



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
15 May 2019

Original: English

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Sixty-second session
Vienna, 12–21 June 2019

Zero draft of the “Space2030” Agenda and implementation plan

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

The present working paper contains a consolidated draft of the “Space2030” Agenda and implementation plan, prepared by the Bureau of the Working Group on the “Space2030” Agenda, with the assistance of the Secretariat, and based on the discussions at the meetings of the Working Group held thus far, as well as on contributions by States members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.



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 came into being as a result of the recognition by the General Assembly, in its resolution 1348 (XIII) of 13 December 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; in its resolution 1472 A (XIV) of 1959, the Assembly permanently established the Committee.

2. Owing to its unique mandate and position at the centre of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and global governance of outer space activities, the Committee played a key role in the organization of the first three United Nations conferences on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, held in 1968, 1982 and 1999.

3. Fifty years after the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE), United Nations Member States and representatives of the international space community gathered in Vienna on 20 and 21 June 2018 for the high-level segment of the fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (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 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 was 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 General 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 addressing long-term sustainable development concerns of humankind. It also contributes to charting the future contribution of the Committee to the global governance of outer space activities.

II. Strategic vision

7. We, the States Members of the United Nations, acknowledge that the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space have enriched our collective knowledge and revolutionized life on Earth. Space science and technology are now intrinsic to our daily lives and bring an abundance of unique and fundamental benefits to Earth. As the space community moves forward with its space exploration endeavours, space

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

will continue to serve as a source of inspiration and innovation and to provide real-world 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 used to monitor the progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the commitments by States parties to the Paris Agreement. The fulfilment of these global agendas requires improved access to space-based data and applications and space infrastructure.

9. We acknowledge the distinguished historical record of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee and 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 of States, international intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental entities are flourishing, and as a result, space science and technology and their applications are contributing immeasurably to economic growth and improvements in the quality of life worldwide.

10. We reaffirm the unique role of the Committee, and its subcommittees, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as unique platforms for international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, for the 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.

11. We underscore the importance of global governance of outer space activities, based on international law, including the United Nations treaties on outer space, as well as the United Nations principles on outer space and related General Assembly resolutions, and the contributions of the Committee to that end. Of particular importance, 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.

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 changes in the undertaking of outer space activities at a time when new technologies have emerged and when an increasing number of participants, representing both governmental agencies and non-governmental entities, including industry and the private sector, are becoming involved in ventures to explore and use space and carry out space activities. In that regard, we commit to ensuring that the Committee, and its subcommittees, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, continue, as appropriate, to respond to such changes, in their role as unique platforms for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

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 long-standing 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 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.

16. We aim to inspire young people and to promote diversity and the engagement of women in the space sector and in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

17. We also aim to leverage to a greater extent new, innovative technologies, such as space technologies and their applications, to contribute to improved delivery of the mandates of the United Nations as a whole.

18. We emphasize that the seven thematic priorities developed by the Committee in the context of UNISPACE+50 represent a comprehensive approach to addressing key areas and collectively serve to determine the core objectives of the future work of the Committee and its subcommittees and the Office for Outer Space Affairs in the areas of global partnership in space exploration and innovation (thematic priority 1), current and future perspectives of the legal regime of outer space and global governance (thematic priority 2), enhanced information exchange on space objects and events (thematic priority 3), an international framework for space weather services (thematic priority 4), strengthened space cooperation for global health (thematic priority 5), international cooperation towards low-emission and resilient societies (thematic priority 6) and capacity-building for the twenty-first century (thematic priority 7).²

19. We also emphasize that, in fulfilling the “Space2030” Agenda and implementation plan, importance is attached to global partnerships 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 by taking advantage of the practical experiences and contributions of different stakeholders, the benefits of space will be brought to everyone, everywhere.

III. Objectives

20. We, the States Members of the United Nations, commit to pursuing the following objectives, based on the above strategic vision. The specific objectives are grouped under overarching objectives, which are structured around the four pillars of space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy. These four pillars are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

Overarching 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 of the importance of space science and technology for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

1.2. Facilitate and promote the development of innovative space-based solutions for social and economic development, integrating them into mechanisms for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals;

1.3. Address issues arising from commercial activities in outer space, including with a view to enabling space activities to better support the achievement of global development agendas and to ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, including by developing the economic justification for maintaining a safe and sustainable outer space environment;

1.4. Promote the development of the space industry, with a particular focus on small and medium-sized enterprises, including with a view to increasing investment in the

² General Assembly resolution 73/6, twenty-fourth preambular paragraph.

space sector and creating high-quality jobs, and promote the spin-off benefits of space technologies to the non-space sector;

1.5. Enable space activities, consistent with international law, by promoting a governance framework that encourages safety and innovation;

1.6. Promote the use of space-based solutions in global efforts to ensure a sustainable ocean economy;

1.7. Strengthen the contribution of space technologies and their applications to sustainable agriculture and food safety and security.

