
Proposals by G77+China
10 April PM

8 February 2018

English only

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

**Revised draft resolution on space as a driver of sustainable
development**

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. At its seventh meeting, held on 2 February 2018, the Working Group of the Whole requested the Secretariat to make revisions to the text of the draft resolution in document [A/AC.105/C.1/L.364](#), taking into account the previous revisions contained in conference room paper A/AC.105/C.1/2018/CRP.6.
2. The present conference room paper contains a revised text of the draft resolution in Annex I with proposed revisions in track changes. Only the preambular part has been discussed thus far.
3. The conference room paper also contains proposed text for the report of the Working Group of the Whole of the fifty-fifth session of the Subcommittee in Annex II.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 9 February 2018.



Annex I

TEXT AS PREPARED BY THE INFORMAL MEETING HELD ON 5-9 MARCH 2018 IN VIENNA

Draft resolution on the fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: 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,

Recognizing that the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50), offers a unique opportunity for Member States to reflect on more than 50 years of achievement in space exploration, at a time when actors, both governmental and non-governmental, are increasingly getting involved in ventures to explore space and carry out space activities,

Convinced that UNISPACE+50 also offers a unique opportunity for Member States to look towards the future by strengthening the mandates of the Committee, its subsidiary bodies and the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat as unique platforms for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space,

[Note: placement to be discussed at a later stage] *Recognizing* that space science and technology and their applications have and will continue to have a significant role in implementing, achieving and contributing to the monitoring of the goals and targets of the comprehensive 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, *[particularly in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet],*

Reiterating that all countries, irrespective of their degrees of economic or scientific development, are participants, contributors and beneficiaries of the exploration and peaceful use of outer space,

Emphasizing that for the past 50 years, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and its Legal Subcommittee, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs have provided a unique and fundamental platform at the global level to promote international cooperation in space activities at all levels, foster dialogue among spacefaring and emerging space nations, increase capacity-building efforts for developing countries, and shape the space governance framework to benefit people and planet,

Convinced that preserving the use of the outer space for current and future generations is consistent with upholding the long-standing principle contained in Article I of the Outer Space Treaty that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind, (NEW by G77 + China)

Convinced, therefore, that the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and the commitments by those States Parties to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, require stronger coordination and support of those States at all international levels, including improved access to space-based data, applications and space infrastructure,

[Note: placement to be discussed at a later stage] *Recognizing* that space science and technology and their applications have and will continue to have a significant role in implementing, achieving and contributing to the monitoring of the goals and targets

of the comprehensive 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, [particularly in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet].

Seriously concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space, and bearing in mind the importance of article IV 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,

Recognizing that all Member States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the prevention of an arms race in outer space with a view to promoting and strengthening international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

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, and recognizing the need of using space science and technology to preserve the Earth and the space environment as well as the role of international cooperation in this regard,

Acknowledging that significant changes have occurred in the structure and content of space activities, as reflected in the emergence of new technologies and the increasing number of participants in such activities, and in this regard, recognizing the benefit of strengthening [national] regulatory frameworks,

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,

[Note: OPTION 1] Mindful of the need to promote universal, and safe [and] [equitable] access to ~~the benefits of space as~~ the scientific, technological, economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits of space activities-heritage of humankind, and in that regard, (Supported by G77 + China as a separate paragraph, not as an alternative)

[Note: OPTION 2] [Mindful [that the long-term sustainability of outer space activities is [defined as] the ability to maintain the conduct of space activities indefinitely into the future in a manner] of the need to realize / [that realizes] the objectives of equitable / enhanced access to the benefits of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, in order to meet the needs of the present generations while preserving the outer space environment for future generations in the interest of all humankind, (Supported by G77 + China as a separate paragraph, not as an alternative)

Convinced of the need for the Committee and its subcommittees to continue to address the emergence of commercial activities in outer space and consider how commercial actors might **responsibly (G77 + China)** support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Also Convinced, therefore, that the continuous growth and diversification of space activities should be attributed to combined and sustained efforts undertaken at the national, regional, interregional and international levels to foster international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, (G77 + China)

Also mindful of the importance of increasing knowledge of outer space, including through ~~enhanced equitable~~ **(G77 + China)** access to astronomy and space science data for the benefit of humankind,

