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

Report by the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas

Note by the Secretariat

1. In paragraph 21 of its resolution 59/116 of 10 December 2004, the General Assembly invited the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas to inform the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space of the work accomplished.
2. The report by the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas, which was presented as a conference room paper to the Committee at its forty-eighth session, held in Vienna from 8 to 17 June 2005, is attached herewith.



Report of Colombia on the activities of the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas

1. In implementation of the mandates of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 14 to 17 May 2002, and following the agreement of Colombia to act as Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Conference, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia embarked in the second half of 2002 on the task of drawing up a general workplan for the Secretariat, together with identifying certain tasks considered to deserve priority at the outset, in compliance with the Declaration of Cartagena de Indias and the Plan of Action.¹

2. To implement the Plan of Action, Colombia can count on support from the bodies of the United Nations system working in the field of aerospace as well as, locally, from the entire governmental infrastructure concerned with the topic, including the Colombian Agency for International Cooperation, Colciencias, the Agustín Codazzi Geographical Institute (IGAC), the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM), the Ministry of Communications, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Civil Aviation Unit and other bodies.

I. The United Nations and its support for the Space Conferences of the Americas

3. In its resolution 57/116 of 11 December 2002, the General Assembly recognized the agreement reached at the Space Conferences of the Americas for the Latin American countries as a mechanism to promote cooperation and coordination in space activities in the region, noted with satisfaction the success of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas, which had adopted the Declaration of Cartagena de Indias and the Plan of Action, and encouraged other regions to convene periodically regional conferences with a view to achieving convergence of positions on issues of common concern in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space among States Members of the United Nations.

4. In its report on its forty-fifth session to the General Assembly,² the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space noted that the Fourth Conference had discussed mechanisms for cooperation and coordination between countries in the region in various areas of space science and technology, with respect to their applications in such areas as disaster management, tele-education, telemedicine and public health and environmental protection and in fields such as space law and telecommunications. The Committee took note of the offer made by various member States to cooperate with the Government of Colombia as the Pro Tempore Secretariat in the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action.

II. Operational instruments developed by the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas for the performance of its tasks

5. On 17 April 2003, a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat and the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas was signed between the Foreign Minister of Colombia, Carolina Barco, and the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna. In that Memorandum, the parties undertook to promote cooperation and the coordination of projects and programmes concerned with space applications in order to facilitate the work of the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas.

6. The Memorandum has facilitated the performance of the tasks assigned with regard to space technology and its potential benefits for environmental protection and prevention and early warning of natural disasters, and in the areas of space law and education, research and the development of science, technology and space applications. It has also served as an essential instrument for cooperation and the development of the topics involved.

7. In paragraph 21 of its resolution 59/116 of 10 December 2004, the General Assembly welcomed the memorandum of understanding between the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat and the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas, under which the parties demonstrated their intention to collaborate in promoting and implementing joint activities, and invited the Pro Tempore Secretariat to inform the Committee of the work accomplished.

8. Colombia has reaffirmed its commitment to the decisions adopted during the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas and, since it assumed the functions of Pro Tempore Secretariat, has reported, during the sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary organs, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee, to their members and in particular to the members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, on progress made in the various activities of the Pro Tempore Secretariat and is doing so once again in the present document, in compliance with the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 59/116.

III. Contribution of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas to follow-up to the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

9. The table below summarizes the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) and related follow-up action taken by the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas.

*Recommendations of UNISPACE III**Follow-up by the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas*

The recommendations of UNISPACE III are focused on international cooperation, for which purpose action teams were set up; Colombia has participated actively in these teams both as a country and in its capacity as Pro Tempore Secretariat.

Plan of Action of the Fourth Conference: promoting cooperation and coordination of programmes or projects proposed or under way, at the regional level, through the agreed mechanisms and in the following areas, among others:

- (a) Protection of the environment and support for sustainable development;
- (b) Prevention, early warning and rescue and relief operations in the event of natural and man-made disasters;
- (c) Education, research and development in science, technology and space applications;
- (d) Space law.

Protecting the Earth's environment and managing its resources:

- (a) Environmental monitoring strategy;
- (b) Management of natural resources.

