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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
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Zero draft

**The “Space2030” Agenda: Space as a driver of sustainable
development**

**Working paper submitted by the Bureau of the Working Group on
the “Space2030” Agenda**

- i.* The present Working paper contains zero-draft of a “Space2030” agenda and implementation plan, prepared by the Bureau of the Working Group on the “Space2030” Agenda, and assisted by the Secretariat.
- ii.* The zero-draft has been prepared in accordance with the decision by the Working Group at its meetings during the fifty-sixth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, 11 to 22 February 2019 that based on the guidance received during the meetings of the Working Group by States members of the Committee and taking into account the revised draft structure of a “Space2030” agenda and implementation plan ([A/AC.105/C.2/L.307](#)), the Bureau will prepare a zero draft of a “Space2030” agenda and implementation plan to be submitted to the Working Group at its meetings during the fifty-eighth session of the Legal Subcommittee for consideration (see Summary report of the Working Group, contained in document [A/AC.105/1202](#), Annex IV).



Zero draft

The “Space2030” Agenda: Space as a driver of sustainable development

I. Introduction

1. The United Nations has been at the centre of international cooperation in space activities since the beginning of the space age. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space evolved as a result of the recognition by the General Assembly, in its resolution 1348 (XIII) of 1958, of the importance of using outer space for peaceful purposes and of the need to promote international cooperation in the conduct of space activities and through the Assembly’s establishment of the permanent Committee in Assembly resolution 1472 A (XIV) of 1959.
2. Because of its unique mandate and positioning at the centre of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and global governance of outer space activities, the Committee also played a key role in the organization of the first three United Nations Conferences on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE) conferences held in 1958, 1982 and 1999, at which the practical benefits of space science and technology and their applications were examined, with special emphasis on the needs of developing countries and the contributions of space science and technology and their applications in support of global and regional development agendas and in gaining benefits for society at large.
3. Fifty years after UNISPACE I, the United Nations Member States and the international space community gathered in Vienna, on 20–21 June 2018, for the high-level segment of UNISPACE+50, to reflect on more than 50 years of achievement in space exploration and use, and to chart the future contribution of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the global governance of outer space activities.
4. The General Assembly, in its resolution [73/6](#) of 26 October 2018, noted with appreciation that the preparatory process and the high-level segment of UNISPACE+50 had resulted in documents aimed at articulating a comprehensive, inclusive and strategically oriented vision on strengthening international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, in which space is seen as a major driver of and contributor to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for the benefit of all countries.
5. In that regard, the General Assembly invited the Committee to continue to develop, on the basis of the results of the UNISPACE+50 process, a “Space2030” agenda and implementation plan and to provide the General Assembly with the outcome of its work for consideration by the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session in 2020.
6. The “Space2030” Agenda and implementation plan is submitted by the Committee to the Assembly as a comprehensive and forward-looking strategy for reaffirming and strengthening the contribution of space activities and space tools to the achievement of global agendas ¹ and addressing long-term sustainable development concerns of humankind.

II. Strategic vision

7. We, the States Members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, acknowledge that the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space have enriched our collective knowledge and revolutionized life on Earth. Space science and technology

¹ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Paris Agreement.

is now intrinsic to our daily lives and brings an abundance of unique and fundamental benefits to Earth. As the space community moves forward with its space exploration endeavours, space will continue to serve as an area of inspiration, innovation and as a provider of applications for the benefit of humankind.

8. We emphasize that space tools are highly relevant for the attainment of the global development agendas, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its goals and targets, either directly, as enablers and drivers of sustainable development, or indirectly, by providing essential data for the indicators monitoring the progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, as well as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the commitments by States parties to the Paris Agreement.

9. We underscore that the fulfilment of these global agendas requires stronger coordination and support at all international levels, including through improved access to space-based data, applications and space infrastructure.

10. We acknowledge the distinguished historical record of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and its Legal Subcommittee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in the establishment and further development of the international legal regime governing outer space activities. Under that regime, outer space activities by States, international intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental entities are flourishing, and as a result, space science and technology and their applications contribute immeasurably to economic growth and improvements in the quality of life worldwide.

11. We reaffirm the unique role of the Committee, and its Subcommittees, and supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as unique platforms for international cooperation in the exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes, for global governance of outer space activities, for developing international space law, for fostering dialogue among spacefaring and emerging space nations, and for promoting the increased involvement of all countries in space activities, including through capacity-building initiatives.