Overarching objective 2: Harness the potential of space to solve everyday challenges and leverage space-related innovation to improve the quality of life

2.1. Support space science and research, as outer space provides a unique perspective for scientists to observe and study the Earth and the universe;

2.2. Strengthen the use of integrated space applications to facilitate the observation of the climate and the assessment of disaster risks, improve early warning systems and 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;

2.3. Advance the role of space technologies in highlighting, analysing and addressing climate change and facilitating the transition to low-emission societies, and promote international collaboration in that regard, in line with existing and recognized international mechanisms and organizations;

2.4. Promote the use of space-based technologies in all phases of the disaster management cycle, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction; monitor elements such as exposure, hazards, disaster risk and damage in different regions of the world; and promote the sharing of disaster monitoring data;

2.5. Strengthen space-related cooperation in support of global health and improve the use of space science and technology and their applications in the global health domain;

2.6. Strengthen international cooperation and preparedness to respond to the threat posed by near-Earth objects;

2.7. Promote the use of space technologies and their applications to enhance scientific knowledge of the natural environment, including oceans and seas, water cycles and resources, forestry and biodiversity, with a view to contributing to sustainable resource management and the protection of ecosystems;

2.8. Strengthen the use of space technologies and their applications to support the development of socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements, both urban and rural, and to monitor cultural heritage sites and contribute to their preservation.

Overarching objective 3: Improve access to space for all and ensure that all countries can benefit socioeconomically from space science and technology applications and space-based data, information and products, thereby supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

3.1. Leverage the potential of space to inspire youth, increase the involvement of young people in the space sector, support national and international initiatives that inspire the interest of young people in space activities, from elementary school onwards, and strengthen their engagement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects;

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

- 3.3. Enhance capacity-building, education and training in space science and applications, in particular for developing countries;
- 3.4. Increase knowledge of outer space, including through enhanced access to astronomical and space science data, for the benefit of humankind;
- 3.5. Promote and support the use of space technologies to enhance worldwide access to data and broadband technologies, giving special attention to developing countries and areas with less-developed land-based infrastructure;
- 3.6. Promote diversity and the participation of women in space activities, including by strengthening the possibility for women to participate in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education;
- 3.7. Increase awareness of the risks of adverse space weather and mitigate those risks, in order to ensure increased global resilience against space weather effects, and improve the international coordination of space weather-related activities, including outreach, communication and capacity-building.

Overarching objective 4: Build partnerships and strengthen international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and in the global governance of outer space activities

- 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 use of outer space for peaceful purposes;
- 4.2. Promote the implementation by States parties of the United Nations treaties on outer space, as well as the implementation of related principles and General Assembly resolutions, and encourage the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, to continue to coordinate efforts in that regard and to complement and develop international space law, as appropriate, to respond to emerging issues;
- 4.3. Strengthen capacity-building and technical assistance, including that provided by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, for Member States in the field of international space law and policy;
- 4.4. Enhance the role of maintaining the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space, entrusted to the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and ensure the timely and consistent registration of objects;
- 4.5. Ensure the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and the preservation of the outer space environment for peaceful uses, including through the implementation on a voluntary basis of the guidelines on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and the sharing of experiences in implementing the guidelines, and address new challenges, risks and threats posed to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities;
- 4.6. Enhance the safety of outer space operations, in line with ongoing efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of outer space activities;
- 4.7. Promote international cooperation and exchanges on regulating commercial and private outer space activities, with a view to enhancing the safety and long-term sustainability of outer space activities while facilitating the development of the space industry;
- 4.8. Enhance the exchange of information on space objects and events, as well as the discussion on rules and procedures relating to the prediction and prevention of potential collisions;
- 4.9. Strengthen the coordination and interrelationship between the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees, with the assistance of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

IV. Implementation plan

A. Recommendations

21. To implement the “Space2030” Agenda, the following recommendations have been formulated and are addressed, as appropriate, to Member States, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Office for Outer Space Affairs, other United Nations entities and the space community at large:

(a) Strengthen 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 by enhancing the Platform and supporting the activities carried out under the Platform, in order to enable the UN-SPIDER programme to fully deliver on its mandate to provide access to space-based data and services for disaster risk reduction and emergency response. This would contribute to objectives 2.2 and 2.4 of the “Space2030” Agenda, and thematic priorities 6 and 7 of UNISPACE+50;

(b) Enhance capacity-building, education and training in space science and applications provided by the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, in particular for developing countries, including by supporting the alliance of the regional centres. This would contribute to objective 3.3 and thematic priority 7;

