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Thirtieth session
Agenda items 32 and 33

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING
THE USE BY STATES OF ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITES FOR DIRECT
TELEVISION BROADCASTING

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Horacio ARTEAGA-ACOSTA (Venezuela)

1. The items entitled "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" and "Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" were included in the provisional agenda of the thirtieth session on the basis of General Assembly resolution 3234 (XXIX) of 12 November 1974.
2. At its 2353rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 1975, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the two items in its agenda and to allocate them to the First Committee for consideration and report.
3. At its 2048th meeting, on 10 October 1975, the First Committee agreed to consider these two items jointly, on the understanding that delegations wishing to do so could make separate statements on either of the items.
4. The First Committee considered the two items at the 2048th to 2053rd meetings, held between 10 and 15 October 1975.

5. At the 2048th meeting, the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space introduced the Committee's report. ^{1/}

6. At the 2050th meeting, on 13 October, a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.712) was introduced by the representative of Austria on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, France, the German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela. The draft resolution was subsequently co-sponsored by Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ireland, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mauritius, the Netherlands and Nigeria.

7. A statement (A/C.1/L.715) of the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution was submitted by the Secretary-General on 13 October.

8. At the same meeting, the representative of Mauritius introduced an amendment (A/C.1/L.713) to be inserted as a new paragraph between operative paragraphs 7 and 8 of the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.712), which read as follows:

"Recommends, in view of the increased burden of activity placed upon the Secretariat in responding to requests for studies, reports, surveys, experimental practical programmes, as well as an increased role in ensuring more effective interagency co-ordination, that the Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations Secretariat be strengthened."

9. A statement (A/C.1/L.716) of the administrative and financial implications of that amendment was submitted by the Secretary-General on 14 October.

10. At the 2051st meeting, on 14 October, the representative of the Philippines introduced an amendment (A/C.1/L.714 and Corr.1) to be inserted as a new paragraph between operative paragraphs 13 and 14 of the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.712), which read as follows:

"Reiterates its request to the World Meteorological Organization to pursue actively the implementation of its tropical cyclone project, while continuing and intensifying its other related action programmes, including the World Weather Watch and, especially, the efforts being undertaken towards obtaining basic meteorological data and discovering ways and means to mitigate the harmful effects of tropical storms and to remove or minimize their destructive potential, and looks forward to its report thereon in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 2914 (XXVII) of 9 November 1972, 3182 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973 and 3234 (XXIX) of 12 November 1974."

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/10020).

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11. At the 2053rd meeting, on 15 October, the representative of Austria, on behalf of the co-sponsors of draft resolution (A/C.1/L.712), announced that, in consultation with the representative of Mauritius, a revised text of the amendment contained in document A/C.1/L.713 had been accepted by the sponsors of the draft resolution. Under the revised amendment (A/C.1/L.713/Rev.1), the word "Recommends" would be replaced by "Requests", and the words "that the Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations Secretariat be strengthened" would be replaced by "that the Secretary-General take measures, if possible within his present resources, for the strengthening of the Outer Space Affairs Division of the United Nations Secretariat".

12. At the same meeting, the Committee unanimously adopted the amendments to the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.712) submitted by the Philippines (A/C.1/L.714 and Corr.1) and by Mauritius, as revised (A/C.1/L.713/Rev.1).

13. The Committee then unanimously adopted the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.712), as amended (see para. 14 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

14. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3234 (XXIX) of 12 November 1974,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, ^{2/}

Reaffirming the common interest of mankind in furthering the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Recalling its resolution 1721 B (XVI) of 20 December 1961, in which it expressed the belief that the United Nations should provide a focal point for international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space,

Convinced that the benefits deriving from space exploration can be extended to States at every level of economic and scientific development if Member States conduct their space programmes in a manner designed to promote the maximum international co-operation and participation, including the widest possible exchange of information in this field, and the expansion of international programmes for the practical application of space technology to development,

^{2/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/10020).

