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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Forty-eighth session
Vienna, 8-17 June 2005

Draft report

Chapter II

Addendum

B. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/2 of 20 October 2004, the Committee considered the item on the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
2. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/116 of 10 December 2004, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-second session had convened the Working Group of the Whole to consider the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III. The Chairman of the Working Group of the Whole was Muhammad Nasim Shah (Pakistan).
3. The representatives of Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Greece, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Romania, the Russian Federation, Spain, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America made statements under the item. The observer for the Spaceweek International Association also made a statement.
4. The Committee had before it, for its consideration, the following documents:



(a) Note by the Secretary-General on review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/59/174);

(b) Information on the high-level plenary meeting to be held from 14 to 16 September 2005 during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly (A/AC.105/2005/CRP.9);

(c) Establishing a closer link with the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development (A/AC.105/2005/CRP.11);

(d) Implementing the actions called for in the Plan of Action of the Committee on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III: strategy proposed by the Office for Outer Space Affairs (A/AC.105/2005/CRP.12 and A/AC.105/2005/CRP.17);

(e) Ad hoc expert group on the possibility of creating an international entity to provide for coordination and the means of realistically optimizing the effectiveness of space-based services for use in disaster management (A/AC.105/2005/CRP.13);

(f) High-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, 14-16 September 2005: input to the report of the President of the General Assembly (A/AC.105/2005/CRP.15 and Rev.1);

(g) Possibility of creating an international entity to provide for coordination and the means of realistically optimizing the effectiveness of space-based services for use in disaster management: progress report of the ad hoc expert group (A/AC.105/2005/CRP.20).

5. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Niklas Hedman (Sweden), the Chairman of the working group of the Committee that had prepared the report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

6. The Committee emphasized the importance of implementing the Plan of Action contained in the report (A/59/174, paras. 228-316) and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 59/2.

7. The Committee noted that the recommendations of UNISPACE III continued to be implemented by Member States through national, regional and international efforts and through the work of some of the action teams established by the Committee to that end. The Committee agreed that the establishment of the action teams had created a unique and useful mechanism to ensure the implementation of a large number of recommendations, while preserving the pivotal role of Member States.

8. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Action Team on an Environmental Monitoring Strategy had met during the forty-eighth session of the Committee and that some members of the Action Team on Sustainable Development had participated in that meeting. The Committee was informed about the progress made by the Action Team.

9. The Committee noted with appreciation that excellent progress had been made during the preparatory meetings to establish an international committee on global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) in accordance with paragraph 11 of General

Assembly resolution 59/2. It also noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs would be organizing a meeting in December 2005 to complete the process of establishing the international committee on GNSS.

10. The view was expressed that the work of the action teams should be followed by the definition and implementation of action plans, containing specific goals, means and tasks.

11. The view was expressed that, in addition to arranging meetings during sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees, the possibility should be explored of also organizing action team meetings in connection with other activities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, such as its workshops, in order to increase opportunities for the members of the action teams to discuss the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

12. The Committee considered the contribution that could be made to the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, which would be held from 14 to 16 September 2005 to undertake a comprehensive review of the progress made in the fulfilment of all the commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (Assembly resolution 55/2). On the advice of the Group of Fifteen, the Committee considered the draft outcome document of the President of the General Assembly of 3 June 2005 and noted that the document lacked a reference to the benefits of space science and technology to address relevant global issues. The Committee reached consensus on a text to be transmitted to the President of the General Assembly by member States of the Committee for incorporation into the draft outcome document (see A/AC.105/2005/CRP.15/Rev.1).

13. The Committee agreed that, in order to establish a closer link between its work relating to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III and the work being carried out by the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat should be invited to participate in the sessions of the Committee to inform it as to how it could best contribute to the work of the Commission.

14. The Committee agreed that the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs should attend the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development with a view to raising awareness and promoting the benefits of space science and technology, in particular in the areas being addressed by the Commission.

15. To enable the Committee to contribute to the first year of the thematic areas of the Commission for the period 2006-2007, the Committee agreed that member States should be requested to provide inputs for the development of a concise document. The Committee agreed that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should, at its forty-third session, review and finalize that document and, on behalf of the Committee, transmit it to the Commission. The Committee agreed that the Action Team on Sustainable Development should be requested to actively support the Subcommittee in that work.

16. The Committee agreed that, in order to regularly contribute to each year of the work of the Commission, member States should be requested to provide input for the Committee's contribution one year before the Commission addressed the thematic areas. The Committee agreed that input should be provided in advance of

the annual sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to enable the latter to conduct the first review and the Committee, later in the same year, to finalize the contribution.

17. The Committee agreed that, at its forty-third session, in 2006, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in addition to reviewing and finalizing the Committee's contribution to the work of the Commission in 2006, should also review the first draft of the Committee's contribution to the work of the Commission in 2007.

18. In paragraph 9 of its resolution 59/2, the General Assembly requested the Committee to review at its forty-eighth session progress made in the work of the ad hoc expert group that was conducting a study on the possibility of creating an international entity to provide for coordination and the means of realistically optimizing the effectiveness of space-based services for use in disaster management.

19. The representative of Romania, on behalf of the ad hoc expert group, presented to the Committee a progress report on the work carried out by the group.

