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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fifty-fifth session
Vienna, 29 January–9 February 2018

Draft resolution on space as a driver of sustainable development

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. At its second meeting, held on 30 January 2018, the Working Group of the Whole continued to consider the draft General Assembly resolution on space as a driver of sustainable development, which was before the Working Group in document [A/AC.105/C.1/L.364](#). Following its consideration of the draft resolution, the Working Group requested the Secretariat to make revisions to the text.
2. The present conference room paper contains the revised text of the draft resolution. As requested by the Working Group of the Whole, revisions are made to the preamble; chapeau to the operative part; chapeau to the respective sub-paragraphs addressing the four pillars; and former operative paragraph 3. A new operative paragraph 1 has been inserted.
3. The revisions are marked by underlined text, and not in track changes. This conference room paper should therefore be read together with document [A/AC.105/C.1/L.364](#) for comparison.



Draft resolution on space as a driver of sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2453 A (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, 37/90 of 10 December 1982, 54/68 of 6 December 1999, 59/2 of 20 October 2004 and 72/79 of 7 December 2017,

Expressing its firm conviction that space science and technology and their applications, such as satellite communications, Earth observation systems and satellite navigation technologies, provide indispensable tools for viable long-term solutions for sustainable development and can contribute more effectively to efforts to promote the development of all countries and regions of the world, to improve people's lives, to conserve natural resources and to enhance the preparedness for and mitigation of the consequences of disasters,

Convinced, therefore, that the fulfilment of the aims of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change require stronger space governance and supporting structures at all levels, including improved access to space-based data, applications and space infrastructure,

Emphasizing the need to look more closely into how advanced space research and exploration systems and technologies could further contribute to meeting challenges to sustainable development, including that of global climate change,

Deeply concerned about the fragility of the space environment and the challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, in particular the impact of space debris,

Recognizing, in that regard, that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, assisted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, has for the past sixty years served as a unique platform at the global level for international cooperation in space activities and that the Committee and its subsidiary bodies stand at the forefront in bringing the world together in using space science and technology to preserve the Earth and the space environment and ensure the future of human civilization,

Acknowledging that significant changes have occurred in the structure and content of the space endeavour, as reflected in the emergence of new technologies and the increasing number of actors at all levels, and therefore noting with satisfaction the progress made in strengthening international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space by enhancing the capacity of States for economic, social and cultural development and by strengthening the regulatory frameworks and mechanisms to that effect,

Reiterating, in that regard, the role 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 as the cornerstone of the international legal regime governing outer space activities and that the Treaty manifests the fundamental principles of international space law, and convinced that the Treaty will continue to provide an indispensable framework for the conduct of outer space activities,

Mindful of the need to promote universal, safe and equitable access to the benefits of space as the scientific, technological, economic and cultural heritage of humankind,

Convinced, therefore, that the continuous growth and diversification of space activities should be attributed to combined and sustained efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels to foster international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, in particular within the Committee on

the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as the main international platform facilitating that cooperation at the global level, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs,

Emphasizing the need to build stronger partnerships and international cooperation and coordination in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space at all levels and among all actors of the broader space community, in order to enhance the utility of space for the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and targets and for the well-being of all peoples,

Convinced that in meeting the long-term objectives of space as a driver of sustainable development, the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50) is a unique opportunity to consider the past achievements and current status of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and determine its future contribution to the global governance of outer space activities,

Noting with satisfaction that the Committee, in preparation for UNISPACE+50, assessed its past, present and future role, as well as those of its subcommittees and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, within the cross-cutting areas of governance, capacity-building, resiliency, interoperability and space for sustainable development, and noting with satisfaction also that that assessment provided the basis for the selection of seven thematic priorities of UNISPACE+50,¹

Emphasizing, in that regard, that the seven thematic priorities of UNISPACE+50 represent a comprehensive strategy for addressing key areas that together determine core objectives for the future work of the Committee and its subcommittees and the Office in the areas of global partnership in space exploration and innovation; the legal regime of outer space and global governance: current and future perspectives; enhanced information exchange on space objects and events; international framework for space weather services; strengthened space cooperation for global health; international cooperation towards low-emission and resilient societies; and capacity-building for the twenty-first century.

