holy See, Jordan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Switzerland, Thailand and [...] to attend its forty-seventh session and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that it would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

9. Representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and [...] attended the session.

10. The session was also attended by representatives of the ad hoc Group on Earth Observations, Association of Space Explorers, Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), European Space Agency (ESA), International Astronautical Federation (IAF), International Law Association (ILA), International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), International Space University (ISU), National Space Society (NSS), Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), Spaceweek International Association and [...].

11. A list of representatives of States members of the Committee, States not members of the Committee, United Nations entities and other organizations attending the session is contained in document A/AC.105/XLVII/INF/1.

F. General statements

12. The Committee welcomed the election of Adigun Ade Abiodun (Nigeria) as its Chairman, Ciro Arévalo Yepes (Colombia) as its First Vice-Chairman and Parviz Tarikhi (Islamic Republic of Iran) as its Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur.

13. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Raimundo González (Chile), its former Chairman, as well as to Driss El Hadani (Morocco), its former First Vice-Chairman as well as Harijono Djojodihardjo and Susetyo Mulyodrono (Indonesia),

its former Second Vice-Chairmen/Rapporteurs, for their outstanding achievements during their tenure.

14. The Committee offered its congratulations to China on the success of its first manned space mission. It was noted that China was the third country, and the first developing country, to achieve such a capability.

15. The Committee also congratulated the United States and ESA on the success of their missions to Mars.

16. The Committee noted that the above-mentioned achievements by China, the United States and ESA would contribute to further promoting the peaceful uses of outer space.

17. Statements were made by representatives of the following States members of the Committee during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and United States. The representatives of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Thailand also made statements. Statements were also made by the representatives of UNESCO, IAF, ISPRS and NSS.

18. At the 518th meeting, on 2 June 2004, the Chairman made a statement outlining the work of the Committee at its current session. The Chairman invited the Committee to identify new areas for the application of space technologies for sustainable development globally by, inter alia, identifying initiatives to ensure the effective use of space capabilities to promote global health and education and to strengthen decision-making in the management of natural resources, particularly water resources.

19. Also at the 518th meeting, the President of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, Julian Robert Hunte (Saint Lucia), made a statement to the Committee.

20. Also at the 518th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Colombia (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States) and Jordan (on behalf of the Group of Asian States).

21. At the 519th meeting, on 2 June, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat made a statement, in which he reviewed the work carried out by the Office during the previous year.

22. At the 521st meeting, on 3 June, Vladimír Kopal (Czech Republic), Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee from its thirty-eighth to forty-second sessions, gave a special lecture providing a historical perspective and his personal reflection on the development of the Committee. The Committee welcomed his lecture and expressed its appreciation to Mr. Kopal for his valuable contribution to the work of the Committee and its Legal Subcommittee.

23. The Committee heard the following presentations under the general exchange of views:

(a) “‘Phobos’ sample return mission”, by A. Zakharov of the Russian Federation;

(b) “Latest achievements of Yuzhnoye SDO in building of rocket engines”, by V. Shnyakin of Ukraine;

(c) “Prospective directions of activities and projects of Yuzhnoye SDO in outer space exploration”, by O. Degtyarov of Ukraine.

G. Adoption of the report of the Committee

24. After considering the various items before it, the Committee, at its [...] meeting, on [...] June 2004, adopted its report to the General Assembly containing the recommendations and decisions set out below.

Chapter II

Recommendations and decisions

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

25. In accordance with paragraph 41 of General Assembly resolution 58/89 of 9 December 2003, the Committee continued its consideration, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

26. The Committee noted the agreement of the Assembly 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 Conferences of the Americas and the role space technology could play in the implementation of recommendations emerging from the World Summit on Sustainable Development.¹

27. The Committee was of the view that, through its work in the scientific, technical and legal fields, the Committee had a fundamental role to play in ensuring that outer space was maintained for peaceful purposes. That role could be strengthened by new initiatives, as well as by continued progress in implementing the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

28. With regard to the implementation of recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Committee had before it a list compiled from information submitted by member States of the Committee and entities of the United Nations system on their space-related initiatives and programmes that correspond to recommendations contained in the plan of implementation (A/AC.105/2004/CRP.8).²

¹ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum).

² The list contained in conference room paper A/AC.105/2004/CRP.8 was also made available

29. Under this agenda item, the Committee heard a presentation by L. Xiaohong of China entitled “Outer space activities of China”.

30. Some delegations expressed the view that, as the number of outer space activities increased, so did the risk of the introduction of weapons into outer space; if such a risk were to become a reality, the concept of the peaceful uses of outer space would be undermined, as would the basis for, and the very logic of, the development of non-proliferation mechanisms and, in fact, the entire system of international security.

31. Some delegations were of the view that, although the Committee had been playing an important role in enhancing international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, the matter of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes had not been receiving the attention it required in the deliberations of the Committee.

32. Some delegations expressed the view that, in order to prevent an arms race in space more effectively, the Committee should establish a practical mechanism for coordinating its work with that of other, related, bodies, such as the Conference on Disarmament.

33. The view was expressed that the Committee had been established as the only standing body of the General Assembly concerned exclusively with promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The same delegation also expressed the view that it had been clear at the time that the Committee was established that there would be entirely independent efforts to address disarmament issues, including in forums such as the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament.

34. The view was expressed that one of the best ways of maintaining outer space as an area for research and peaceful use was through the implementation of the current space treaties and the participation of all interested parties in a joint development of space science and technology.

35. The view was expressed that the best way to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes was to further strengthen international cooperation in the field in order to enhance the safety and security of the space assets of all countries.

36. The Committee recommended that, at its forty-eighth session, in 2005, it should continue its consideration, on a priority basis, of the item on ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

electronically (www.uncosa.unvienna.org/iamos/2004/wssdlist.pdf).