



**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-sixth session**

Vienna, 27 March-7 April 2017

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Status and application of the five United
Nations treaties on outer space****Draft declaration on the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty
on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the
Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon
and Other Celestial Bodies****Note by the Secretariat****Introduction**

1. At the fifty-fifth session of the Legal Subcommittee, in 2016, the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft declaration on the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (Outer Space Treaty), to be made available as a working document of the fifty-sixth session of the Legal Subcommittee in all of the official languages of the United Nations in advance of the session. The Working Group agreed that the draft declaration would be considered by the Legal Subcommittee and put before the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for endorsement at its sixtieth session. The declaration, the purpose of which would be to raise awareness of the benefits of the Treaty, could then be annexed to the General Assembly resolution on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space in 2017 ([A/AC.105/1113](#), para. 57 and annex I, para. 21).

2. The annex to the present document contains the text of the draft, as prepared by the Secretariat in fulfilling the above-mentioned request, for consideration by the Subcommittee.

* [A/AC.105/C.2/L.299](#).



Annex

Draft declaration

Fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,¹ which was opened for signature in London, Moscow and Washington, D.C., on 27 January 1967,

Noting that 105 States have become parties to the Treaty and an additional 25 States have signed it,

Recognizing the fundamental role played by the Treaty in maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes, and in furthering the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation and understanding,

Expressing its concern over the fragility of the space environment and the need to further promote, through joint efforts at the international, regional and interregional levels, the safety, security and sustainability of outer space activities, including, inter alia, the protection of space assets, space systems and critical infrastructure,

Reaffirming that outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation or by any other means; and that States bear international responsibility for national activities in outer space, whether such activities are carried out by governmental agencies or by non-governmental entities,

Emphasizing the constantly evolving and increasingly multifaceted nature of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, with fundamentally complex scientific and technological advancements in the space field and an increasing variety of actors in the space arena, and therefore encouraging the building of stronger partnerships, cooperation and coordination at all levels and among all relevant actors,

Deeply convinced that the exploration and use of outer space should continue to be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all humankind and that outer space and celestial bodies are free for exploration and use by all States on the basis of equality and in accordance with international law,

Calling upon all States and international intergovernmental organizations conducting space activities to work under the principles of cooperation and mutual assistance, paying due regard to the corresponding interests of other States,

1. *Urges* States that have not yet become parties to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies to consider ratifying or acceding to it, taking into account the role of the Treaty as the cornerstone of the international legal regime governing outer space activities and taking into consideration the importance

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

of the Treaty, for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their level of economic or scientific development;

2. *Requests* the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee to continue, with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, to promote the widest adherence to the Treaty, to encourage its implementation and application by States, taking into account their rights and obligations under the Treaty, and to foster the progressive development of international space law;

3. *Encourages* the Office for Outer Space Affairs to continue fostering capacity-building in space law and policy for the benefit of all countries and to continue providing assistance to developing countries, at their request, in the development of national space policy and legislation in conformity with international space law, taking into account the broader perspective of space security.