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Reaffirming the importance of international co-operation in developing the rule of law in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space,

Welcoming the international co-operative effort, marked, inter alia, by the successful joint Apollo-Soyuz flight carried out by the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in July 1975,

Noting that a World Administrative Radio Conference for the Planning of the Broadcasting-Satellite Service will be held by the International Telecommunication Union in January and February 1977,

1. Endorses the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;
2. Invites States which have not yet become parties to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, 3/ the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, 4/ the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects 5/ and the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space 6/ to give early consideration to signing and ratifying or acceding to those international agreements;
3. Notes with satisfaction that the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has pursued its work and achieved progress on the draft treaty relating to the Moon, the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements and was able to begin the detailed consideration of remote sensing from space of the earth and to ascertain certain common elements in the three draft international instruments submitted to it as well as in the views expressed by Member States;
4. Recommends that the Legal Sub-Committee at its fifteenth session should, as matters of high priority:
 - (a) Continue to consider the draft treaty relating to the Moon;
 - (b) Continue to consider the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 2916 (XXVII) of 9 November 1972 and 3234 (XXIX) of 12 November 1974;

3/ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

4/ Resolution 2345 (XXII), annex.

5/ Resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex.

6/ Resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex.

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- (c) (i) Continue its detailed legal consideration of remote sensing from space of the earth - that is, of its natural resources and its natural environment - taking into account the various views of States expressed on the subject, including proposals for draft international instruments, and taking into account all relevant discussions, views and conclusions concerning organizational, economic and technical aspects of remote sensing in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, including those contained in the report of its twelfth session, 7/ with a view to identifying further common elements among the views of States;
 - (ii) Proceed to the drafting of principles in regard to those particular areas of the subject where common elements in the views of States are identified;
5. Notes with satisfaction that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee examined the question of remote sensing of the earth from space and, as set out in paragraphs 27 and 28 of the report of its twelfth session, considered in detail the current pre-operational/experimental phase as well as a possible future global/international operational remote sensing system or systems;
 6. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Secretary-General should be requested to prepare for the consideration of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee the further studies on organizational and financial matters relating to remote sensing activities from space mentioned in paragraph 32 of the report of the Committee;
 7. Further endorses the recommendation that the Secretary-General should explore the feasibility of utilizing existing facilities and expertise to establish, on an experimental basis, an international centre for the training of personnel from developing countries in the effective use of remote sensing information and take other possible steps, as set out in paragraph 33 (a) of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as well as undertake an appropriate users' survey to obtain a clearer understanding of the real needs of the users and their stage of preparedness in this area of activity;
 8. Requests, in view of the increased burden of activity placed upon the Secretariat in responding to requests for studies, reports, surveys and experimental practical programmes, as well as the increased role in ensuring more effective interagency co-ordination, that the Secretary-General take measures, if possible within his present resources, for the strengthening of the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Secretariat;

9. Notes with satisfaction that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee has pursued its work, inter alia, on:

7/ A/AC.105/150, paras. 15-29.

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(a) The United Nations space applications programme;

(b) The question of a possible international conference on outer space matters;

10. Requests the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its thirteenth session to undertake further detailed work on these and other matters in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as set out in paragraph 53 of its report;

11. Endorses the United Nations programme on space applications as referred to in paragraph 36 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

12. Recommends the continuing review of the space applications programme, so as to enable it to respond more effectively to the needs of the developing countries for assistance in the practical applications of space technology;

13. Affirms the importance of ensuring effective interagency co-ordination in the area of space applications;

14. Requests the specialized agencies to provide the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with progress reports on their work, including particular problems in the fields within their competence relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

15. Reiterates its requests to the World Meteorological Organization to pursue actively the implementation of its tropical cyclone project, while continuing and intensifying its other related action programmes, including the World Weather Watch and, especially, the efforts being undertaken towards obtaining basic meteorological data and discovering ways and means to mitigate the harmful effects of tropical storms and to remove or minimize their destructive potential, and looks forward to its report thereon in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 2914 (XXVII) of 9 November 1972, 3182 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973 and 3234 (XXIX) of 12 November 1974;

16. Approves continuing sponsorship by the United Nations of the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in India and the CELPA Mar del Plata Station in Argentina and expresses its satisfaction at the work being carried out at those ranges in the peaceful and scientific exploration of outer space;

17. Notes the suggestion made by the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space ^{8/} concerning a potential future role of the Committee in view of the prospective significance of the collection and transmission of solar energy through space technology;

18. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its work, as set out in the present and previous resolutions of the General Assembly, and to report to the Assembly at its thirty-first session.

^{8/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/10020), annex, p. 21.