



General Assembly

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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Fiftieth session Vienna, 6-15 June 2007

Draft report

Chapter I Introduction

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its fiftieth session in Vienna from 6 to 15 June 2007. The officers of the Committee were as follows:

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| <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.566-____.

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-fourth session in Vienna from 12 to 23 February 2007, under the chairmanship of Mazlan Othman (Malaysia). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/890).

3. The Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had held its forty-sixth session in Vienna from 26 March to 5 April 2007, under the chairmanship of Raimundo González Aninat (Chile). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/891). The unedited verbatim transcripts of the meetings of the Subcommittee are contained in documents COPUOS/Legal/T.748-764.



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. Statement by the Chairman.
 4. General exchange of views.
 5. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
 6. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
 7. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session.
 8. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-sixth session.
 9. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
 10. Space and society.
 11. Space and water.
 12. International cooperation in promoting the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development.
 13. Other matters.
 14. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Membership

5. 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.

D. Attendance

6. Representatives of the following [56] 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, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

7. At its 566th and 568th meetings, the Committee decided to invite, at their request, representatives of Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, the Holy See, Paraguay, Switzerland, Tunisia and Yemen to attend its fiftieth 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.

8. Representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) attended the session.

9. The session was also attended by representatives of the African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing (AOCRS), the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), the Regional Centre for Remote Sensing of North African States (CRTEAN), the European Commission, the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), EURISY, the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), the International Organization of Space Communications (Intersputnik), the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), the National Space Society (NSS), Secure World Foundation (SWF), the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) and the World Space Week Association (WSWA).

10. 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.105/2007/INF/1.

E. General statements

11. Statements were made by representatives of the following States members of the Committee during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Austria, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Syrian Arab

Republic, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam. The representative of Colombia made a statement on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. The representative of Switzerland also made a statement. Statements were also made by the representatives of ESCAP, ESPI, IAF, ISPRS, ITU, NSS and SGAC.

12. The Committee highlighted the remarkable convergence of anniversaries of space activities in 2007, which included the fiftieth anniversary of the advent of the space age with the launch into outer space of the first artificial Earth satellite, Sputnik I, on 4 October 1957; the fortieth anniversary of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI), annex), which entered into force on 10 October 1967; the fiftieth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; and the fiftieth anniversary of the International Geophysical Year, which was commemorated by proclaiming 2007 International Heliophysical Year.

13. The Committee noted the instrumental role it had played in constructing the legal regime governing outer space activities for peaceful purposes, which was an entirely new branch of international law, and in providing a unique multilateral platform at the global level for enhancing international cooperation for the benefit of all countries, in particular in the area of using space applications for sustainable development.

14. At the 566th meeting, on 6 June, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna delivered the opening address to the Committee, in which he recalled the major achievements of the Committee in the history of space activities, the broad area of focus of the Committee and the desirability of a continued collective approach to advancing international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, which should include all relevant stakeholders, both public and private.

15. Also at the 566th meeting, the Chairman made a statement outlining the work of the Committee at its current session. The Chairman also noted that the celebration of the fiftieth session of the Committee was an excellent opportunity to pay tribute to the achievements of the first 50 years of the space age and to reflect on possible developments in the next 50 years. The Chairman emphasized that the Committee had played a major role in its 50 years of existence in shaping the international standards for space activities in many areas and that it was important to further strengthen this successful role of the Committee for the benefit of all countries.

16. At the 570th 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, including capacity-building in space law, outreach activities and cooperation and coordination with United Nations entities and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

17. The Committee expressed its appreciation and gratitude to Sergio Camacho, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, on the occasion of his retirement, for his outstanding dedication to the work of the Office and to the Committee, and wished him well in his future endeavours.

18. The Committee noted with gratitude the special events organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, including the special exhibition entitled “50 Years of Space Achievements”, documentaries made by members of the Committee and shown during the session, a photo exhibition on the history of the Committee and various outreach activities carried out during the session in celebration of the fiftieth session of the Committee with the generous support of member States and permanent observers.