Emphasizing the need to build stronger partnerships and international cooperation and coordination in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space **among the States (G77 + China)** at all levels ~~levels and among the participants~~

~~representing the broader space community (G77 + China)~~, in order to enhance the contribution of space activities for the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Noting with satisfaction that the Committee, in preparation for UNISPACE+50, analysed the impact of the three UNISPACE Conferences held in 1968, 1982 and 1999, as well as the review undertaken in 2004, and assessed its past, present and future role, as well as those of its subcommittees and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, within the five identified 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

Noting with appreciation, the outstanding work of the Committee and its subcommittees and the Office for Outer Space Affairs carried out under the seven thematic priorities of UNISPACE+50,² the related objectives and mechanisms in that regard, and all background documents in preparation for UNISPACE+50, [including the “Space2030” agenda] and within the framework of the four identified pillars, namely space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy³,

Emphasizing 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,

Welcoming the UNISPACE+50 high-level segment, held in Vienna on 20 and 21 June 2018 that commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and marked a significant step in the ongoing development of a comprehensive strategy, based on the preparatory process, to strengthen the contribution of space activities and space tools to the achievement of the global agendas addressing long-term [sustainable] development concerns of humankind based on the peaceful exploration and use of outer space,

1. *Notes with appreciation* that the UNISPACE+50 [consultative] process resulted in documents articulating a cross-cutting and strategic vision, in which space is seen as a major driver and contributor to the Sustainable Development Goals, their targets and indicators and which strengthens international cooperation for that purpose,

2. *Invites* the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue to develop, based on the results of the UNISPACE+50 [consultative] process, a “Space2030” agenda and implementation plan **that represents a broad, cross-cutting and strategic vision in which space is seen as a main driver and contributor to overarching development goals and strengthened international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, in particular for the benefit of developing countries, (G77 + China)** and provide the General Assembly with the outcome of its work for consideration at the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly,

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

2 bis. Affirms that the envisaged “Space2030” Agenda should be voluntary and nothing in it should be interpreted as giving rise to any new legal obligations for States (G77 + China);

~~— 2 ter. that the Agenda should be voluntary and not legally binding under international law, and nothing in the Agenda should be interpreted as giving rise to any new legal obligations for States (G77 + China);~~

~~3.~~3. Acknowledges the importance of global partnership and strengthened cooperation among Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, industry and private sector entities in fulfilling the “Space2030” agenda and its implementation plan;

~~3...Acknowledges the importance of Decides that the Agenda should also establish a (G77 + China) global partnership and strengthened cooperation among Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, industry and private sector entities in fulfilling the “Space2030” agenda and its implementation plan;—~~

3 bis. Encourages States to take steps in accordance with their respective needs and conditions to enhance their space science, technology and applications, including through seeking international cooperation of other States or intergovernmental organizations for inter alia sustainable development (G77 + China) ;

3 ter. Encourages States and intergovernmental organizations to support emerging spacefaring countries in the pursuit of building their national space capacities. (G77 + China);

3 quat. Reaffirms that international cooperation in the peaceful uses and exploration of outer space is in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, without discrimination of any kind and with due regard to the principle of equity (G77 + China);

~~7 bis. Invites States and international intergovernmental organizations to voluntarily take measures, through their own national or other applicable mechanisms, to ensure that the Agenda are implemented to the greatest extent feasible and practicable, in accordance with their respective needs, conditions and capabilities, and with their existing obligations under applicable international law, including the provisions of applicable United Nations treaties and principles on outer space (G77 + China);~~

~~— 7 ter. Confirms that the greater the technical and other relevant capabilities at the disposal of a particular State, the greater the emphasis that State should place on implementing the Agenda to the extent feasible and practicable, and States without such capabilities are encouraged to take steps to develop their own capacity to implement the Agenda including through seeking the support of other States or international intergovernmental organizations (G77 + China);~~

~~— 7 quat. Encourages States and relevant international intergovernmental organizations in a position to support developing countries in developing their national capacities for the implementation of the Agenda, to do so as one of the means of ensuring and enhancing the long term sustainability of outer space activities (G77 + China); (Comment: Since 7bis ter and quat all relates to the Agenda, suggest to move them to this place together with other paras relating to the Agenda, as 3 bis ter and quat .)~~