Noting with appreciation the work of the Committee and its subcommittees and the Office carried out under the seven thematic priorities of UNISPACE+50,² including the related objectives and mechanisms, and taking note with appreciation of the notes by the Secretariat on the “Space2030 agenda; the thematic priorities and the reports on events organized in preparation for UNISPACE+50,³

Recognizing that the UNISPACE+50 high-level segment, held in Vienna on 20 and 21 June 2018, represented the first United Nations space summit of the twenty-first century for the purpose of strengthening the contribution of space activities, data and applications to the achievement of the global agendas addressing long-term sustainable development concerns of all humanity,

Having determined that, as a comprehensive blueprint, the “Space2030” agenda is set around the global governance of outer space activities and four main pillars, namely, space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy, and that those pillars are representative of broad, cross-cutting and strategic areas in which space is seen as a main driver and contributor to overarching development goals and strengthened international cooperation, in particular for the benefit of developing countries;

1. Emphasizes the need to strengthen the unique role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees, supported by the Office for

¹ See [A/AC.105/L.297](#) and [A/AC.105/1137](#).

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/71/20)*, para. 296.

³ [A/AC.105/1166](#), [A/AC.105/1168](#), [A/AC.105/1169](#), [A/AC.105/1170](#), [A/AC.105/1171](#), [A/AC.105/1172](#), [A/AC.105/1173](#) and [A/AC.105/1174](#); [A/AC.105/1129](#), [A/AC.105/1160](#), [A/AC.105/1161](#), [A/AC.105/1162](#), [A/AC.105/1163](#), [A/AC.105/1164](#), [A/AC.105/1165](#), [A/AC.105/1175](#) and [A/AC.105/1181](#) [to be updated].

Outer Space Affairs, as the prime intergovernmental platform for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and the negotiation of instruments pertaining to space activities and the continued work towards further increasing its membership;

2. Agrees with a view to mobilising space for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and, accordingly, strengthening the mandates of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the following:

(a) To strengthen space-derived economic benefits, decides:

(i) To establish a global space partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals to serve as a comprehensive coordination mechanism under the leadership of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in order to facilitate the optimal service delivery of existing space assets and foster partnerships for developing innovative systems and space solutions to support countries in monitoring and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

(ii) To establish a global compact for space to serve as the main mechanism for collaboration between the Office and industry and the private sector and as an entry point for private sector entities, in support of the implementation of the “Space2030” agenda;

(iii) To establish a global space fund for development, as a voluntary trust fund maintained by the Office, in order to support the coordination and implementation of activities of the global space partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals for the implementation of a broader range of space solutions for sustainable development, including public-private partnerships, and for the purpose of supporting the wider application of space solutions;

(b) To advance societal benefits of space-related activities, decides:

(i) To foster partnerships among the research community in the development, extension and provision of visibility for space-based data, services, applications and standards for a wider user base, for which the Office for Outer Space Affairs should work with partners to promote education in astronomy, space science and other subjects related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics, in particular in developing countries, and for the empowerment of women as part of the Space for Women project of the Office, aimed at widening possibilities for women to pursue space-related education and careers;

(ii) To strengthen institutional arrangements between the Office and the World Health Organization for effective collaboration on the wider application of space solutions for global health;

(iii) To strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) of the Office, in order to assist it in fully delivering its mandate to provide access to space-based data and services for disaster risk reduction and emergency response, including in relation to the impacts of climate change, and as essential resources for sustainable development;

(iv) To strengthen the international and regional presence of the Office by building upon its existing global networks, including the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, and the UN-SPIDER regional support offices, and through the possible establishment of new regional centres for space science and technology education and centres of excellence, following proposals by Member States;

(v) To strengthen the capacity of the Office to support key actors in the development, design and implementation of the Space Climate Observatory as a critical mechanism towards low-emission and resilient societies, and as part of the global space partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals;

(vi) To strengthen preparedness in case of a potential near-Earth object impact through strengthened planetary defence efforts and increased awareness among Member States, in particular those that have no capabilities in this area, for which the Office should work jointly with the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group and the International Asteroid Warning Network, including through its UN-SPIDER programme;

(c) To enhance access to space for all countries, decides:

(i) To implement the objectives of the Open Universe Initiative, for which the Office for Outer Space Affairs, together with its partners, should work towards promoting and facilitating open and transparent access to astronomy and space science data, in particular through their online availability;

(ii) To develop a space for development profile and space solutions compendium under the leadership of the Office as key tools for assessing the strengths and weaknesses at the country level regarding the development of space capabilities and for providing space solutions to enhance national capabilities in space activities;

(iii) To strengthen the activities of the Office in pursuing open and inclusive access to space and provide assistance to Member States in developing space capabilities, thereby reducing the space divide, with regard to which the space for development profile and space solutions compendium should provide a basis for targeted capacity-building, in particular for the benefit of developing countries, including by taking advantage of a triangular cooperation on long-term capacity-building and strengthened South-South cooperation, including through cooperation with space agencies and private sector entities;