19. During the general exchange of views the Committee heard a presentation on “Sentinel Asia contributing to disaster management support in the Asia-Pacific region”, by K. Kaku (Japan).

20. The Committee also heard a video message on the occasion of its fiftieth session from the Director of the Federal Space Agency of the Russian Federation.

F. Adoption of the report of the Committee

21. After considering the various items before it, the Committee, at its ___ meeting, on __ June, 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

22. In accordance with paragraph 36 of General Assembly resolution 61/111 of 14 December 2006, the Committee continued its consideration, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

23. 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 representatives of other member States.

24. The Committee noted with satisfaction the agreement of the General Assembly that, during its consideration of the matter, the Committee could continue to consider ways to promote regional and interregional cooperation based on experiences stemming from the Space Conference of the Americas, the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development and the role that space technology could play in the implementation of the recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.¹

25. 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

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).

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

26. 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.² The Committee agreed that the Office should continue to update the list, which is available on the website of the Office (www.uncosa.unvienna.org/wssd/index.html).

27. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Government of Ecuador had hosted the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas in Quito from 24 to 28 July 2006. The Conference had addressed the subjects of international space law, reduction and mitigation of natural disasters, protection of the environment, tele-health and epidemiology, space education and access to knowledge. In the Declaration of San Francisco de Quito, adopted at the conclusion of the Conference, States in Latin America and the Caribbean were invited to set up national space entities to lay the foundation for a regional entity for cooperation.

28. The Committee noted that the Government of Ecuador had established the pro tempore secretariat of the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas to carry out the plan of action of the Conference. It was also noted that the pro tempore secretariat would be assisted by the Government of Colombia, which had been the host of the Fourth Space Conference of the Americas, and the Government of Guatemala, which would be the host of the Sixth Space Conference of the Americas, in 2009.

29. The Committee also noted with satisfaction the plans of the Government of South Africa to host the Second African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, to be held in Pretoria from 26 to 29 August 2007. The Conference would, inter alia, examine the role of space technology in development programmes for Africa, the role of the African Union in bringing Africa into the global space enterprise, the current status and future development of the African Resource Management Constellation (ARM) and the status of national and regional capacity-building activities.

30. The Committee noted that the Convention establishing the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) had entered into force on 12 October 2006.

31. The Committee noted that international and regional cooperation in the field of space activities was essential to strengthen the peaceful use of outer space, to assist States in the development of their space capabilities and to contribute to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2).³

32. The view was expressed that the Committee should play a key role in disseminating information on 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

² *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

³ See A/56/326, annex, and A/58/323, annex.

guarantee the non-discriminatory use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes.

33. The view was expressed that climate change had an impact on international stability and security and that that issue should be considered within the framework of the programme of work of the Committee.

34. The view was expressed that General Assembly resolution 61/75 of 6 December 2006, entitled "Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities", was of relevance to the work of the Committee.

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

36. The view was expressed that the militarization of outer space would undermine the concept of sustainable development.

37. Some delegations were of the view 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 relevant United Nations entities, the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament.

38. The view was expressed that calls for the placement of weapons in outer space would inevitably lead to suspicion 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.

39. The view was expressed that the Legal Subcommittee should play a role in the adoption of further measures to prevent the introduction of weapons into, and an arms race in, outer space.

40. 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 issues were more appropriately dealt with in other forums, such as the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament.

41. The view was expressed that the best way to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes was to strengthen international cooperation with explicit respect to the safety and security of space assets.

42. 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.

43. The Committee recommended that, at its fifty-first session, in 2008, it should continue its consideration, on a priority basis, of the item on ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

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

44. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/111, the Committee considered the item on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

45. The representatives of Brazil, Canada, India and Japan made statements under the item. Representatives of other member States also made statements relating to this item during the general exchange of views and during discussions on the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session.

46. The Committee had before it, for its consideration, the revised draft text for the contribution of the Committee to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the thematic cluster 2008-2009 (A/AC.105/2006/CRP.4).

47. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/111, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-fourth 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).

48. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and its Working Group of the Whole with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

49. The Committee heard under this item a presentation entitled "Celebrations of World Space Week in Bangladesh, 2003-2006", by F. R. Sarker (WSWA).

50. The Committee emphasized the importance of implementing the Plan of Action contained in its report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (A/59/174, sect. VI.B), which had been endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 59/2 of 20 October 2004.

51. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/2, the Committee should continue to consider, in its future sessions, the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III until the Committee considered that concrete results had been achieved.

52. The Committee agreed that the recommendations of UNISPACE III were being effectively implemented through the use of multi-year workplans, the establishment of action teams and reports from ad hoc and other groups on their activities. The Committee agreed that that flexible approach enabled it to address a wide range of important and related issues.

53. The view was expressed that the Working Group of the Whole should focus its discussion on the implementation of the following three actions called for in the Plan of Action: maximizing the benefits of existing space capabilities for disaster management; maximizing the benefits of the use and applications of GNSS to support sustainable development; and enhancing capacity-building in space-related activities.

54. The Committee noted with appreciation that Member States were also contributing to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III through a number of national and regional activities and efforts, and that some Member States were contributing to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III by continuing to contribute to the work of the action teams established by the Committee to implement those recommendations. The Committee noted with satisfaction that, during its fiftieth session, the Action Teams on the Environmental Monitoring Strategy, on Public Health, and on Sustainable Development had met, and that the Action Team on Public Health had advanced its work, including through the establishment of a Web portal to facilitate the exchange of information.

55. The Committee also noted with appreciation that Member States were implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE III by, among other things, actively supporting and participating in the work related to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) 10-Year Implementation Plan, the efforts of the Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS) and CEOS.

56. The view was expressed that the presence of non-governmental entities and the willingness of experts to make special presentations had enriched the Committee and its subcommittees, and that ultimate success in implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE III would depend on their continued involvement.

57. The Committee noted with appreciation that the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (SPIDER) and the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) had been established as concrete results of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III. The Committee further noted that ICG had held its first meeting in Vienna on 1 and 2 November 2006 and had held a preparatory meeting on 5 June 2007 for its second meeting, to be held in Bangalore, India, from 4 to 7 September 2007. The report on the first meeting is contained in document A/AC.105/879. Progress made in the work on SPIDER is reflected in paragraphs [...] of the present report.

58. The Committee welcomed with satisfaction the link established 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.

59. The Committee noted with appreciation that the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had conducted a first review of the draft concise document relating to the issues to be addressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development in the period 2008-2009. On the basis of comments received from member States during the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee and other sources, in particular the report of the Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/874) and the report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system: directions and anticipated results for the period 2007-2008 (A/AC.105/886), a revised version of the draft document had been prepared (A/AC.105/2007/CRP.4).

60. In accordance with its decision taken at its forty-ninth session, the Committee reviewed and finalized, at its fiftieth session, its contribution to the issues to be addressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development in the period 2008-2009. The document will be made available in all languages to the sixteenth session of the

Commission, the review session of the third implementation cycle, to be held between 5 and 16 May 2008.

61. The Committee agreed to continue contributing to the policy year of each of the two-year cycles of the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and to consider its contribution to the work of the Commission in the period 2010-2011 at its sessions in 2008 and 2009. The Committee requested the Secretariat to develop a plan for optimizing its contributions to the thematic clusters, for consideration by the Working Group of the Whole during the forty-fifth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

62. The Committee agreed that the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat should continue to be invited to participate in the sessions of the Committee to advise on how best it could contribute to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and that the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs should attend the sessions of the Commission 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.

63. The Committee took note with appreciation of the reports by Member States and by WSWA on the promotion and organization of public outreach activities in celebration of World Space Week.

64. The Committee noted with appreciation that a report on the international celebration of World Space Week in 2006, prepared by WSWA in cooperation with the Office for Outer Space Affairs, had been made available in a special publication (ST/SPACE/35).