Strengthening cooperation and coordination to improve the management of disaster prevention and relief networks by means of satellite applications, inter alia, through the maintenance of a humanitarian network in the region, using satellite photographs taken before and after a natural disaster, so that countries can more easily carry out a prompt assessment of the damage and of action required to help the victims.

Using space applications for human security, development and welfare:

- (a) Public health;
- (b) Disaster management;
- (c) Tele-education;
- (d) Sustainable development.

Encouraging the countries of the region to continue to identify and implement projects that could make use of space technologies, emphasizing the importance of ensuring credible and timely access to information in areas such as risk management, prevention and relief of natural and man-made disasters, tele-education, telemedicine and medical services, and protection of the environment.

Enhancing education and training opportunities and ensuring public awareness of the importance of space activities:

- (a) Capacity-building;
- (b) Sharing of information on spin-offs from space activities;
- (c) Opportunities for the young to learn more about space science and technology and participate in related activities;
- (d) Promoting sustainable development through the application of the results of space research;
- (e) Organization of a series of synoptic studies on space applications for sustainable development;
- (f) Colombia has sponsored a draft resolution for adoption by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, including a three-year workplan for education on space subjects.

Ensuring that universities and scientific, technical and legal associations, within and beyond the region, as well as space agencies and the specialized agencies of the United Nations, participate actively in international cooperation projects.

Taking up the recommendations of UNISPACE III, emphasizing the urgency of promoting education in space science and technology as a fundamental tool for exploiting their potential benefits and urging the countries of the region to redouble their efforts in that regard and to consider education in space science and technology the basis for the viable development of projects and related initiatives.

Active participation of universities and scientific, technical and legal associations, within and beyond the region, as well as space agencies and the specialized agencies of the United Nations in international cooperation projects.

Urging countries to adopt active policies to improve dissemination and publicizing of information about space issues so as to raise public awareness of the importance of using space technology to achieve sustainable development.

<i>Recommendations of UNISPACE III</i>	<i>Follow-up by the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas</i>
<p>Strengthening and repositioning of space activities in the United Nations system:</p> <p>(a) Reaffirming the role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its subcommittees and its secretariat;</p> <p>(b) Development of space law;</p> <p>(c) Coordination between the Committee and other United Nations entities;</p> <p>(d) New and innovative sources of financing;</p> <p>(e) Promotion of the peaceful uses of outer space with all States, international organizations and civil society, including industry;</p> <p>(f) Inter-agency coordination and cooperation;</p> <p>(g) Telemedicine based on space systems;</p> <p>(h) The Office for Outer Space Affairs will support the project relating to telemedicine in the Latin American region.</p>	<p>Promoting cooperation and coordination of programmes or projects proposed or under way, at the regional level, through the agreed mechanisms.</p> <p>Recommending that new financial resources be sought through multilateral, regional and interregional mechanisms and from the private sector for the implementation of development activities, so as to fulfil the commitments entered into.</p> <p>Creation of a working group composed of representatives of the countries of the region, designated by their respective Governments, to help determine areas of action for regional coordination.</p> <p>Increasing support for the strengthening of institutions that promote national projects and programmes based on space science and technology, so as to ensure appropriate follow-up to the commitments entered into at the conference, in relation to the progress achieved in space activities by government bodies, space agencies, scientific and academic groups and the private sector in the region.</p> <p>Work is proceeding on a regional telemedicine project.</p>
<p>Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.</p>	<p>Development and dissemination of space law in Latin America and the Caribbean</p>
<p>Results and activities of United Nations organized space law workshops (Office for Outer Space Affairs).</p>	

IV. Cooperation resources

10. As a complementary measure, with the support of the Colombian Agency for International Cooperation and other relevant international bodies, a specific methodology has been developed and distributed for the identification, drafting and presentation of projects in line with the parameters and conditions required by international cooperation and financing institutions.

