



**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Sixtieth session
Vienna, 7-16 June 2017**Draft report****Addendum****Chapter II****Recommendations and decisions****J. Other matters**

1. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “Other matters”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [71/90](#).

2. The representatives of Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechia, Egypt, France, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under the item. Statements were also made under the item by the representative of Switzerland on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, and by the representative of the Sudan on behalf of the Group of Arab States. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by the representative of Iran (Islamic Republic of) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the representative of Algeria on behalf of the Group of African States and the representative of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and by representatives of other States members of the Committee.

1. Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

3. The Committee had before it the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat entitled “Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and global governance of outer space activities” ([A/AC.105/1137](#));



(b) Report on the United Nations/United Arab Emirates High-level Forum: Space as a Driver for Socioeconomic Sustainable Development, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 20 to 24 November 2016 ([A/AC.105/1129](#));

(c) Conference room paper entitled “UNISPACE+50: scope and organization — status of preparations” ([A/AC.105/2017/CRP.5](#));

(d) Conference room paper entitled “Gender equality and the empowerment of women: contribution by the Office for Outer Space Affairs” ([A/AC.105/2017/CRP.13](#));

(e) Conference room paper entitled “Access to space: strengthening the means for the Office for Outer Space Affairs to cooperate with industry and private sector entities in the space arena for the benefit of developing countries” ([A/AC.105/2017/CRP.20](#));

(f) Conference room paper entitled “UNISPACE+50 thematic priority 1: Global partnership in space exploration and innovation” ([A/AC.105/2017/CRP.21](#));

(g) Conference room paper entitled “Report on the expert meeting on preparation of the United Nations/Italy Workshop on the Open Universe Initiative” ([A/AC.105/2017/CRP.22](#));

(h) Conference room paper entitled “Space science for global development: report on the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and Committee on Space Research coordination meeting in support of the preparations for UNISPACE+50, held in Vienna, Austria, on 22 and 23 May 2017” ([A/AC.105/2017/CRP.25](#));

(i) Conference room paper entitled “Working paper by Switzerland with a view to making progress under UNISPACE+50 thematic priority 3 on enhanced information exchange on space objects and events” ([A/AC.105/2017/CRP.27](#)).

4. The Committee also had before it two non-papers by the Secretariat entitled “Proposed concept note on the joint panel discussion of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to space security and sustainability” and “UNISPACE+50 decision-making plan for the sixtieth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space”.

5. The Committee noted with appreciation the preparatory work undertaken by the Secretariat for UNISPACE+50 in 2018 and the related relevant documents that were before the Committee at the current session to further assist States members of the Committee in decision-making and preparatory work for UNISPACE+50 in 2018.

6. The Committee underscored the significance of the UNISPACE+50 process, initiated by the Committee in 2015 (see [A/AC.105/L.297](#)) and leading towards the high-level segment on UNISPACE+50, to be held on 20 and 21 June 2018 at the Committee’s sixty-first session, which is expected to conclude with concrete deliverables and outcomes, to take the form of a draft resolution to be adopted by the General Assembly on UNISPACE+50 and a strategic vision — the “Space2030” agenda and its implementations plan — for strengthening the contribution of space activities and space tools to the achievements of the global agendas, addressing overarching long-term development concerns and based on the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

7. The Committee further noted that UNISPACE+50 offered a unique opportunity for countries to reflect on the achievements of the more than 50 years of space exploration and look towards the future, strengthening the mandates of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its subsidiary bodies and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as unique platforms for international space cooperation, in order to align their work with the current challenges and opportunities in the space area, making them fit for purpose and responsive to new

realities in the space enterprise, which was witnessing an ever-growing number of actors, their diversification and the diversification of space activities.

8. The Committee underscored the importance of timely preparations for UNISPACE+50 in 2018, and in that regard agreed the following:

Regarding the format of the high-level segment on UNISPACE+50 to be held on 20 and 21 June 2018

(a) All States Members of the United Nations are to be invited by the Secretariat to participate in the high-level segment at the level of Head of State, Head of Government, the ministerial level or at the highest possible level;

(b) The broader space community, including United Nations entities, other international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and non-governmental entities, including industry and the private sector, will be able to attend the high-level segment on UNISPACE+50 to be held on 20 and 21 June 2018, in accordance with established rules and practices of the Committee;

Regarding the consideration of UNISPACE+50 by the General Assembly in plenary meeting at its seventy-third session, in 2018

(c) A draft resolution will be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, in 2017, in which the Assembly would decide to consider UNISPACE+50, as a separate agenda item of the General Assembly, in plenary meeting, to be scheduled in conjunction with the Fourth Committee, at the seventy-third session of the Assembly, in 2018;

Regarding the consideration of a draft resolution on UNISPACE+50 for adoption by the General Assembly