12. We encourage the Committee to continue to coordinate efforts to strengthen the implementation of the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space and to complement existing international space law, when appropriate, to respond to emerging issues.

13. We commit to addressing new challenges and opportunities in the outer space activities at a time when new technologies have emerged and when more participants, representing both governmental agencies and non-governmental entities, including industry and the private sector, are increasingly becoming involved in ventures to explore and use space and carry out space activities. We encourage strengthened cooperation among Member States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, industry and private sector entities.

14. We acknowledge the importance of ensuring that outer space remains an operationally stable and safe environment suitable for use by current and future generations consistent with longstanding principles contained in the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies. We also underscore the need to ensure the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and the need to address the significant challenge posed by space debris.

15. We underscore the importance of global governance of outer space activities, based on international law, including the United Nations treaties, as well as principles and related General Assembly resolutions, and the contribution of the Committee to this end. In particular, the Outer Space Treaty is the cornerstone of the international legal regime governing outer space activities. It contains the fundamental principles of international space law and will continue to provide an indispensable framework for the conduct of outer space activities. The universalization and effective implementation of the Outer Space Treaty should be promoted.

16. We aim to contribute to strengthening international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space and the global governance of outer space activities, taking into account the particular needs of developing countries. We also aim to contribute to realizing a shared vision for the future in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of and in the interest of all humankind.

17. We aim to inspire young people, promote diversity, engagement of women in space sector and in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

18. We also aim to support the Secretary-General's approach for the United Nations to leverage more on new, innovative technologies, such as space technologies and their applications that stand at the core of the "Space2030" Agenda to better deliver the mandates of the Organization as a whole.

19. We emphasize that, in fulfilling the "Space2030" Agenda and its implementation plan, importance is attached to global partnership and strengthened cooperation among Member States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, industry and private sector entities, to ensure that through joint efforts and profiting from the practical experiences and contributions of different stakeholders, the benefits of space will be brought to everyone, everywhere.

III. Objectives

We, the States Members of the Committee, commit to pursuing the following objectives, based on the above strategic vision:

A. Space economy

Objective 1: Enhance space-derived economic benefits and strengthen the role of the space sector as a major driver of sustainable development

1.1. Raise awareness on the importance of space science and technology for the Sustainable Development Goals, facilitate and promote the development of innovative space-based solutions for social and economic development, integrating them into implementation mechanisms for Sustainable Development Goals;

1.2. Address issues arising from commercial activities in outer space, with a view to enabling space activities to better support the achievement of global development agendas and contributing to ensure the long-term sustainability of outer space activities;

1.3. Promote the development of space industry, with a particular focus on small and medium-sized enterprises, and promote spin-off benefits of space technologies to non-space sector;

1.4. Promote and support the use of space in the global work for a sustainable ocean economy;

1.5. Encourage the Office for Outer Space Affairs to forge partnerships, including with industry and the private sector, to provide broader opportunities to access space for science, innovation, research and development, education and capacity-building, and implement activities to promote the use of space-based applications and technologies to support Member States in meeting the objectives of the global development agendas;

B. Space society

Objective 2: Advance the societal benefits of space-related activities and making the best use of space technologies and space-based services and applications for improving the quality of life

2.1. Strengthen the use of integrated space applications to contribute to the observation of the climate and natural hazards, to improve early warning systems and to provide data for the indicators used to track progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement;

2.2. Advance the role of space technologies in addressing climate change and facilitating the transition to low emission societies, and promote international collaboration in this regard, including in the framework of an international “space climate observatory”, based on the integration of space and in situ data and models with a view to referencing and assessing climate change impact cases and scenarios;

2.3. Support the activities carried out under, and the valuable support provided to Member States by, the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in order to assist the Programme in fully delivering its mandate to provide access to space-based data and services for disaster risk reduction and emergency response;

2.4. Strengthen space cooperation in support of global health by ensuring improved use of space science, technology and applications in the global health domain through enhanced cooperation and sharing of information in emergencies, epidemics and early warning events, as well as on environmental parameters; enhanced capability in terms of integrating health data in disaster management plans and capacity-building activities in advancing space technologies in global health efforts;

2.5. Increase the awareness of and mitigate the risk of adverse space weather to ensure increased global resilience against space weather effects, improved international coordination on space weather as well as outreach, communication and capacity-building in this area;