11. Beginning in January 2003, the Pro Tempore Secretariat has identified certain priority activities related to subjects that it considers of special interest, as described briefly below:

(a) The Pro Tempore Secretariat has encouraged the establishment, in each of the countries of the region, of a national body to be responsible for coordination of space subjects and, in particular, of space applications, in order to create awareness of the importance of the use of such technologies, of promoting research and of utilizing existing resources in various fields of special interest such as prevention and relief of natural disasters, tele-education, telemedicine, protection of the environment and so on. Those bodies will facilitate the development of a common regional policy and the design and preparation of a strategy for cooperation in the area;

(b) In conformity with the Declaration of Cartagena de Indias and the Plan of Action adopted by the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas, one of the priorities of the Pro Tempore Secretariat has been the promotion of cooperation programmes for the prevention and relief of natural disasters. In that connection, in pursuance of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, regional participation in the various action teams, in particular the team concerned with the subject, has been encouraged. In the subregional area, contacts will be established with the recently created Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Relief (CAPRADE) to seek information about its work programmes, unify activities and perhaps formulate strategies for the utilization of information and the establishment or improvement of the management of disaster prevention and relief networks;

(c) Lastly, without prejudice to the results of the current consultations on the future creation of a mechanism for regional consultation on space matters, the Pro Tempore Secretariat considers that it would be desirable to seek from the Governments of Brazil and Mexico, and from the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the information and support necessary to allow advantage to be taken of the progress made so far with the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to link the region with the general process of training and awareness-raising on space subjects.

V. Management of natural disasters

12. In the area of natural disasters, it has been possible to identify a methodology for the utilization of 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”), which makes available to countries affected by emergencies resulting from disasters all the necessary space resources to take high-resolution images without cost in order to allow much more effective disaster prevention. This is an agreement between various space agencies such as the European Space Agency, the Argentine National Commission on Space Activities (CONAE), the National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) of France and others to provide high-resolution images free of charge so as to make possible more accurate prediction of natural disasters in emergency situations.

13. In Colombia, the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies, the institution responsible for management of the natural environment, benefited from this arrangement to obtain images relating to the Bolívar region of Colombia, with the result that the Institute will be able to carry out much more efficient preventive management in the future. The whole process was organized through the focal point of the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas.

14. Coordination must be established between the various States and the available space instruments, and specifically the International Charter “Space and Major Disasters”, to allow information to be exchanged promptly and efficiently in the interests of better disaster management in the Latin American region. An early warning system must also be established on the coasts of Latin American countries in order to prevent disasters such as the tsunami that occurred in Southern Asia.

15. The region of the Americas is susceptible to disasters because of its particular geographical and natural configuration. Many countries in the region lack space-based early warning systems, owing mainly to factors such as the lack of training of persons to work in the areas in the various States.

VI. Development of the use of global navigation satellite systems in the Latin American region

16. The series of regional workshops sponsored jointly by the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the Government of the United States of America is focused on specific applications of existing global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) and future developments with the aim of enhancing the global environment and programmes for sustainable development and promoting a thorough knowledge of satellite navigation applications in developing countries.

17. GNSS systems include the Global Positioning System (GPS), the Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS) of the Russian Federation and the Galileo project of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States. The applications include monitoring of the environment, precision agriculture, remote sensing and mapping, conservation of resources and disaster management.

18. In parallel with the work being done by international seminars, meetings of the Action Team on Global Navigation Satellite Systems are being held with the purpose of drawing up plans and programmes to encourage the use of such systems in developing countries. As a result of the work that has been in progress since 2001, when the seminar for Asia and the Pacific was held, various documents have been prepared on the basis of the recommendations of the participating experts, the majority from developing countries.

19. An important recommendation made at the meeting held in December 2004 concerned the establishment of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems, whose functions, membership, rules of procedure and so on are currently being worked out, the details to be finalized by the Action Team on Global Navigation Satellite Systems and participants in the seminars.

20. Under the cooperation agreement between the Pro Tempore Secretariat and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Colombia took part in the workshops on the use and applications of GNSS as described below.

21. The Third United Nations/United States of America Workshop on the Use and Applications of Global Satellite Navigation Systems was held in Santiago from 1 to 5 April 2002 for the benefit of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Pro Tempore Secretariat made presentations on the interoperability of GNSS as a solution for navigation in Latin America and on the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS): achievements and prospects; and chaired a session on the use and applications of GNSS in civil aviation.