(d) The Secretariat will prepare a first version of the draft resolution on UNISPACE+50, in close consultation with the UNISPACE+50 Steering Committee, and make it available in the six official languages of the United Nations in advance of the fifty-fifth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in 2018, and an advance edited version in English will be circulated among all States members of the Committee;

(e) There will be an intersessional meeting in the week of 7-11 May 2018 at the Vienna International Centre to finalize the draft resolution, and all States Members of the United Nations are to be invited to participate in that meeting. The meeting will be conducted in English only. However, the Secretariat will work with the Conference Management Service to look into the feasibility of having full interpretation services for at least one day of the meeting. The meeting will be held within existing resources. The chairmanship of this intersessional meeting will be undertaken by Canada;

(f) In order to facilitate progress in the UNISPACE+50 process during the 2018 cycle of sessions, the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space of the Legal Subcommittee are mandated to consider the draft resolution on UNISPACE+50. In order to do so effectively, any technical presentations requested will be delivered only during lunch-time and without interpretation.

9. Some delegations expressed the view that there should be funding provided for representatives of developing countries to attend UNISPACE+50 in 2018.

10. The Committee endorsed that the Office for Outer Space Affairs should pursue greater engagement with industry and private sector entities so that they supported and contributed to, for example, the "Access to Space" initiative, as well as supporting and contributing to the overall work of the Office. On this basis, the

Office for Outer Space Affairs would be able to further develop such initiatives and submit any further proposals to UNISPACE+50.

11. The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a conference room paper to be submitted to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fifty-fifth session, in 2018, containing a proposed workplan on how to improve overall governance and the method of work of the Committee as a whole. States members of the Committee would be invited to provide ideas. The conference room paper, as revised on the basis of discussions at the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fifty-fifth session, would then be submitted to the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-sixth session, in 2018, and, as further revised at that session, would be prepared as a document in the official languages of the United Nations for consideration by the Committee at its sixty-first session in June 2018.

UNISPACE+50 thematic priorities

12. The Committee welcomed with appreciation the progress made under the UNISPACE+50 thematic priorities, as reflected in conference room paper [A/AC.105/2017/CRP.5](#) (paras. 51-109). The Committee noted that reports on the UNISPACE+50 thematic priorities, a report on the “Space2030” agenda and its implementation plan, and reports from each of the flagship conferences and workshops under the UNISPACE+50 thematic priorities, would be prepared by the Secretariat and issued in the six official languages of the United Nations for submission to the Committee and its Subcommittees at their sessions in 2018, in close coordination with the mechanisms working under each of the UNISPACE+50 thematic priorities.

13. The Committee noted with appreciation the establishment of the Action Team on Exploration and Innovation, co-chaired by China, Jordan and the United States, with the following members to date: Austria, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Luxembourg, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United States, United Kingdom, COSPAR, European Space Agency, Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology, International Law Association, National Space Society and United Nations Environment Programme.

14. The Committee noted that the Action Team had held meetings on the margins of the current session of the Committee to discuss the report under UNISPACE+50 thematic priority 1 on global partnership in space exploration and innovation. The terms of reference and further information on the work of the Action Team had been made available to the Committee at its current session in conference room paper [A/AC.105/2017/CRP.21](#).

15. The Committee also welcomed with appreciation that holding by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and COSPAR of a coordination meeting in Vienna on 22 and 23 May 2017 to exchange views and ideas on the scientific and research needs for the implementation of the thematic priorities of UNISPACE+50, including on space weather, and recommendations on which were included in conference room paper [A/AC.105/2017/CRP.25](#).

16. The Committee also noted the long-standing role of COSPAR in maintaining the planetary protection policy as a reference standard for spacefaring nations and in guiding compliance with article IX of the Outer Space Treaty. The Committee further noted the position held by COSPAR that the involvement of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in the reconstituting and functioning of the Panel on Planetary Protection would help ensure that the needs of all States parties pursuing the exploration and use of planetary bodies were served satisfactorily.

17. The Committee welcomed with appreciation the briefing by the Office for Outer Space Affairs held on the margins of the current session, regarding the Open Universe initiative, which was included in the preparations for UNISPACE+50

(A/71/20, para. 299) and was aimed at promoting and facilitating open and transparent access to astronomy and space science data, ensuring that all people could utilize and learn from such invaluable sources of information, for the benefit of humankind.

18. The Committee welcomed the holding of the United Nations/United Arab Emirates High-level Forum held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 20 to 24 November 2016, organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in collaboration with the Government of the United Arab Emirates, in preparation for UNISPACE+50 (A/AC.105/1129).

19. The Committee noted that the first High-level Forum had concluded with the Dubai Declaration, in which, inter alia, it was recommended that the High-level Forum should become a permanent platform for strengthened partnerships among all relevant stakeholders in working towards the “Space2030” agenda for exploration, innovation and inspiration and for strengthening the contribution of space activities in addressing overarching, long-term development concerns.

