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

Chapter II

Recommendations and decisions

F. Space and society

1. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “Space and society”, in accordance with paragraph 48 of General Assembly resolution 63/90. The Committee focused its discussions on the theme “Space and education”, in accordance with the workplan adopted by the Committee at its forty-sixth session, in 2003.
2. The representatives of Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Hungary, India, Nigeria, South Africa, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and the United States made statements under the item. Representatives of other member States also made statements relating to this item during the general exchange of views. Statements were also made by the observers for EURISY, UNESCO and UNIDIR.
3. The Committee heard the following presentations:
 - (a) “Building peace in young minds through space education: contributions of the JAXA Space Education Centre to human development”, by the representative of Japan;
 - (b) “Polish students’ space activities”, by the representatives of Poland;
 - (c) “Astronomy, the Great Canary Telescope and dark skies”, by the representative of Spain;
 - (d) “Introduction of a tool for space education”, by the representative of Japan;



(e) “From quarks to the universe – the Big Bang in the lab”, by the representative of Germany.

4. The Committee agreed that sharing scientific and technical knowledge and achievements in the field of space activities would have a positive impact on future generations.

5. The Committee noted the important role of space education for inspiring students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, for strengthening national capabilities in the fields of science and industry and for enhancing educational opportunities using distance-learning technologies such as tele-education and e-learning.

6. The Committee noted that a number of national tele-education initiatives were providing educators and students at all levels, including those in remote areas, with high-quality education incorporating the latest teaching resources, vocational and teacher training and adult education.

7. The Committee noted that there were a number of national and international educational initiatives, activities and scientific missions aimed at using content, materials and applications unique to space activities for training students and teachers and for educating the general public on matters relating to outer space.

8. The Committee noted the educational opportunities being provided by a number of national universities, including hands-on training opportunities for university and graduate students in space science and engineering.

9. The Committee noted with satisfaction that, at the global level, a large number of outreach activities and programmes for children, young people and the general public were being established by national space and educational organizations and international organizations to promote awareness of the benefits of space science and technology and to encourage children to consider careers in the fields of mathematics and science.

10. The Committee noted that data derived from outer space and services such as remote sensing and telecommunications were improving the lives of people throughout the world, including in remote and rural areas. The Committee also noted the important applications of space technology in many fields, such as distance education, health and medicine, weather forecasting, fisheries, disaster management, natural resource management, finance and banking.

11. The Committee noted that World Space Week, observed from 4 to 10 October each year pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/68, contributed to the development of education and provided an important opportunity to sensitize the young people and the general public to the benefits of space science and technology.

12. The Committee noted the activities carried out at the regional level for capacity-building through education and training in space science and technology applications for sustainable development.

13. The Committee noted the programmes being implemented in the context of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) aimed at enhancing space subjects and disciplines in schools and universities, in particular in developing countries, and raising awareness among the general public

of the benefits of space science and technology for social, economic and cultural development.

14. The Committee noted that the exchange of information and experiences on a variety of initiatives relating to space education in a broader context, such as the exchange in the Committee and its Subcommittees, was extremely useful and should continue. In this connection, the Committee agreed that it was important to identify specific new priority areas where additional efforts could have a greater impact on enhancing space awareness, not only among young people but also among a broader audience.

15. The Committee noted the role played by the International Space Station in education and in reaching out to education communities worldwide.

16. The Committee recalled General Assembly resolution 55/2, in which the Assembly adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and noted that illiteracy and a lack of adequate education continued to constitute major problems for developing countries.

17. Some delegations were of the view that in many developing countries the field of outer space was perceived as an elite sector detached from society and daily life. Such a perception would present a challenge to the advancement of space awareness and advocacy programmes to ensure public acceptance and appreciation of the broad range of societal benefits derived from space science and technology.

18. The view was expressed that States should be encouraged to improve the dissemination of space-related educational materials in order to increase general awareness of the importance of the use of space science and technology for attaining sustainable development.

19. The Committee noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 62/200, had declared 2009 International Year of Astronomy and that a number of States used the Year to highlight the importance of the use of space science and technology while strengthening international cooperation in space education. A number of successful initiatives were reported, such as dedicated national websites, software programmes, special issues of scientific magazines, television broadcasts, stamps, poster contests and several coordinated initiatives among partners from government, academia and civil society.

20. The Committee agreed that, in view of the importance of the theme "Space and education", it would continue to consider the special theme at its fifty-third session, in 2010.

G. Space and water

21. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled "Space and water", in accordance with paragraph 49 of General Assembly resolution 63/90.

22. The representatives of Argentina, Austria, China, Germany, India, Japan and Saudi Arabia made statements under the item. Representatives of other member States also made statements relating to this item during the general exchange of views.

23. The Committee was given a technical video presentation by the observer for the Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water.

24. In the course of the discussions, delegations reviewed national and cooperative water-related activities, giving examples of national programmes and bilateral, regional and international cooperation.