22. At the United Nations/United States of America International Meeting of Experts on the Use and Applications of Global Navigation Satellite Systems, held in Vienna from 11 to 15 November 2002, the Pro Tempore Secretariat participated in the discussions of the groups dealing with transportation, education and institutional consciousness.

23. At the Joint Meeting of the Action Team on Global Navigation Satellite Systems and GNSS experts of United Nations/United States regional workshops and the International Meeting 2001-2002, held in Vienna from 8 to 12 December 2003, participation included a presentation on GNSS implementation, plan and projects in Colombia; discussions of the Working Group on Transportation and presentation of its final report in plenary; and the SIRGAS project: developing a network among Latin American countries and links with the European Position Determination System (EUPOS); a proposal for a regional seminar on implementation and use of GNSS systems in the framework of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas; and a proposal for the development of pilot plans for the use of satellite navigation technologies and the improvement of navigation on the Magdalena River using satellite navigation.

24. At the United Nations/United States of America International Meeting on the Use and Applications of Global Navigation Satellite Systems, held in Vienna from 13 to 17 December 2004, participation included the following presentations: GNSS navigation for the Magdalena River: progress report; the present status of the SIRGAS project; the international GNSS workshop for the Americas; a proposal for Colombia's first satellite; the Cubesat, an educational programme for developing an academic satellite that has a navigation payload; and chairing the working group to review the follow-up of projects and initiatives taken since December 2003.

25. Commitments derived from the active participation of Colombia in the various seminars are:

(a) Promotion of and support for pilot plans for the use of GNSS technologies, in particular the project for improving navigation on the Magdalena River through the application of satellite navigation systems. In connection with this item, a project proposal developed jointly with staff from the National Institute for Roads and Communications (INVIAS), the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies, the National University and the Cormagdalena corporation has been submitted to the Ministry of Transport. The next activity will consist of:

(i) Presentation of the Magdalena River project to the Ministry of Transport, the National Institute for Roads and Communications, the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies, the Agustín Codazzi Geographical Institute and the National University for comments on the proposal;

(ii) Establishment of a joint agenda;

(b) Continuation and reinforcement of the SIRGAS project;

(c) Continuation with the project for the first Colombian academic satellite with a navigation payload.

VII. Evaluation of Latin American aerospace experience

26. In keeping with the principles of the Declaration of Cartagena de Indias and the Plan of Action, a seminar on aerospace experience: a programme of aerospace activities for Colombia was held during the Second International Aeronautical Fair "Colombia F-Air 2004", held in Rionegro, Antioquia, Colombia, from 24 to 27 June

2004, organized by the Colombian Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas. Four areas were considered: regulation and legislation, telecommunications, remote sensing of the Earth and radio navigation.

27. At the seminar, United Nations experts and directors of space agencies of various countries of the region were present. During the event, an extensive description of space experience in the region was given and the priorities and needs of each country in that regard, as well as the benefits that such technologies bring in various sectors, were discussed, emphasis being placed on the strategic importance of specific space policies for our countries.

28. Based on the contributions of the international experts and the debates and conclusions of the working groups, international agencies participating in the event presented a thematic proposal for the development of a programme of space activities for Colombia.

29. The aim of the recommendations was to encourage the adoption of a space policy for Colombia, placing great emphasis on international cooperation and taking advantage of the useful framework provided by the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas, which can use the experience of other Latin American countries, with the overall objective of generating a long-term vision and in the hope that the implementation of the policy will have a significant impact on the economic and social development of the country.