4. [Note: this para. to be re-visited] Emphasizes the need to take further coordinated action to ensure that space science, technology and their applications, are

utilized for sustainable development and the betterment of humankind, [and to promote international cooperation for that purpose],

4. *bis* acknowledges, therefore, that further action must be taken to advance shared scientific knowledge of outer space and enhance international cooperation, capacity-building, education and training in all countries, especially in developing countries to protect the space environment and planet Earth, (G77 + China);

5. [Recognizes/Notes/Acknowledges, in that regard, the need to align the unique role and mandate of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, to fulfil / with a view to aligning the mandate with / to fulfil the “Space2030” agenda and its implementation plan once agreed;]

6. [Note: Proposal by Brazil]: Decides, in that regard, to reaffirm /reiterate the unique role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as the prime intergovernmental platform / forum for the discussion of issues affecting outer space activities, the promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and the [negotiation of instruments pertaining to space activities] [development of space law]; to this end, emphasizes the importance of strengthening the mandates of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, while encouraging Member States of the UN to become members of COPUOS; (G77 + China)

7. *Encourages* all States to continue to contribute actively to and promote and strengthen international cooperation in peaceful use of outer space, for the objective of shaping a shared future for humankind, taking into account the particular needs of developing countries; [Note: as agreed by consensus by informal meeting]

7bis. Encourages member states to actively conduct bilateral, multilateral, regional and international space cooperation in various forms, including capacity building, information and infrastructure sharing, development of joint projects, and when appropriate, to integrate space cooperation with the economic and development cooperation, in order to reduce the space divide and to assist developing countries in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, encourages the Committee and its subcommittees, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, continue to serve as a prime platform at the global level to facilitate international cooperation within their mandates;(G77+China)

[8. Agrees to strengthen the implementation of 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 UN-SPIDER and its network of regional support offices in fully delivering under its established mandate and be able to adequately act in response to the needs of developing countries;] (G77 + China)

[9. Emphasizes the importance of capacity building, education and training, undertaken by regional centers for space science and technology, affiliated to the United Nations, particularly for developing countries, and in this regard, encourages the enhancement of these regional centers as well as their alliance to improve their overall capacity;] (G77 + China)

10. *Invites* the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Office for Outer Space Affairs to enhance cooperation and coordination with other relevant entities of the United Nations system on space-related activities;

11. *Convinced* that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its subcommittees, and the Office for Outer Space Affairs should continue to coordinate efforts to strengthen the implementation of the United Nations treaties and principles

on outer space, as a means of promoting the universality of the United Nations treaties on outer space;

12. *Invites* the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Office for Outer Space Affairs to enhance cooperation and coordination with other relevant entities within the United Nations system on space-related activities within existing resources;

13. *Emphasizes* the need **to** strengthen the coordination and interrelationship between the Committee and its subcommittees, assisted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in addressing agenda items in a comprehensive, cross-cutting manner, combining scientific, technical, legal and policy dimensions, and to foster through its agendas the use and utility of space as a driver of global sustainable development towards 2030 and beyond;

14. [OPTION 1] [Notes the unique role of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in supporting the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, in its capacity as Secretariat to those bodies, and in carrying out capacity-building activities in the field of space science and technology and their application, regulatory frameworks and mechanisms for emerging spacefaring nations] / [international space law], policy and space-related institutional capacity-building, in an integrated and targeted manner, and in cooperation with Member States, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and industry and private sector entities, [the Office needs adequate financial and human resources to fulfil its mandates to fully support Member States] [and in this regard, calls upon the Secretary-General to consider, within existing resources, ways to return the Office budget to 2010-2011 levels];

14. [OPTION 2] Notes the unique role of the Committee, its subsidiary bodies and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in its capacity as the Secretariat to those bodies, and their contribution to implement the present resolution, and calls upon the Secretary-General to consider way to reprioritize resources in this regard to enable the Committee to fulfil its mandate to fully support Member States (G77 + China);

14 bis. Requests the Secretary-General to support, as appropriate, the implementation of the present resolution (G77 + China);

15. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide voluntary extrabudgetary resources for these purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;