20. The Committee took note with satisfaction of the progress report and expressed its appreciation for the excellent work carried out by the ad hoc expert group.

21. The Committee requested the ad hoc expert group to finalize the draft study, taking into consideration the comments provided by representatives of member States of the Committee and the objectives and work carried out by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with planned or ongoing activities in the use of space technology for disaster management. The Committee agreed that, once completed, the draft study should be distributed to all member States of the Committee by the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their review.

22. The Committee further agreed that the study could be considered informally in connection with the Working Group of the Whole of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly when it considered the item on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The study, including the comments received, would then be submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-third session, in 2006, for its review and recommendation to the Committee.

23. Some delegations expressed the view that the coordination mechanism being proposed to support the use of space technology for risk reduction and disaster management should be implemented as a mandate within the United Nations system and that the existing structures and facilities of the United Nations should be taken into account in the development of such a mechanism.

24. The view was expressed that, in considering the creation of an international entity to coordinate space-based services for use in disaster management, the Committee could consider extending the scope of responsibility of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to include such a coordinating function.

25. The Committee noted with appreciation that, pursuant to paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 59/2, the Office for Outer Space Affairs had presented its strategy for incorporating into its programme of work the actions identified for implementation by the Office in the Plan of Action of the Committee (A/AC.105/2005/CRP.12, to be issued subsequently as A/AC.105/L.262).

26. The Committee also noted with satisfaction that the Office had considered the broader goals of the Plan of Action with a view to providing support, where possible and appropriate, for other actions in that Plan that would be implemented by the Committee, Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.
27. The Committee welcomed the fact that the Office could integrate, within its existing resources, many of the actions contained in the Plan of Action of the Committee.
28. The Committee noted that, with a nominal increase in its regular budget and extrabudgetary resources, the Office could incorporate other actions into its programme of work. The Committee also noted that some actions could only be incorporated if adequate additional resources were made available to the Office for their implementation.
29. The Committee noted that, in order to accommodate new actions in its programme of work, while maintaining the priority thematic areas agreed by the Committee, the Office would need to adjust its operational priorities. To enhance the capacity of the Office to provide technical and legal advisory services and initiate pilot projects, the Office would need to increase its extrabudgetary funding sources.
30. The Committee recalled that the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, were located in Africa (Morocco and Nigeria), Asia and the Pacific (India) and Latin America and the Caribbean (Brazil and Mexico). It noted that the centres were well placed to provide necessary capacity-building, but would require support to enable them to do so.
31. The Committee agreed that the Office would promote cooperation with and support for the centres among Member States at the regional and international levels. The Committee agreed that the Office would also launch a support campaign for the centres among space-related institutions and relevant companies.
- [32. In the case of the centre for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Office could encourage the centre to coordinate activities with the pro tempore secretariat of the Space Conference of the Americas and to expand the membership of its Governing Board.]
33. The Committee agreed that the regional centres should be invited to report to the Committee on their activities on an annual basis.
34. The Committee noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 59/2, had requested the Committee to include in the agendas of its future sessions, starting from its forty-ninth session, in 2006, consideration of its contribution to the work of those entities which were responsible for convening United Nations conferences and/or for implementing their outcomes.
35. The Committee agreed to include in the agenda of its forty-ninth session an item concerning the recommendations of the World Summit on the Information Society with a view to contributing to their implementation and to consider at that session whether to retain the item on the agenda beyond 2006. It also agreed that ITU should be invited to brief the Committee on the recommendations of the World Summit and their implementation.

36. In accordance with paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 59/2, the Committee considered the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and agreed that the Programme should continue to focus on thematic areas identified by the Expert on Space Applications in her briefing to the Committee, as reflected in paragraph [...] of the present report. The Committee agreed that, in order to contribute to the work being conducted by the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Programme should include water among its thematic priority areas, to the extent feasible.

37. The Committee noted that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had endorsed the agreement of the Working Group of the Whole that it should focus its discussion on the implementation of three actions called for in the Plan of Action: maximizing the benefits of existing space capabilities for disaster management and maximizing the benefits of the use and applications of GNSS to support sustainable development (A/59/174, paras. 252-269); and enhancing capacity-building in space-related activities (A/59/174, paras. 299-310).

38. The view was expressed that efforts to involve private industry in contributing to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III should be pursued. That delegation was of the view that the development of clear project proposals would attract private industry to participate actively in the initiatives of the Committee.

39. The Committee noted that the Charter on Cooperation to Achieve the Coordinated Use of Space Facilities in the Event of Natural or Technological Disasters (International Charter “Space and Major Disasters”) was a specific initiative that supported disaster assessment and relief activities. It also noted that the Charter had been activated 19 times over the past year and that support had been provided.

40. The Committee agreed that the Charter deserved to receive the full support of the United Nations, Member States and other organizations that were in a position to contribute to its goals.

41. The Committee noted with appreciation the report on the promotion and organization of public outreach activities in celebration of World Space Week.

42. The Committee noted that the report on the international celebration of World Space Week in 2004, prepared by the Space International Association in cooperation with the Office for Outer Space Affairs, had been made available in a special publication (ST/SPACE/27).

43. The Committee noted with appreciation the reports by Member States on the promotion and organization of public outreach activities in celebration of World Space Week.