(iv) To strengthen the spaceflight portfolio of the Office, as part of its Human Space Technology Initiative, including through a wide range of opportunities made available to developing countries for launch, ground and in-orbit space experiments, such as on drop tower, space stations and low-orbit free-flying vehicles, as well as through design, manufacture and operation of small satellites;

(v) To establish an alliance of the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, to strengthen delivery of services and coordination among existing regional centres, including possible new centres, upon proposals by Member States;

(vi) To establish a capacity-building network, under the leadership of the Office, open to participation by any entity wishing to obtain membership, in particular universities, museums and other institutions, non-governmental organizations and governmental entities, with the aim of promoting the use of space and providing space-related educational opportunities, emphasizing those supporting the Sustainable Development Goals;

(vii) To create a universal space heritage sites programme, as part of the planned capacity-building network and its envisaged broader composition, as a tool to promote space-related education, contribute to capacity-building and increase public awareness, with a specific focus on sites of special relevance on the Moon and other celestial bodies;

(viii) To establish a space information and training centre as a facility of the Office, intended to create possibilities for trainers and educators, in particular those from countries in which infrastructure for space-related education is poor or non-existent;

(ix) To establish mechanisms, such as massive online open courses, to provide greater access to the online resources generated by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in promoting the benefits of space science and technology and their applications, and to create new content adapted to the needs identified by the Office, with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

(d) To strengthen existing mechanisms and forging new ones in the area of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, decides:

(i) To strengthen the coordination and interrelationship between the Committee and its subcommittees by addressing agenda items in a comprehensive, cross-cutting manner, combining scientific, technical, legal, policy and decision-making dimensions;

(ii) To restructure the overall agenda of the Committee and its subcommittees in order to address in a comprehensive manner the use and utility of space as a driver of sustainable development and to enhance the safety, security and sustainability of outer space activities;

(iii) To include a new item on the agenda of the Committee on the topic of space exploration and innovation, in order to consider issues that relate to humanity's horizons in space and that further objectives dealing with exploration and innovation;

(iv) To include a new item on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the topic of space and global health, under a multi-year workplan, with a working group to examine and propose actions, to be further determined, on the future uses of space technology, applications, practices and initiatives in support of global health needs in the wider context of sustainable development on Earth;

(v) To consider, under a multi-year workplan of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee under the item on space weather, the establishment of an international coordination group for space weather as the basis for strengthened international coordination;

(vi) To consider, at the level of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the issue of critical space infrastructures and the protection of space systems, including with a view to studying cybersecurity issues related to space activities;

(vii) To request, with a view to strengthening the implementation of the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space, the Office for Outer Space Affairs to enhance its capacity-building activities and technical assistance in the field of international space law, policy and space-related institutional capacity-building, including for policymakers and decision makers and by engaging the diplomatic community, as a means of promoting the universality of the United Nations treaties on outer space;

(viii) To enhance the role of the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space, entrusted to the Office for Outer Space Affairs, by implementing improvements to existing registration practices and information exchange on the basis of existing mandates, including measures taken by the Office to increase transparency and improve the efficiency of the registration mechanism and conduct regular technical advisory missions to promote transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities;

(ix) To recommend, in strengthening cooperation with the United Nations entities dealing with space, in line with the United Nations system-wide efforts to increase coherency and deliver as one, that the Office should expand partnerships under the overall framework of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space), including through bilateral cooperation, with other United Nations entities in a wide range of space-related areas under their respective mandates;

(x) To strengthen the presence of the Office in New York and Geneva in order to create synergy in the space-related work of the United Nations system and support enhanced delivery and services of the United Nations in meeting the needs of Member States;

(xi) To establish the High-level Forum on space as a driver for socioeconomic sustainable development as a regular annual meeting for strengthened partnerships among all relevant stakeholders, as it serves as a crucial driver for dialogue among Governments, international organizations, industry, the private sector, academia and civil society, and for facilitating partnerships to deliver on the “Space2030” agenda;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to take action to implement the present resolution and to ensure that the actions listed in paragraph 2 above can be carried out successfully;

~~3. Recognizes the role of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in implementing the “Space2030” agenda, and requests the Secretary General to allocate sufficient resources to the Office, starting in 2019, to ensure that the actions listed in paragraph 1 above can be carried out successfully;~~

4. Agrees that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should make an evaluation of the implementation of the “Space2030” agenda and report to the General Assembly in 2025;

5. Decides that the year 2025 is declared “International Year of Space” to ensure that the broad societal benefits of space as an area of innovation, inspiration, interconnectedness, integration and investment continue beyond the landmark year 2030 towards an inclusive global vision for space as a driver of sustainable development.