



General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Forty-ninth session
Vienna, 7-16 June 2006

Draft report

Chapter I Introduction

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its forty-ninth session in Vienna from 7 to 16 June 2006. The officers of the Committee were as follows:

<i>Chairman:</i>	Gérard Brachet (France)
<i>First Vice-Chairman:</i>	Elöd Both (Hungary)
<i>Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur:</i>	Paul R. Tiendrébéogo (Burkina Faso)

The unedited verbatim transcripts of the meetings of the Committee are contained in documents COPUOS/T.550- [...].

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-third session in Vienna from 20 February to 3 March 2006, under the chairmanship of B. N. Suresh (India). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/869).

3. The Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had held its forty-fifth session in Vienna from 3 to 13 April 2006, under the chairmanship of Raimundo González Aninat (Chile). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/871). The unedited verbatim transcripts of the meetings of the Subcommittee are contained in documents COPUOS/Legal/T.731-747.



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-third session.
 9. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-fifth session.
 10. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
 11. Space and society.
 12. Space and water.
 13. Recommendations of the World Summit on the Information Society.
 14. Other matters.
 15. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Election of officers

5. At the 550th meeting, on 7 June, Gérard Brachet (France) was elected Chairman of the Committee, Elöd Both (Hungary) was elected its First Vice-Chairman and Paul R. Tiendrébéogo (Burkina Faso) was elected its Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur, each for a two-year term of office.
6. Also at the 550th meeting, the Committee endorsed the election of B. N. Suresh (India) as Chairman of the forty-third session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, Mazlan Othman (Malaysia) as Chairman of the forty-fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Raimundo González Aninat (Chile) as Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee for a two-year term of office.

D. Membership

7. 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, 57/116 of 11 December 2002 and 59/116 of 10 December 2004 and decision 45/315 of 11 December 1990, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was composed of the following 67 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, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 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, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

E. Attendance

8. Representatives of the following [...] States members of the Committee attended the session: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, 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, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and [...].

9. At its 550th, 551st, 552nd and [...] meetings, the Committee decided to invite, at their request, representatives of Angola, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, the Holy See, Israel, Switzerland, Tunisia and [...] to attend its forty-ninth 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.

10. Representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and [...] attended the session.

11. The session was also attended by representatives of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), the International Space University (ISU), the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), Spaceweek International Association (SIA) and [...].

12. The invited representative of the secretariat of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) also attended the session.

13. 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/XLIX/INF/1.

F. General statements

14. Statements were made by representatives of the following States members of the Committee during the general exchange of views: Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa, Thailand, Ukraine, United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). The representative of Switzerland also made a statement. Statements were also made by the representatives of ESPI and ISPRS.

15. The Committee welcomed the election of Gérard Brachet (France) as its Chairman, Elöd Both (Hungary) as its First Vice-Chairman and Paul R. Tiendrébéogo (Burkina Faso) as its Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur.

16. The Committee expressed its appreciation to its outgoing Chairman, Adigun Ade Abiodun (Nigeria), to its outgoing First Vice-Chairman, Ciro Arévalo Yepes (Colombia), and to its outgoing Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur, Parviz Tarikhi (Islamic Republic of Iran), for their leadership during their terms of office.

17. The Committee expressed its condolences to the Government of Indonesia for the loss of human life and property resulting from the recent earthquake in that country.

18. The Committee congratulated the Russian Federation on the forty-fifth anniversary of the first manned flight into outer space made by cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin on 12 April 1961.

19. The Committee also congratulated the United States of America on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first flight of the Space Shuttle on 12 April 1981.

20. The Committee congratulated Brazil on the space flight of its first astronaut on 30 March 2006.

21. At the 550th meeting, on 7 June, the Chairman made a statement outlining the work of the Committee at its current session. The Chairman noted that the Committee had aligned many of its activities with the global development goals set by the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, held at United Nations Headquarters from 6 to 8 September 2000, articulated by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, and reaffirmed by the 2005 World Summit, held at United Nations Headquarters from 14 to 16 September 2005. The Chairman also noted that the celebration of the fiftieth session of the Committee, in 2007, would be an excellent opportunity to pay tribute to the accomplishments made in the first 50 years since the dawn of the space age and to reflect on possible future developments for the next 50 years.

