



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
3 June 2011

Original: English

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

Draft report

Chapter I

Introduction

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its fifty-fourth session in Vienna from 1 to 10 June 2011. The officers of the Committee were as follows:

<i>Chair:</i>	Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu (Romania)
<i>First Vice-Chair:</i>	Nomfuneko Majaja (South Africa)
<i>Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur:</i>	Raimundo González Aninat (Chile)

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

3. A commemorative segment of the fifty-fourth session of the Committee, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight and the fiftieth anniversary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, was held on 1 June 2011, open to all States Members of the United Nations. A summary of the commemorative segment and the text of the declaration adopted on 1 June are contained in annex [...] to the present report.

A. Meetings of subsidiary bodies

4. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had held its forty-eighth session in Vienna from 7 to 18 February 2011, under the chairmanship of Ulrich Huth (Germany). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/987).



5. The Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had held its fiftieth session in Vienna from 28 March to 8 April 2011, under the chairmanship of Ahmad Talebzadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/990). The unedited verbatim transcripts of the meetings of the Subcommittee are contained in documents COPUOS/Legal/T.820-838.

B. Adoption of the agenda

6. At its opening meeting, the Committee adopted the following agenda:
 1. Opening of the session.
 2. Adoption of the agenda.
 3. Statement by the Chair.
 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-eighth session.
 8. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fiftieth session.
 9. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
 10. Space and society.
 11. Space and water.
 12. Space and climate change.
 13. Use of space technology in the United Nations system.
 14. Future role of the Committee.
 15. Other matters.
 16. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Membership

7. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1472 A (XIV), 1721 E (XVI), 3182 (XXVIII), 32/196 B, 35/16, 49/33, 56/51, 57/116, 59/116, 62/217, 65/97 and decision 45/315, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was composed of the following 70 States: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), 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, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

D. Attendance

8. Representatives of the following 58 States members of the Committee attended the session: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, 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, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

9. At its 630th meeting, on 2 June, the Committee decided to invite, at their request, observers for Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Israel, Jordan, Oman, Panama, the Republic of Moldova, Sri Lanka, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen, as well as the Holy See, to attend its fifty-fourth 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. Also at its 630th meeting, the Committee decided to invite, at its request, the observer for Palestine to attend its fifty-fourth 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.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to invite, at its request, the observer for the European Union to attend its fifty-fourth session, on the understanding that doing so would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that it would not involve any decision of the Committee regarding status.

12. Observers for the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Telecommunication Union attended the session.

13. The session was attended by observers for the following intergovernmental organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee: the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, the European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere, the European Space Agency, the European Telecommunications Satellite Organization, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Unidroit), the International Mobile Satellite

Organization, the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization and the Regional Centre for Remote Sensing of North African States.

14. The session was also attended by observers for the following non-governmental organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee: the Association of Space Explorers, the European Space Policy Institute, the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, the International Space University, the International Academy of Astronautics, the International Astronautical Federation, the International Astronomical Union, the International Institute of Space Law, the Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water, the Secure World Foundation, the Space Generation Advisory Council and the World Space Week Association.

15. 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 [A/AC.105/2011/INF/1.]

E. General statements

16. Statements were made by representatives of the following States members of the Committee during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Spain, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The representative of Colombia made a statement on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. The representative of Hungary made a statement on behalf of the European Union. The observers for Azerbaijan, Ghana, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates also made statements. Statements were also made by the observers for the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), the Secure World Foundation (SWF), the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) and the World Space Week Association (WSWA).

17. At the 628th meeting, on 2 June, the Chair delivered a statement highlighting the role played by the Committee in promoting efforts to further space exploration and in bringing the benefits of space technology to Earth. He stressed the need to support regional and interregional cooperation in the field of space activities and the need to ensure closer coordination between the Committee and other intergovernmental bodies involved in the global development agenda of the United Nations.

18. At the 632nd meeting, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat briefed the Committee on the work carried out by the Office during the past year and its current financial status and stressed the importance of the availability of financial and other resources for the successful implementation of the Office's programme of work.

19. The Committee welcomed Tunisia as a new member and noted its active participation in the Committee and its Subcommittees. The Committee also welcomed the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety (IAASS) as a new non-governmental organization with permanent observer status with the Committee.

20. In connection with the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight, the Committee observed a minute of silence in respectfully recalling that the human exploration of outer space had not been without sacrifice and remembering the men and women who had lost their lives in the pursuit of expanding humanity's frontiers.

21. The Committee conveyed its condolences to the peoples of Japan, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the Sudan for the natural disasters that had recently taken many lives and caused great damage in those countries. The Committee stressed the critical role that space-based systems could play in supporting disaster management by providing accurate and timely information and communication support, and emphasized the need to continue building capacity in the use of space technology applications at the international, regional and national levels.

22. The Committee congratulated the United States on the successful landing and final mission of the space shuttle Endeavour and on the thirtieth anniversary of the space shuttle programme and its contributions to space exploration and international cooperation in space activities.

23. The Committee heard the following presentations:

(a) "Effectiveness of satellite data for disasters: the great east Japan earthquake", by the representative of Japan;

(b) "Satellite-based operational monitoring of the environment in Mexico", by the representative of Mexico;

(c) "The Mexican Space Agency", by the representative of Mexico;

(d) "Space medicine: from the flight of Yuri Gagarin to interplanetary expedition", by the representative of the Russian Federation;

(e) "The Colombian Space Commission: a strategy for the sustainable development of Colombia", by the representative of Colombia;

(f) "International Academy of Astronautics fiftieth anniversary and heads of space agencies summit", by the observer for the International Academy of Astronautics.

24. The Committee noted with appreciation the successful completion of the 61st International Astronautical Congress, held in Prague from 27 September to 1 October 2010 and attended by more than 3,500 participants. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the International Astronautical Congress would be hosted by the Government of South Africa in 2011.

25. The Committee noted with appreciation a number of events held in connection with the commemorations, organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs with generous support from and in cooperation with member States and permanent observer organizations, in particular the international exhibition on fifty years of human space flight, to be held at the Vienna International Centre throughout the

month of June; the international astronauts and cosmonauts panel, organized in cooperation with the City of Vienna and held on 2 June at Vienna City Hall; the Space Day open day held at the in the Vienna International Centre on 4 June; the numerous space tours organized in cooperation with the Visitors' Centre of the United Nations Office at Vienna; and the "space food days" from 1 to 10 June, carried out in cooperation with the catering service of the Vienna International Centre.

26. The Committee also noted with appreciation the special symposium held on 3 June and organized by IAF, entitled "Special dual anniversary", which reviewed the history of cooperation between the Committee and IAF.

F. Adoption of the report of the Committee

27. 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.