(c) Enhance the Charter on Cooperation to Achieve the Coordinated Use of Space Facilities in the Event of Natural or Technological Disasters (also called the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters) and the Recovery Observatory of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites in order to further promote and develop initiatives aimed at mastering the natural disaster risk chain. This would contribute to objectives 2.2 and 2.4 and thematic priorities 6 and 7;

(d) Member States should consider developing and participating in the international Space Climate Observatory, with a focus on the integration of space and in situ data and models, with a view to referencing and assessing climate change impact cases and scenarios. This would contribute to objectives 2.2 and 2.3 and thematic priority 6;

(e) Consolidate the high-level forums of the Office for Outer Space Affairs as regular annual events, aimed at ensuring continuous dialogue among the global community on a broad range of space matters and at raising awareness and supporting the implementation of the “Space2030” Agenda through the broad involvement of all relevant space actors;

(f) Enhance cooperation and the sharing of information on emergencies, epidemics and early-warning events, as well as on environmental parameters; improve the integration of health data into disaster management plans and capacity-building activities in advancing space technologies in global health efforts. This would contribute to objective 2.5 and thematic priority 5;

(g) Increase the interaction among the International Asteroid Warning Network, the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group and the Committee, supported by the Office, to strengthen preparedness for the threat of potential impacts of near-Earth objects. This would contribute to objective 2.6 and thematic priorities 6 and 7;

(h) Establish an international mechanism to promote increased high-level coordination in relation to space weather and increased global resilience against space weather effects. This would contribute to objective 3.7 and thematic priorities 4 and 6;

(i) The Office for Outer Space Affairs should continue to promote its ongoing and new initiatives in support of the “Space2030” Agenda, such as the Access to Space for All initiative, the Open Universe initiative, the Space for Women initiative,

and the “Space law for new space actors” project. This would contribute to objectives 3.4, 3.6 and 4.3 and thematic priorities 1, 2, 3 and 7;

(j) The Office for Outer Space Affairs should improve existing practices in the registration of space objects and the exchange of information undertaken on the basis of existing mandates, including by taking measures to increase transparency and improve the efficiency of the registration mechanism and by conducting regular technical advisory missions to promote transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities. This would contribute to objective 4.4 and thematic priority 3;

(k) The Office for Outer Space Affairs should continue to forge partnerships, including with industry and the private sector, to provide broader opportunities to access space for purposes of science, innovation, research and development, education and capacity-building, and should 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, including through the “Access to Space for All” initiative. This would contribute to overarching objective 3;

(l) The Committee and its subcommittees should continue to demonstrate their relevance and address new challenges and opportunities, such as the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, space resources and space debris mitigation and remediation, as well as emerging topics such as space traffic management, planetary defence and space safety;

(m) The Committee and its subcommittees should address their respective agenda items in a comprehensive, cross-cutting manner, considering the scientific, technical, legal and policy dimensions collectively. This would contribute to objective 4.9;

(n) The United Nations entities dealing with space should strengthen their cooperation, in line with United Nations system-wide efforts to increase coherency and deliver as one, including by expanding partnerships of the Office for Outer Space Affairs within 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 and other intergovernmental organizations in a wide range of space-related areas under their respective mandates.

22. In implementing the “Space2030” Agenda, Member States are encouraged to contribute to and take advantage of a number of international mechanisms, programmes, projects and platforms that are already in place or are being developed, such as the following:

- United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response
- Access to Space for All initiative of the Office for Outer Space Affairs
- Charter on Cooperation to Achieve the Coordinated Use of Space Facilities in the Event of Natural or Technological Disasters
- Recovery Observatory of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites
- International Space Climate Observatory
- Open Universe initiative of the Office
- Space for Women initiative of the Office
- “Space law for new space actors” project of the Office

23. The above list is not exhaustive and new initiatives could be developed, including with a view to assisting Member States in implementing the “Space2030” Agenda.

B. Partnerships

24. 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 through the provision of its technical, policy and legal expertise.

25. In fulfilling the “Space2030” Agenda and its implementation plan, importance is attached to global partnerships 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.

26. 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 “Space2030” Agenda.

27. In view of implementing the “Space2030” Agenda, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Office for Outer Space Affairs should continue to fulfil their respective mandates and to cooperate and coordinate with other relevant entities within the United Nations system.

C. Resources

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

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

30. 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.

D. Review of progress

31. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should include an item on its agenda for each session allowing for an exchange among Member States on their experiences in implementing the “Space2030” Agenda. In 2025, the Committee should carry out a midterm review of progress made in implementing the Agenda. In 2030, the Committee should carry out a final review of the implementation of the Agenda and report to the General Assembly on the results.