



General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Fifty-sixth session
Vienna, 12-21 June 2013**

Draft report

Chapter I

Introduction

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its fifty-sixth session in Vienna from 12 to 21 June 2013. The officers of the Committee were as follows:

<i>Chair:</i>	Yasushi Horikawa (Japan)
<i>First Vice-Chair:</i>	Filipe Duarte Santos (Portugal)
<i>Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur:</i>	Piotr Wolanski (Poland)

A. Meetings of subsidiary bodies

2. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had held its fiftieth session in Vienna from 11 to 22 February 2013, under the chairmanship of Félix Clementino Menicocci (Argentina). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/1038).

3. The Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had held its fifty-second session in Vienna from 8 to 19 April 2013, under the chairmanship of Tare Charles Brisibe (Nigeria). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/1045).

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 Chair.
4. General exchange of views.
5. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
6. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fiftieth session.
7. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-second session.
8. Space and sustainable development.
9. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
10. Space and water.
11. Space and climate change.
12. Use of space technology in the United Nations system.
13. Future role of the Committee.
14. Other matters.
15. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Membership

5. 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 66/71 and decisions 45/315, 67/412 and 67/528, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was composed of the following 74 States: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, 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

6. Representatives of the following 64 States members of the Committee attended the session: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of

Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

7. At its 660th meeting, on 12 June, the Committee decided to invite, at their request, observers for Belarus, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Israel, Luxembourg, Panama and the United Arab Emirates, as well as the Holy See, to attend its fifty-sixth 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. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to invite, at the request of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the observer for the Order to attend the 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.

9. Also at the same meeting, the Committee decided to invite, at the request of the European Union, the observer for the Union to attend the 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. Observers for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) attended the session.

11. The session was attended by observers for the following intergovernmental organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee: the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), the Association of Remote Sensing Centres in the Arab World (ARSCAW), the European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO), the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Telecommunications Satellite Organization (EUTELSAT-IGO), the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), the International Organization of Space Communications (Intersputnik), the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO) and the Regional Centre for Remote Sensing of North African States (CRTEAN). The observer for the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Unidroit) also attended the session.

12. The session was also attended by observers for the following non-governmental organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee: the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), the International Institute of Space Law (IISL), the International Law Association (ILA), the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), the National Space Society (NSS), the Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water (PSIPW), the Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP), the Secure World Foundation (SWF), the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) and the World Space Week Association (WSWA).

13. At its 660th meeting, the Committee decided to invite, at the request of the Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology (ISNET), the observer for the Network to attend its fifty-sixth 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.

14. 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.105/2013/INF/1.

E. General statements

15. Statements were made by representatives of the following States members of the Committee during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, United States, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam. Statements were also made by the observer for Guatemala on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and the representative of France together with the observer for the European Union made statements on behalf of the European Union. The observers for Belarus, Ghana and Luxembourg also made statements. The observers for IAF, ESA, EUTELSAT-IGO, NSS, SGAC, SWF and WSWA also made statements.

16. At the 660th meeting, the Chair delivered a statement highlighting the role played by the Committee and its Subcommittees in promoting efforts to further space exploration and research and in bringing the benefits of space technology to global sustainable development goals. He stressed the need to strengthen regional and interregional cooperation in the field of space activities and in capacity-building, and to ensure closer coordination between the Committee and other intergovernmental bodies involved in the post-2015 development agenda.

17. At the 662nd meeting, on 13 June, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat made a statement in which she reviewed the work carried out by the Office during the previous year, including outreach activities and cooperation and coordination with United Nations entities and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. She also highlighted the current financial status of the Office and stressed the importance of availability of financial and other resources for the successful implementation of the programme of work of the Office.

18. The Committee welcomed Armenia, Costa Rica and Jordan as new members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation and SCOSTEP were welcomed as the newest permanent observers of the Committee.

19. The Committee congratulated China on its successful launch, on 11 June 2013, of the fifth manned space flight mission, to be performed by three crew members, one of which is the second female astronaut from China (taikonaut).