30. The recommendations of the working group included the following:

(a) There was an urgent need to have a body representing all the sectors mentioned that, taking due account of all the interests involved, will cooperate with the national service to be established in the area and serve as coordinator between the various sectors of the public administration with a role to play in the field. A list of functions that such a representative body could perform was annexed to the recommendations;

(b) It would be desirable to develop and spread knowledge of the sciences relating to outer space and the undeniable benefits associated with the application of space technology to various areas of national activity;

(c) The participants were firmly convinced of the great importance of Colombia devoting attention to space policy and space applications in the interests of the economic and social development of the country;

(d) The need was stressed in the group for Colombia to continue its efforts to establish a body responsible for space matters with the task of coordinating and maintaining a dialogue with the various agencies with a view to the establishment of agreements and organization of other activities aimed at promoting space issues in Colombia;

(e) The international community should be made aware of the concern of the Government of Colombia that outer space should be used for peaceful purposes and, in line with that, agreed proposals should be developed to reflect the position of Colombia in the international context, which would imply the review and ratification of international agreements;

(f) It would be important to involve the various sectors concerned in the development of space matters, whether governmental, private, civil, military,

academic or economic, in the discussion and development of national policies, projects, programmes and other initiatives directed towards that aim;

(g) In parallel with the above, a questionnaire was developed for gathering information on the concerns and needs, resources and projects of the member countries in order to appropriately channel possible regional cooperation and establish more effective relations with the various agencies that could provide training and financing. Up to the present time, the countries that have replied to the questionnaire sent through Colombian embassies are Argentina, Brazil and Canada;

(h) Following the seminar and on the basis of the recommendations of the participants and the representatives of other countries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a number of meetings (on 2 August, 14 September, 22 October and 16 November 2004 and 24 January 2005) with national agencies, the private sector and research groups. As a result of those meetings and after the preparation of a comparative study with other countries, it was agreed that a draft decree should be prepared for the establishment of an intersectoral committee on aerospace issues and policies.

31. On 19 January 2005, with the support of national agencies, a meeting was held with the Vice-President, Francisco Santos. As a result of that meeting, it was decided that the national agencies should seek to arrive at a full consensus on the subject and it was suggested that the administrative structure of the Colombian Commission on the Ocean should be taken as a model.

VIII. Participation of the Pro Tempore Secretariat in meetings on space law

32. The Pro Tempore Secretariat attended the workshop on capacity-building in space law organized by the United Nations and the International Institute of Air and Space Law in The Hague from 18 to 21 November 2002, which identified appropriate measures and possible areas of priority for the different regions and sources of technical assistance for the developing countries. On that occasion, a presentation was made of the most important elements of the Declaration of Cartagena de Indias and the Plan of Action.

33. The Pro Tempore Secretariat also participated in a workshop on space law organized by the United Nations and the Republic of Korea for countries of the Asia and the Pacific region in Daejeon, Republic of Korea, from 3 to 6 November 2003. The main objectives of the workshop were to promote understanding, acceptance and implementation of the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space, especially in Asia and the Pacific, and to discuss the implementation of the United Nations treaties on outer space at the national level. The occasion was used to present the results of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas.

34. In order to implement paragraph 16 of the Declaration of Cartagena de Indias, the Pro Tempore Secretariat has sent a questionnaire to all the countries of the region to obtain information on priorities and areas of interest, as well as on human resources, existing research centres, projects in progress and focal points.

35. Concrete efforts are also being made to increase understanding of international space legislation, the peaceful uses of space, the advances taking place and the

prospects in the different areas. In that connection, legal studies are being undertaken, in cooperation with staff of the Colombian Civil Aviation Unit, on the evolution of international space law and on national space law developments in the member States of the Andean Community and in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru and the United States, and efforts are also being made to tackle new items on the agenda of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space involving the concept of the launching State, the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the related preliminary draft protocol on matters specific to space assets, as well as on priorities in remote sensing and on the desirability of drawing up a single convention on space matters.

IX. Telemedicine

36. At the present time, the Pro Tempore Secretariat is supporting the Apaporis telemedicine project of the Colombian National University, which will have a regional impact. The project is of great significance in view of its importance for countries such as Brazil and Peru. The project was therefore presented at the meeting of the Committee on Space Research held in July 2004. There is also a contact for the project in the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

37. So that the goals set by the Declaration of Cartagena de Indias can be achieved, the Pro Tempore Secretariat has urged the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in particular, to organize a symposium on satellite data integration in order to allow more accurate prediction of natural disasters in Latin America, as well as a symposium on the integration of various telemedicine projects in the Latin American region to support efforts to establish satisfactory medical service coverage in the Americas.

