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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Fifty-first session
Vienna, 11-20 June 2008**

Draft report

Chapter II

Addendum

I. Other matters

1. The representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, the Czech Republic, France, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nigeria, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United States, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under this item. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to this item were also made by representatives of other member States.

1. Proposed strategic framework for the programme on the peaceful uses of outer space for the period 2010-2011

2. The Committee had before it for its consideration the proposed strategic framework for the programme on the peaceful uses of outer space for the period 2010-2011 (A/63/6 (Prog.5)).

3. The Committee agreed on the proposed strategic framework and made the following recommendations:

(a) Paragraph 5.4 (d)(i) should be amended to read as follows: "Increased number of countries requesting assistance in defining disaster management plans and policies with regard to the use of space-based technologies";

(b) Paragraph 5.5 (a) should be amended to read as follows: "Promoting greater awareness of and strengthening the international legal regime governing outer space activities and its implementation, including the development of national



space legislation, and promoting increased opportunities for education in space law”.

2. Composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2010-2011

4. In accordance with paragraph 55 of General Assembly resolution 62/217 and pursuant to the measures relating to the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies¹ as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/56 of 10 December 1997, the Committee considered the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2010-2011.

5. The Committee noted that the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had endorsed the candidature of Raimundo González (Chile) for the office of Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the period 2010-2011 (A/AC.105/2008/CRP.10).

6. The Committee noted that the Group of Western European and Other States had endorsed the candidature of Ulrich Huth (Germany) for the office of Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for the period 2010-2011 (A/AC.105/2008/CRP.11).

7. The Committee noted that the Group of Asian States had endorsed the candidature of Ahmad Talebzadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran) for the office of Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee for the period 2010-2011 (A/AC.105/2008/CRP.9).

8. The Committee noted that the Group of African States had agreed that South Africa should hold the position of First Vice-Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the period 2010-2011 and that its candidate would be nominated in the near future.

9. The Committee urged the Group of Eastern European States to nominate its candidate for the office of Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the period 2010-2011 in the near future.

3. Future role and activities of the Committee

10. The Committee recalled that, at its fiftieth session, in 2007, the Chairman of the Committee had submitted a working paper entitled “Future role and activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space” (A/AC.105/L.268 and Corr.1) and that fruitful discussions related to that working paper had been held.²

11. The Committee had before it a working paper submitted by the Czech Republic entitled “Comments on the working paper submitted by the Chairman on the future role and activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/AC.105/L.268 and Corr.1)”, which was contained in document A/AC.105/L.272.

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/52/20)*, annex I; see also *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/58/20)*, annex II, appendix III.

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/62/20)*, paras. 288-306.

12. The Committee noted that the delegation of France had informed the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-fifth session that it would propose a new item, entitled “Long-term sustainability of space activities”, to be included on the agenda of the Committee at its fifty-second session, for consideration under a multi-year workplan for the period 2009-2011.

13. The Committee also noted that an informal working group established by Gérard Brachet (France), comprising representatives of some member States and space-related international intergovernmental organizations, including commercial telecommunications providers, had held meetings on 7 and 8 February 2008 to discuss issues related to the long-term sustainability of space activities. The working group had decided to hold additional meetings and to prepare a comprehensive report in due course. Based on that report, the delegation of France intended to present to the Committee, at its fifty-second session, in 2009, a revised proposal for a multi-year agenda item.

14. Some delegations expressed their interest in contributing to the work of the informal working group.

15. Some delegations noted with concern that the proposed topic for that new agenda item included several issues that the Committee and its subcommittees were already considering under existing agenda items. Those delegations were of the view that it was therefore essential to define the exact scope of the proposed agenda item to avoid duplication of efforts.

16. The view was expressed that the proposed agenda item was relevant to the work of the Committee and appeared to attract great interest, in particular from commercial telecommunications providers. That delegation also noted that important aspects of space weather and the sustainability of space activities had not yet been considered by the Committee.

17. The Committee noted the invitation extended by the delegation of France to member States to participate in the second meeting of the informal working group, on the margins of the 59th International Astronautical Congress, to be held in Glasgow, United Kingdom, from 29 September to 3 October 2008.