20. The Committee noted with appreciation the special panel on the theme “Space: building the future today” to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the first space flight by a woman, Valentina V. Tereshkova, and to address the contribution of women to space activities. The panel was moderated by Mazlan Othman, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. A welcome address was given by Yury Fedotov, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna. The panel comprised the following prominent women in space activities: Valentina V. Tereshkova (Russian Federation), Abimbola H. Alale (Nigeria), Roberta Bondar (Canada), Amalia Ercoli Finzi (Italy), Chiaki Mukai (Japan), Marion Paradas (France) on behalf of Géraldine Naja (ESA), Julie A. Sattler (United States), Maureen Williams (Argentina) and Liu Yang (China) representing the fields of space exploration, science, technology, applications, business, policy and law. A video message was delivered by astronaut Karen Nyberg (United States), who is currently on board the International Space Station, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the first space flight by a woman.
21. The Committee also noted with appreciation the exhibition held at the Vienna International Centre during the present session to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the first space flight by a woman, Valentina V. Tereshkova, while also featuring photographs and biographies of other women astronauts. Contributions were made by Canada, Japan, the Russian Federation and its Agency for Tourism of the Yaroslavl Region, the Universities Space Research Association, the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the United Nations Postal Administration.
22. The Committee further noted with satisfaction the discussion by the panel of women astronauts and cosmonauts on the theme “Women in space: the next 50 years”, which was organized jointly by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Association of Space Explorers and took place on 13 June 2013 at the Natural History Museum in Vienna.
23. The Committee noted the screening of videos presented on the margins of the current session: “No gravity”, by the delegations of France and Germany, “Shenzhou-9” by the delegation of China, “Japanese space women” by the delegation of Japan, and “Chopin: the space concert”, by the delegation of Poland.
24. The Committee heard the following presentations:
- (a) Japanese international cooperation, by the representative of Japan;
 - (b) Recent space activities in Turkey, by the representative of Turkey;
 - (c) Introduction to Chopin in space, by the representative of Poland;
 - (d) Space observation for governance and empowering of citizens in India, by the representative of India;
 - (e) National Space Programme of the Republic of Belarus, by the observer for Belarus.
25. The Committee noted with satisfaction a side event on the role of ethics in discourse on space sustainability, which was organized by ESPI on 20 June 2013.
26. The Committee noted with appreciation the successful completion of the 63rd International Astronautical Congress, held in Naples, Italy, from 1 to 5 October 2012. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the 64th Congress

would be hosted by the Government of China and held in Beijing from 23 to 27 September 2013.

27. The Committee welcomed with appreciation the publication entitled *Human Space Technology Initiative: Humans in Space* (ST/SPACE/62).

28. The Committee expressed its deep appreciation and gratitude to Mazlan Othman, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, on the occasion of her retirement, for her outstanding dedication to the work of the Office and to the Committee, and wished her well in her future endeavours.

F. Adoption of the report of the Committee

29. After considering the various items before it, the Committee, at its [...] meeting, on [...] June 2013, 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

30. In accordance with paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 67/113, the Committee continued its consideration, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes, including consideration of ways to promote regional and interregional cooperation and the role that space technology could play in the implementation of recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.¹

31. The representatives of Egypt, Greece, Japan, the Russian Federation, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under the item. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by other member States, the observer for Guatemala on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and the representative of France, together with the observer for the European Union, on behalf of the European Union.

32. The Committee heard the following presentations under this item:

(a) Changing the perspective: atmospheric research on the ISS, by the representative of Germany;

(b) Space Security Index 2013, by the representative of Canada;

(c) 20 years of history and future of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF), by the representative of Japan;

¹ See *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).

(d) Italian master course in space institutions and policies, by the representative of Italy.

33. The Committee had before it a working paper by the Russian Federation entitled “Prerequisites for promoting consideration of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes in the context of the theme of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities” (A/AC.105/2013/CRP.19).

