



# General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
**Fifty-fourth session**  
Vienna, 1-10 June 2011

## **Draft report**

## **Chapter II**

## **Recommendations and decisions**

### **J. Future role of the Committee**

1. In accordance with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 65/97, the Committee considered a new item entitled “Future role of the Committee”.
2. The Committee recalled that in paragraph 28 of that resolution, the Assembly had noted with satisfaction that the working paper by the Chair of the Committee for the period 2008-2009, entitled “Towards a United Nations space policy”, would be considered by the Committee at its fifty-fourth session.
3. The Committee recalled the agreement reached at its fifty-third session to include a new item entitled “Future role of the Committee” on the agenda for its fifty-fourth session, for one year only, to enable the Committee to consider that working paper further.
4. The Chair of the Committee for the period 2008-2009, the second Vice-Chair of the Committee for the period 2010-2011 and the representatives of Brazil, China, the Czech Republic and Mexico made statements under the item.
5. The Chair of the Committee for the period 2008-2009, *Ciro Arévalo Yepes* (Colombia), outlined that the working paper (A/AC.105/L.278) represented (a) a conceptual framework document that could address concerns related to space affairs, in particular for countries with emerging space capabilities; (b) a forward-looking platform projecting future space-related activities not only within the Committee but also at the national, regional and interregional levels; and (c) an evolving document that would be enriched over the course of space activities and that could be revisited by the Committee in the future.



6. The view was expressed that it would be beneficial to enhance systematization of the document and consider expanding the document to include elements related to sustainable development.
7. The view was expressed that the work on the document could continue in the framework of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.
8. The view was expressed that with regard to the future role of the Committee, the work of the Committee should follow a pluralistic approach and allow the discussion of items of interest to its member States.
9. The view was expressed that the Committee should enhance its activities in the area of space law in order to adapt to developing trends in space activities, and expand its work in the area of improving space capabilities of developing countries and introducing innovative working methodologies.
10. The Committee agreed to continue its consideration of the item at its fifty-fifth session, in 2012, for one year only, and requested the Chair of the Committee for the period 2008-2009 to present an updated version of the working paper for consideration by the Committee at its fifty-fifth session.

## **K. Other matters**

11. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled "Other matters", in accordance with General Assembly resolution 65/97.

12. The representatives of China, the Czech Republic, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under the item. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to that item were also made by representatives of other member States, the representative of Colombia on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the representative of Hungary on behalf of the European Union. The observer for Azerbaijan made a statement. A statement was also made by the representative of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Association of Remote Sensing Centres in the Arab World.

### **1. Composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the periods 2012-2013 and 2014-2015**

13. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 65/97 and pursuant to the measures relating to the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies<sup>1</sup> as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/56, the Committee considered the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2012-2013.

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<sup>1</sup> *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.*

14. The Committee recalled the nominations for the offices of Chair of the Committee, First Vice-Chair of the Committee and Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee made at its fifty-third session, in 2010, as noted in its report on that session.<sup>2</sup>

15. The Committee noted that the Group of Eastern European States had endorsed the candidature of Piotr Wolanski (Poland) for the office of Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur of the Committee for the period 2012-2013 (A/AC.105/2011/CRP.3).

16. The Committee noted that the Group of African States had endorsed the candidature of Tare Brisibe (Nigeria) for the office of Chair of the Legal Subcommittee for the period 2012-2013 (A/AC.105/2011/CRP.5).

17. The Committee agreed that for the period 2012-2013 Yasushi Horikawa (Japan), Filipe Duarte Santos (Portugal) and Piotr Wolanski (Poland) should be elected to the offices of Chair, First Vice-Chair and Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur of the Committee, respectively; that Félix Clementino Menicocci (Argentina) should be elected to the office of Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee; and that Tare Brisibe (Nigeria) should be elected to the office of Chair of the Legal Subcommittee.

18. The Committee also noted that the Group of Eastern European States had endorsed the candidature of Előd Both (Hungary) for the office of Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for the period 2014-2015 (A/AC.105/2011/CRP.4).

## **2. Membership of the Committee**

19. The Committee welcomed the application of Azerbaijan for membership of the Committee (see A/AC.105/2011/CRP.7).

20. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, in 2011, that Azerbaijan should become a member of the Committee.

## **3. Observer status**

21. The Committee welcomed the additional information provided by the Association of Remote Sensing Centres in the Arab World in accordance with the request made by the Committee at its fifty-third session, in 2010.<sup>3</sup> The application of the Association is contained in conference room papers A/AC.105/2010/CRP.5, A/AC.105/2011/CRP.6, A/AC.105/C.1/2011/CRP.18 and Add.1, and A/AC.105/C.2/2011/CRP.11.

22. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly, at its sixty-sixth session, grant to the Association of Remote Sensing Centres in the Arab World the status of permanent observer of the Committee.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/65/20), paras. 301-303.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., para. 310.

23. In accordance with the agreement of the Committee at its fifty-third session, in 2011,<sup>4</sup> the Secretariat had prepared, on the basis of its contact with the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations of the Economic and Social Council and the information obtained from the web page of the NGO Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, a conference room paper (A/AC.105/2011/CRP.8) containing information on the process established for non-governmental organizations to obtain consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The Committee urged non-governmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee that had not yet initiated the application process for consultative status with the Council to do so in the nearest future.