22. At the 550th meeting, 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. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Director and his staff for the services provided and work conducted by the Office in the previous year.

23. At the 550th meeting, the representative of the United States of America showed the Committee a video on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Space Shuttle programme.

24. The Committee heard a presentation under the general exchange of views on “The Sentinel Asia project for establishing a disaster management support system in the Asia-Pacific region”, by K. Kaku of Japan.

G. Adoption of the report of the Committee

25. After considering the various items before it, the Committee, at its [...] meeting, on [...], 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

26. In accordance with paragraph 39 of General Assembly resolution 60/99 of 8 December 2005, the Committee continued its consideration, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

27. The representatives of India and the United States made statements during the discussion on this item. During the general exchange of views, statements were also made on this item by the representatives of the following member States: [...].

28. The Committee noted with satisfaction the agreement of the General 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 Conference of the Americas and the role that space technology could play in the implementation of recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

29. With regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Committee noted that, based on the input provided by member States of the Committee and entities of the United Nations system, the Office for Outer Space Affairs had continued to update the list of space-related initiatives and programmes that corresponded to recommendations contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.¹ The Committee agreed that the Office should

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), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

continue to update the list, which is available on the website of the Office (www.uncosa.unvienna.org/iamos/2006/wssd_2006.doc).

30. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Government of Ecuador would be hosting the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas in Quito from 25 to 28 July 2006 and that the Government of Chile, with the support of the Government of Colombia, UNESCO and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, had organized a preparatory meeting for the Conference during the International Air and Space Fair held in Santiago on 28 and 29 March 2006.

31. Some delegations were of the view that the benefits of space technology and its applications should contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, particularly in developing ones.

32. The view was expressed that the consideration of all issues affecting the peaceful uses of outer space, including the use of applications of space technology for the sustainable growth and development of all States, would require the consideration by the Committee of the possibility of establishing a practical mechanism for coordinating and harmonizing its work with other related bodies, such as the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament.

33. The view was expressed that, in order to maintain the peaceful, responsible and international character of the field of outer space, the Committee should promote greater transparency in the space activities being undertaken by various States.

34. The view was expressed that the Committee should play a key role in disseminating and promoting the peaceful uses of outer space through the contributions that it was making and should continue to make towards consolidating and perfecting the ethical principles and legal instruments that could guarantee the non-discriminatory use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes.

35. The view was expressed that the Committee had been created exclusively to promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and that disarmament aspects of outer space were more appropriately dealt with in other forums, such as the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament.

36. The view was expressed that calls for the placement of weapons in outer space would inevitably lead to suspiciousness and tension among States and the destruction of a climate of trust and cooperation and that, therefore, the discussion on maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes should continue to be held by the Committee.

37. The view was expressed that the introduction of weapons into outer space would undermine the concept of the peaceful uses of outer space, as well as the basis for, and the very logic of, the development of disarmament and non-proliferation mechanisms.

38. The view was expressed that the establishment of effective mechanisms, including legal mechanisms, could serve as an important obstacle to the militarization of outer space.

39. The view was expressed that reviewing ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes could be done by exploring ways to promote regional

and interregional cooperation based on the experiences of the Space Conference of the Americas, as well as by considering the role that space technology could play in the implementation of actions recommended in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

40. The view was expressed that space activities could contribute to the broad concept of security by maintaining the peaceful aspect of space technology development and fostering peaceful uses of outer space.

41. The view was expressed that, in order to further the objective of promoting the peaceful uses of outer space, the limited resources of outer space, such as geostationary orbital positions, should be shared equitably among countries.

42. The Committee recommended that, at its fiftieth session, in 2007, it should continue its consideration, on a priority basis, of the item on ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