34. The Committee agreed that, through its work in the scientific, technical and legal fields, as well as through the promotion of international dialogue and exchange of information on various topics related to the exploration and use of outer space, it had a fundamental role to play in ensuring that outer space was maintained for peaceful purposes.

35. The Committee emphasized that international, regional and interregional cooperation and coordination in the field of space activities were essential to strengthen the peaceful uses of outer space and to assist States in the development of their space capabilities.

36. The view was expressed that the consideration of this item by the Committee did not correspond with criteria of essential and professional dialogue and thus there was absence of a substantive and visionary approach to practical issues and matters relating to ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. In this regard, that delegation expressed the view that this situation could be improved through maintaining confidence among States and strengthening rational factors in their policy, such as future guidelines on long-term sustainability of outer space activities, in particular those relating to matters of security in outer space.

37. The view was expressed that conference room paper A/AC.105/2013/CRP.19 contained an outline of the existing links between various aspects of ensuring security in space and of safe space operations, and defined a set of topics which could motivate the work of the Committee under this item of its agenda, and that the Committee should begin to analyse the legal basis for and the modalities of the exercise of the right to self-defence in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as applied to outer space.

38. The view was expressed that the proposal to consider various aspects of the exercise of the right to self-defence in outer space in accordance with the Charter corresponded with criteria of a responsible approach to the use of outer space.

39. Some delegations were of the view that the existing legal regime with respect to outer space was not adequate to prevent the placement of weapons in outer space or to address issues concerning the space environment, and that it was important to further develop international space law in order to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes. In this regard, those delegations were of the view that in order to ensure that outer space was used peacefully and to prevent its militarization, the preparation of a special binding international legal instrument was necessary.

40. Some delegations were of the view that, in order to maintain the peaceful nature of space activities and prevent the placement of weapons in outer space, it was essential for the Committee to enhance its cooperation and coordination with other bodies and mechanisms of the United Nations system, such as the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament.

41. The view was expressed that the Committee had been created exclusively to promote international cooperation with respect to 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. In this connection, that delegation was of the view that no actions by the Committee were needed regarding the weaponization of outer space and that there was no scarcity of appropriate multilateral mechanisms where disarmament could be discussed.

42. The Committee also noted with appreciation that the fifth African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development would be organized jointly by the Governments of Ghana and Kenya and would be held in Accra in December 2013.

43. The Committee recalled the Pachuca Declaration, adopted by the Sixth Space Conference of the Americas, held in Pachuca, Mexico, from 15 to 19 November 2010, which developed a regional space policy for the near future and also, inter alia, created a space experts advisory group. The Committee further noted that the pro tempore secretariat of the Conference had organized a regional meeting under the theme "Use of space for humans and environmental security in the Americas" in Mexico City from 17 to 20 April 2012 and a meeting of representatives of national space entities in Santiago on 12 November 2012.

44. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the nineteenth session of APRSAF had been held in Kuala Lumpur from 11 to 14 December 2012 under the theme "Enriching the quality of life through innovative space programmes". The Committee further noted that the twentieth session of the Forum would be organized jointly by the Government of Japan and the Viet Nam Academy of Science and Technology and would take place in Hanoi in December 2013.

45. The Committee noted with satisfaction that APSCO had held its sixth Council Meeting, in Tehran on 17 and 18 July 2012, at which it had approved a number of new projects, reviewed the progress being made on those approved earlier and agreed to hold its next meeting in 2013.

46. The Committee noted the important role that bilateral and multilateral agreements played in promoting common space exploration objectives and cooperative and complementary space exploration missions.

47. Some delegations informed the Committee about the continuous work in the development, in an open, transparent and inclusive manner, of an international code of conduct for outer space activities, thus offering all interested Member States the opportunity to participate in the process and share their views. These delegations also informed the Committee that the first open-ended consultations had been held in Kyiv from 16 to 17 May 2013 and that a second round of consultations was planned for late 2013.

48. The Committee recommended that, at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, consideration of the item on ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes should be continued, on a priority basis.