24. The Committee reiterated its agreement reached at its fifty-third session, in 2010,<sup>5</sup> that observer status would be granted to non-governmental organizations on a provisional basis, for a period of three years, pending information on the status of their application for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, that the provisional observer status with the Committee could be extended for an additional year, if necessary and that it would grant permanent observer status to such non-governmental organizations upon confirmation of their consultative status with the Council.

#### **4. Organizational matters**

25. The Committee recalled that at its fifty-second session, in 2009, it had requested the Secretariat, in consultation with the members of its bureau and the bureaux of its subsidiary bodies, to consider how to rationalize and optimize the use of the time of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, taking into account the need to strike a balance between technical presentations, which brought great value, and the substantive consideration of the issues before the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, which required adequate time.

26. The Committee endorsed the recommendations made by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in paragraphs 216-220 in its report on its forty-eighth session<sup>6</sup> and those made by the Legal Subcommittee in paragraphs 194 and 196-198 of its report on its fiftieth session,<sup>7</sup> concerning the improvement and optimization of methods of work of those subsidiary bodies.

27. In accordance with the request made by the Committee at its fifty-third session, in 2010, the Committee considered a proposal made by the Secretariat to discontinue the use of unedited transcripts (A/AC.105/C.2/L.282) and agreed that the use of unedited transcripts should be discontinued, starting from its fifty-fifth session, in 2012, in accordance with that proposal.

28. The Committee agreed to apply to the organization of its work the same methods as proposed by the Scientific and Technical and Legal Subcommittees. In that regard, the Committee agreed that:

- (a) Maximum flexibility should be applied in the scheduling of items;

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid., para. 313.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., para. 311.

<sup>6</sup> A/AC.105/987.

<sup>7</sup> A/AC.105/990.

(b) As a general rule, statements should not exceed 10 minutes, and scientific and technical presentations should be closely linked to the agenda items of the Committee and should not exceed 15 minutes in duration. The Chair should remind delegations in case of time being exceeded, as appropriate;

(c) Member States and observers of the Committee should communicate to the Secretariat their wish to make scientific and technical presentations, and under which item the presentation is to be made, before the start of the session, in order to optimize the plan of work of the session. A list of presentations should be made available to all delegations on the first day of the session, for possible updating, and should be closed by the adjournment of the last plenary meeting of that day. Speaking notes for such presentations should be provided to facilitate simultaneous interpretation.

29. The Committee agreed to extend the provisions contained in paragraph 325 of the report on its fifty-third session to the Group of 77 and China and other interregional groups.

30. Some delegations were of the view that the sessions of the Legal Subcommittee should be shortened and that the savings in time could be allocated to the sessions of the Committee or the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in particular to the meetings of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee's Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. Those delegations underlined the unnecessary financial burden to member States due to the low rate of use of available time.

31. Some delegations were of the view that the Legal Subcommittee was the only international forum in which developing countries could engage in a discussion of the legal aspects of outer space activities. Those delegations emphasized that the rationalization and optimization of the time allocated to the Subcommittee should be achieved by including on the agenda substantive items for discussion with the aim of strengthening the international legal framework and that the current duration of the sessions of the Subcommittee should be maintained so that the legal aspects of outer space activities could continue to be considered.

## **5. Panel discussion during the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly**

32. The Committee recalled that the General Assembly, in paragraph 42 of its resolution 65/97, had noted with satisfaction that a panel discussion on space and emergencies had been held at United Nations Headquarters on 12 October 2010, and had agreed that a panel discussion should be held, at the sixty-sixth session of the Assembly, on a topic to be selected by the Committee, taking into account the panel discussions held on climate change, food security, global health and emergencies.

33. The Committee agreed that the panel discussion to be held in the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly during its sixty-sixth session, when it considers the item "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space", should be on the topic of the contribution of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (A/AC.105/2011/CRP.9) which is to be finalized in accordance with paragraph [...] above, and take into account the importance of the topics addressed in the previous panel discussions.

**6. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Committee**

34. The Committee recommended that the following substantive items be considered at its fifty-fifth session, in 2012:

1. General exchange of views.
2. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
3. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
4. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-ninth session.
5. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-first session.
6. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
7. Space and society.
8. Space and water.
9. Space and climate change.
10. Use of space technology in the United Nations system.
11. Future role of the Committee.
12. Other matters.

35. The Committee agreed on the importance of commemorating the fortieth anniversary of Landsat — the first Earth-observation satellite mission, providing many countries with remote sensing data since 1972 — and decided to hold a special panel discussion during its fifty-fifth session, in 2012, allocating at least two hours to the panel discussions with full interpretation, and to organize a dedicated exhibition on the fortieth anniversary of Landsat during that session, with the assistance of the Secretariat in preparing for those two commemorative events. A planning meeting for interested delegations should be held on the margins of the forty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

36. The Committee agreed that the Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of Human Space Flight and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, contained in annex I to the present report, should be annexed to the draft resolution entitled “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space”, to be considered by the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly in 2011.

**L. Schedule of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies**

37. The Committee agreed on the following tentative timetable for its session and those of its subcommittees in 2012:

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	6-17 February 2012	Vienna
Legal Subcommittee	19-30 March 2012	Vienna
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	6-15 June 2012	Vienna

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