25. The Committee noted the broad spectrum of water-related issues, ranging from too little water, reducing populations and consequently food production, to too much water, causing floods and destruction. Space technology and its applications had an expanding potential to obtain information useful for scientific research on water-related issues, for the support of sound water management practices and for policy- and decision-making.

26. The Committee noted the large number of space-borne platforms used to address water-related issues, including those at the planning and theoretical stages. Data gathered by such platforms had great potential for expanding the use of applications of space technology to address water-related issues on Earth. The Committee further noted that space technology could be used in combination with non-space technologies to contribute to monitoring and mitigating the effects of flood, drought and earthquake disasters and to improving the timeliness and accuracy of forecasts.

27. The Committee noted that following the success of the United Nations/ UNESCO/Saudi Arabia International Conference on the Use of Space Technology for Water Management, held in Riyadh from 12 to 16 April 2008, the second international conference would be held in Argentina in April 2010. The Committee noted with appreciation that the Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water had committed \$30,000 for the holding of a conference on a biennial basis.

28. The Committee agreed to continue its consideration of the item at its fifty-third session, in 2010.

K. Other matters

29. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled "Other matters", in accordance with paragraph 52 of General Assembly resolution 63/90.

30. The representatives of Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Colombia, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, Romania, South Africa, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under the item.

31. The Committee noted with appreciation that the Government of Italy had organized a lunch-time round table on the theme "Astrophysics and cosmology 400 years after Galileo" during the session of the Committee.

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

32. In accordance with the agreement of the Committee at its forty-sixth session, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/89, and pursuant to the measures relating to the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary

bodies as endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 52/56, the Committee considered the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2010-2011.

33. The Committee agreed that Dimitru-Dorin Prunariu (Romania), Nomfuneko Majaja (South Africa) and Raimundo González Aninat (Chile) should be elected to the offices of Chairman, First Vice-Chairperson and Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space respectively, that Ulrich Huth (Germany) should be elected to the office of Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and that Ahmad Talebzadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran) should be elected to the office of Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee.

2. Observer status

34. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly, at its sixty-fourth session, the granting of permanent observer status to the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization. The related correspondence and statutes of that intergovernmental organization were before the Committee in conference room paper A/AC.105/2009/CRP.9.

35. The Committee took note of the application of the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety, a non-governmental organization, for permanent observer status with the Committee. The related correspondence and the statutes of that organization were before the Committee in conference room paper A/AC.105/2009/CRP.8.

36. The Committee recalled that at its fifty-first session, in 2008, it had agreed that non-governmental organizations that had been granted permanent observer status with the Committee should inform the Committee of any progress made in obtaining consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.¹

37. The Committee had before it conference room paper A/AC.105/2009/CRP.11, containing information from non-governmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee regarding their consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

38. Some delegations expressed the view that the granting of permanent observer status with the Committee to non-governmental organizations should be undertaken in an orderly and regulated manner, in compliance with the guidelines established by the Committee at its thirty-third session, in 1990, and that a review should also be carried out of the way in which those organizations had contributed to the work of the Committee following their admission.

39. Some delegations were of the view that the Committee should not require non-governmental organizations to have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. Those delegations were of the view that that criterion was inadequate and restrictive.

40. Some delegations were of the view that the Committee, as part of the United Nations system, should observe the procedure relating to the obtaining of

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/63/20), para. 313.*

consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with Council resolution 1996/31.

41. Some delegations were of the view that the following criteria were necessary for the consideration by the Committee of applications by non-governmental organizations for permanent observer status with the Committee: a letter from authorities of the State in which the non-governmental organization is registered, confirming that it has an international character; established offices and clear contact information; and clear evidence that the applicant would be concerned with matters falling within the competence of the Committee.

42. Some delegations were of the view that it was important to seek guidance from the Economic and Social Council on the criteria for consultative observer status of non-governmental organizations.

43. Some delegations were of the view that it was necessary to establish an ad hoc working group, consisting of member States, to develop new rules and procedures on the granting by the Committee of permanent observer status to non-governmental organizations.

44. The Committee agreed to review, at its fifty-third session, in 2010, its rules and procedures on the granting of permanent observer status.

45. The Committee agreed that it was important to continue to involve civil society in its work and recognized the value of the contribution made by its permanent observers.

3. Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the first session of the Committee and the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight

46. The Committee noted that the fiftieth anniversary of the first session of the Committee, as well as the fiftieth anniversary of the first human space flights, would take place in 2011 and agreed that those historic milestones should be commemorated during its fifty-fourth session.

47. The Committee noted with appreciation that a special commemorative stamp series would be issued by the United Nations Postal Administration in 2011.

48. The Committee agreed that the Office for Outer Space Affairs should assist member States in the coordination of commemorative activities that member States may wish to organize during the sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees in 2011.