18. The Committee took note of the statement made by the French delegation, on behalf of the European Union, on the European Union joint reply in view of a code of conduct in outer space, transmitted to the General Assembly in September 2007 (A/62/114/Add.1), in response to General Assembly resolutions 61/58 of 6 December 2006, on prevention of an arms race in outer space, and 61/75 of 6 December 2006, on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities.

19. The Committee noted that the joint reply included the following main principles and objectives of such a code of conduct, in particular:

(a) A commitment to make progress towards adherence to and full implementation of the relevant existing treaties, codes of conduct and guidelines regarding the peaceful use of space;

(b) The development of best practices for safer traffic management;

(c) The development of measures to strengthen mutual understanding and confidence among spacefaring nations and actors and to develop means of

communication and consultation among them in order to avoid accidents and collisions involving space objects;

(d) The code of conduct for outer space would be voluntary and the European Union considered it to be a contribution towards an international non-binding code of conduct for outer space activities.

20. Some delegations expressed the view that there was a clear conceptual link between the activities proposed by France related to the long-term sustainability of space activities and the activities undertaken by the European Union related to the code of conduct. It was therefore essential to ensure proper coordination to avoid duplication of efforts.

21. Some delegations expressed the view that the link between the code of conduct and the existing body of international space law needed to be clarified to avoid the danger of the fragmentation of international law.

22. Some delegations expressed their interest in contributing to the work on the code of conduct currently taking place at the expert level. Those delegations were of the view that the interests of developing countries needed to be taken into account adequately.

23. The Committee was of the view that all these matters merited further consideration by the Committee.

4. Proposed new items on the agenda of the Committee

24. The Committee noted that the proposal made by the delegation of France to include a new multi-year item, entitled "Long-term sustainability of space activities", on the agenda of the Committee at its fifty-second session had been postponed and that France would present a revised proposal to the Committee at its fifty-second session, in 2009.

25. The Committee noted a proposal made by the delegation of India, supported by other delegations, to include a new item, entitled "Space and climate change", on the agenda of the Committee. The Committee agreed to include this new item on the agenda of the Committee at its fifty-second session.

26. The Committee noted a proposal made by the delegation of the United States, supported by other delegations, to include a new item, entitled "Use of space technology in the United Nations system", on the agenda of the Committee. Under that agenda item, the Chairman of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities should report to the Committee on the work of the Inter-Agency Meeting, and United Nations entities should be invited to inform the Committee on their space-related work. The Committee agreed to include this new item on the agenda of the Committee at its fifty-second session.

5. Observer status

27. The Committee noted that the European Telecommunications Satellite Organization and the European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere, both intergovernmental organizations, had applied for permanent observer status with the Committee and that related correspondence and the statutes of those organizations had been made available during the current

session of the Committee in conference room papers A/AC.105/2008/CRP.4 and A/AC.105/2008/CRP.7 respectively.

28. The Committee also noted the applications for permanent observer status with the Committee by the following international non-governmental organizations: the International Institute of Space Law, the Secure World Foundation, and the Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water. The Committee had before it related correspondence and the statutes of those organizations in conference room papers A/AC.105/2008/CRP.5, A/AC.105/2008/CRP.6 and A/AC.105/2008/CRP.8 respectively.

29. The Committee decided to recommend the granting of permanent observer status to the European Telecommunications Satellite Organization and the European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere.

30. The Committee decided to recommend the granting of permanent observer status to the International Institute of Space Law, the Secure World Foundation and the Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water, on the understanding that, in accordance with the agreement of the Committee at its thirty-third session concerning observer status for non-governmental organizations and in accordance with the practice established by the Committee, those entities would apply for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

31. The Committee agreed on the need to review its rules and procedures on the granting of permanent observer status, and agreed that non-governmental organizations that had been granted permanent observer status with the Committee should inform the Committee of any progress that they had made in obtaining consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

J. Schedule of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

32. The Committee agreed on the following tentative timetable for its session and those of its subcommittees in 2009:

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	9-20 February 2009	Vienna
Legal Subcommittee	23 March-3 April 2009	Vienna
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	3-12 June 2009	Vienna