X. Tele-education and space

38. The Pro Tempore Secretariat has been participating actively in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in relation to space and society and to the subject of education and space, and in the latter area, during the fortieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in 2003, it proposed a series of activities it is hoped will become a reality. In that connection, and with the cooperation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, work is proceeding on a joint project that will allow progress in the identification of teaching material existing in the space agencies and its possible translation and dissemination in Latin America and the Caribbean. Also planned is the organization of a seminar in Colombia for the purpose of developing a pilot educational broadcasting programme to help make secondary school pupils aware of the importance of the applications of space science and technology.

XI. The 2005 Space Camp of the Americas

39. The 2005 Space Camp of the Americas will take place in the municipality of Mejillones, Chile, from 23 to 31 July 2005. The purpose of the camp is to inform

participants about the history of astronautics worldwide and nationally, describing the landmarks, pioneers and protagonists of the space era. Students will have an opportunity to study climatology and to learn about the factors determining climate on Earth and on the planets of the solar system.

40. The camp will deal with subjects such as the geology of the Earth and the planets and will introduce students to the control and tracking of space missions, including satellites and probes for the exploration of deep space, together with elements of robotics and automatic space missions.

XII. Centres for space education in Mexico and Brazil

41. The Pro Tempore Secretariat has always been at the disposal of the regional centres for space education existing in the region, in Brazil and Mexico, and is hoping for an enhanced contribution from them and further interaction with the Pro Tempore Secretariat.

XII. Web page

42. The Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas has created a web page containing the key documents of the Conference and relevant information on the Plan of Action (<http://www.minrelext.gov.co/ivcea/>). The web page is structured as follows (Spanish only): Documentos Oficiales, Proyectos, Contactos con Países, Grupo de Apoyo Internacional, Eventos, Otros Sitios de Interés.

XIV. The Pro Tempore Secretariat and the evolution of space science and technology in Colombia

43. Detailed evaluations of space applications in Colombia are taking place in cooperation with a number of institutions, in particular the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Communications, Colciencias and others. A very clear map has been prepared of the components of the information infrastructure, transport networks, satellite networks and access networks, as well as computer networks and user terminals. Also included are more detailed data on the regulation of satellite services at the global level and at the level of the Americas and the Andean Community, as well as on the bodies responsible for coordination with international organizations. The national regulations on satellite resources and the various relevant provisions, regulations and rules are found in a document entitled "Space science and technology in Colombia". With regard to the Agustín Codazzi Geographical Institute and the application of space technologies in geodesy and remote sensing of the Earth, a full study has been made of the basic projects of the Institute in the space area, such as the strengthening of the system for the mapping of the Colombian territory; the development of the Colombian space data infrastructure; the network of permanent high-position GPS stations; and present and future requirements.

44. As the agency responsible for the efficient management of air traffic, the Civil Aviation Unit, reacting to current world developments in the use of satellite technology, is working on a series of projects of regional and subregional scope which are in line with the Declaration of Cartagena de Indias.

45. The Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies, as a central point of Colombia's environmental system, provides an important data-processing and telecommunication infrastructure and an institutional model unique in the world, with an integrated, systemic structure that could be emulated by countries of the region. The National Navy of Colombia has applied space science and technology efficiently in communications supported by the integrated satellite network.

XV. Fifth Space Conference of the Americas—Ecuador 2006

46. The Government of Ecuador has officially announced that it will host the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas, scheduled for 2006. The Government of Chile will hold a preparatory conference in Santiago during the International Air and Space Fair to be held in Santiago in March 2006. With the agreement of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, an expert support group has been set up for the organization of the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas, consisting of:

(a) Byron Morejón-Almeida (Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations (Vienna), representing the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas);

(b) Sergio Camacho (Office for Outer Space Affairs);

(c) Raimundo González Aninat (Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations (Vienna));

(d) Ciro Arévalo Yepes (Deputy Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations (Vienna)), Vice-Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

(e) Mauricio Fea (European Space Agency);

(f) Walter Lichem (European Association for the International Space Year).

Notes

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/57/20), annex II.*

² *Ibid.*, para. 71.