20. The Committee noted that the next High-level Forum, to be held in Dubai from 6 to 9 November 2017, would be an important opportunity for all stakeholders to put forward initiatives and further recommendations for UNISPACE+50 in 2018 and for building stronger partnerships and international cooperation and coordination for the peaceful use of outer space at all levels.

21. The Committee also noted that, in order to ensure that the high-level forums continued to serve as a unique platform for dialogue among Governments, international organizations, industry, the private sector, academia and civil society; to connect the four pillars, UNISPACE+50 and the “Space2030” agenda and its implementation beyond the UNISPACE+50 in 2018; and to facilitate partnerships with the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the Office was planning to prepare the outline of a proposal, for consideration and agreement at the High-level Forum to be held in 2017, on modalities for establishing the High-level Forum as a permanent platform for strengthened partnerships among all relevant stakeholders.

22. The Committee welcomed the launch of the International Gender Champions Initiative (<http://genderchampions.com>) in Vienna on 14 June by the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs along with other leaders of international organizations based in Vienna and permanent representatives of Member States. The aim of the Initiative, which had been established in Geneva and had then extended to New York and Vienna, was to strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women in the workplace. As part of her pledge of support, the Director made a number of commitments, available on the web page of the Initiative, to defend and promote gender-balanced representation and gender mainstreaming in the work of the Office.

Joint panel discussion of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to space security and sustainability

23. The Committee took note of the proposed concept note on the joint panel discussion and recommended the following:

(a) The Co-Chairs of the First and Fourth Committees would open the panel discussion; keynote addresses would be delivered by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs; panel presentations would be delivered by panellists from the broader space community, including academia, civil society, industry and the private sector, taking into account a gender-balanced representation and youth representation; there would be question-and-answer sessions after each presentation and a concluding interactive dialogue with delegations; and the Co-Chairs of the First and Fourth Committees would close the panel discussion;

(b) The Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Office for Disarmament Affairs would jointly invite the panellists;

(c) A detailed programme of the panel discussion would be presented in English, containing the indicative themes and corresponding indicative questions, with abstracts of the presentations to be circulated in advance, and a Co-Chairs' summary of the panel discussion and interactive dialogue would be issued after the panel discussion has concluded.

2. Membership of the Committee

24. The Committee welcomed the application of Bahrain for membership in the Committee ([A/AC.105/2017/CRP.3](#)) and decided to recommend to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, in 2017, that Bahrain should become a member of the Committee.

25. The Committee welcomed the application of Denmark for membership in the Committee ([A/AC.105/2017/CRP.4](#)) and decided to recommend to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, in 2017, that Denmark should become a member of the Committee.

26. The Committee welcomed the application of Norway for membership in the Committee ([A/AC.105/2017/CRP.6](#)) and decided to recommend to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, in 2017, that Norway should become a member of the Committee.

27. The Committee encouraged States that were considering to apply for membership in the Committee, as well as States members of the Committee, to consider the possibility of acceding to the five United Nations treaties on outer space, or at least some of them, if they had not done so.

3. Observer status

28. The Committee took note of the application of the European Science Foundation, represented by the European Space Sciences Committee, for permanent observer status with the Committee. The application and the relevant correspondence were before the Committee in conference room paper [A/AC.105/2017/CRP.8](#).

29. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly, at its seventy-second session, in 2017, grant to the European Science Foundation, represented by the European Space Sciences Committee, the status of permanent observer with the Committee.

30. The Committee took note of the application of the University Space Engineering Consortium-Global (UNISEC-Global) for permanent observer status with the Committee. The application and the relevant correspondence were before the Committee in conference room paper [A/AC.105/2017/CRP.9](#).

31. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly, at its seventy-second session, in 2017, grant to UNISEC-Global the status of permanent observer with the Committee.

32. In accordance with the request of the Committee at its fifty-sixth session, in 2013, the Secretariat had compiled information on the consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of non-governmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee ([A/AC.105/2017/CRP.12](#)). The Committee urged non-governmental organizations having permanent observer status with it that had not yet initiated the application process for consultative status with the Council to do so in the near future.

4. Draft provisional agenda for the sixty-first session of the Committee

33. The Committee recommended that the following items should be considered at its sixty-first session, in 2018:

20-21 June 2018

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Election of officers.
4. UNISPACE+50 high-level segment.

22-29 June 2018

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

K. Schedule of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

34. The Committee agreed on the following tentative timetable for its session and those of its Subcommittees in 2018:

| | <i>Date</i> | <i>Location</i> |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Scientific and Technical Subcommittee | 29 January-9 February 2018 | Vienna |
| Legal Subcommittee | 9-20 April 2018 | Vienna |
| Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space | 20-29 June 2018 | Vienna |