2.6. Promote women and diversity in space, and encourage the Office for Outer Space Affairs to continue to develop innovative and effective approaches to overall capacity-building and development needs, with a special focus on the empowerment of women in developing countries, in particular by strengthening the possibility of participation of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, including through the Space for Women initiative of the Office;

2.7. Increase involvement of young people in the space sector; support national and international initiatives that inspire young people about space activities from elementary school onwards and strengthen their engagement in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects;

C. Space accessibility

Objective 3: Improving access to space for all and ensuring that all countries can benefit socioeconomically from space science and technology applications and space-based data, information and products and thus serving the goals of SDGs

3.1. Improve access to space so that all countries can benefit socioeconomically from space science and technology applications and space-based data, information and products, including through ongoing activities such as the “Access to Space for All” initiative of the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

3.2. Enhance inclusive partnerships for space exploration as a long-term driver of innovation and strengthen international cooperation in this regard;

3.3. Enhance the capacity-building, education and training provided by the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, in particular for developing countries;

3.4. Increase knowledge of outer space, including through enhanced access to astronomy and space science data for the benefit of humankind, including through the “Open Universe” initiative of the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

D. Space diplomacy

Objective 4: Build partnerships and strengthen international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

4.1. Strengthen the role and activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as a unique platform for international cooperation in the exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes;

4.2. Promote the implementation by Parties of the United Nations treaties on outer space as well as the principles and related General Assembly resolutions;

4.3. Strengthen capacity-building and technical assistance, including by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in the field of international space law and policy with a view to contributing towards increasing responsible norms of behaviour in space and the implementation of treaty obligations, and towards increased safety and transparency;

4.4. Encourage the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, supported by the Office, to continue to coordinate efforts to strengthen the implementation of the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space and to complement and develop the rules and norms governing outer space, when appropriate, to respond to emerging issues;

4.5. 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;

4.6. Ensure the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and preservation of the outer space environment for peaceful uses and encourage Member States to follow the guidelines on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities;

4.7. Strengthen the coordination and interrelationship between the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees, assisted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in addressing their respective agenda items in a comprehensive, cross-cutting manner, combining scientific, technical, legal and policy dimensions;

4.8. Strengthen 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, including by expanding partnerships of the Office for Outer Space Affairs under the overall framework of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space) as well as through bilateral cooperation with other United Nations entities in a wide range of space-related areas under their respective mandates.

IV. Implementation plan

A. Partnerships

20. The responsibility for the fulfilment of the “Space2030” agenda and its implementation plan lies primarily with Member States and with the Committee,

supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, including by providing its technical, policy and legal expertise.

21. In fulfilling the “Space2030” agenda and its implementation plan, importance is attached to global partnership and strengthened cooperation among Member States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, industry and private sector entities, with the Committee, supported by the Office, as the main international platform for facilitating that cooperation.

22. The Office for Outer Space Affairs should be appropriately positioned so that it may serve as a conduit for promoting and facilitating the use of space-based solutions in the implementation of the Agenda.

23. Another important aspect for the implementation of the “Space2030” Agenda is for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Office for Outer Space Affairs to continue to fulfil their respective mandates and to cooperate and coordinate with other relevant entities within the United Nations system.

24. Furthermore, the coordination and interrelationship between the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees, assisted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in addressing their respective agenda items in a comprehensive, cross-cutting manner, combining scientific, technical, legal and policy dimensions should be strengthened, so as to, inter alia, foster the use of space as a driver of global sustainable development towards 2030 and beyond.

B. Resources

25. Member States are invited to actively conduct bilateral, multilateral, regional and broader international space cooperation in various forms, including capacity-building, information- and infrastructure-sharing and the development of joint projects and, when appropriate, to integrate space cooperation with economic and development cooperation, in order to promote the fulfillment of the “Space2030” Agenda and its implementation plan;

26. Member States and other donors are invited to provide voluntary extrabudgetary resources to the Office for Outer Space Affairs for advancing the implementation of the “Space2030” Agenda, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

27. The Secretary-General is urged to consider the sufficiency of resources provided to the Office for Outer Space Affairs in its role as secretariat to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees, and to ensure that the Office can fully and effectively implement its mandate, including capacity-building activities for Member States in the field of space science and technology and their applications, as well as in space law and policy, taking into account the “Space2030” Agenda and implementation plan.

C. Review of progress

28. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should review in 2030 progress in the implementation of the “Space2030” Agenda, with a mid-term review in 2025, and report to the General Assembly.