

**REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE
ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-NINTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 20 (A/39/20)



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NOTE

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CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 14	1
II. RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS	15 - 85	4
A. Questions relating to the militarization of outer space .	15 - 26	4
B. Report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee	27 - 62	5
1. United Nations Programme on Space Applications and Co-ordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system	28 - 36	5
2. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	37 - 44	8
3. Remote sensing of the earth by satellites	45 - 51	9
4. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space	52 - 54	10
5. Space transportation systems	55 - 58	10
6. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit	59 - 62	11
C. Report of the Legal Sub-Committee	63 - 74	11
1. Legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space, with the aim of formulating draft principles	64 - 67	11
2. The possibility of supplementing the norms of international law relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space	68 - 71	12
3. Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit including the elaboration of general principles to govern the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit, a limited natural resource	72 - 74	12
D. Other matters	75 - 80	13
E. Future work of the sub-committees	81 - 83	14

3. Statement by the Chairman.
4. General exchange of views.
5. Questions relating to the militarization of outer space.
6. Report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on the work of its twenty-first session (A/AC.105/336).
7. Report of the Legal Sub-Committee on the work of its twenty-third session (A/AC.105/337).
8. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.
9. Other matters.
10. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

Attendance

6. Representatives of the following Member States attended the session: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, France, the German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia.

7. The Committee decided to invite, at their request, the representatives of Cuba, Spain, Tunisia, the Holy See and Switzerland to attend the twenty-seventh session of the Committee and address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that this would be without prejudice to further request of this nature and that it would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

8. Representatives of the following specialized agencies attended the session: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

9. Representatives of the European Space Agency (ESA), the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT) also attended the session.

10. A list of representatives attending the session is contained in document A/AC.105/XXVII/INF.2 and Corr.1 and 2.

Proceedings

11. At the opening of the session, at the 255th meeting, the Chairman of the Committee made a statement reviewing the work of the Committee's subsidiary bodies

and outlining the work of the Committee. He noted that the twenty-seventh session of the Committee was being held at a time marked by many remarkable accomplishments in the peaceful uses of outer space and referred to some manned and unmanned space programmes. He reviewed the current status of international co-operation relating to outer space and called upon the Committee to continue strengthening co-operation in this field. The Chairman also made reference to the working methods of the Committee. The text of the Chairman's statement is annexed to the present report.

12. The Committee held a general exchange of views at the 255th to 260th meetings, from 12 to 15 June 1984, in the course of which statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, France, the German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia. These statements are contained in the verbatim records of the 255th to 260th meetings of the Committee (A/AC.105/PV.255-260).

13. The representatives of FAO, UNESCO, ITU, ESA, COSPAR, IAF, INTELSAT and the United Nations Expert on Space Applications also made statements. These statements are contained in the verbatim records of the 256th to 262nd meetings of the Committee (A/AC.105/PV.256-262).

14. After considering the various items before it, the Committee, at its meeting on 21 June 1984, adopted its report to the General Assembly containing the recommendations and decisions set out in the paragraphs below.

29. In this regard, the Committee expressed its appreciation to the Expert on Space Applications for the effective manner in which he had implemented the United Nations Programme within the limited funds at his disposal.

30. The Committee endorsed the programme of activities proposed under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 1985 as outlined by the Expert in his report (A/AC.105/330, para. 51) and recommended that programme of activities for approval by the General Assembly. In so doing, the Committee welcomed the invitations from the Governments of Bulgaria, China, India, Italy and Sweden, as well as FAO, WMO, ESA and the Remote Sensing Regional Facility in Nairobi, to host/co-sponsor the workshops/training courses concerned. The Committee joined the Sub-Committee in expressing the hope that sufficient voluntary contributions would be offered so that the Expert could implement the programme of activities as proposed. In this connection, the Committee noted the statement of the Expert on Space Applications that, while the actual project execution phases of the newly mandated activities of the Programme could be financed under UNDP funding, additional financial resources would need to be allocated on a regular basis to supplement the voluntary contributions which now constitute the only financial support for the planning and development phases of these activities. The Committee noted that the 1985 programme of activities had been formulated to implement, to the fullest extent possible, the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) regarding the Space Applications Programme.

31. Regarding seminars and training courses in 1983, the Committee expressed its appreciation to the Government of Brazil for co-sponsoring and hosting a United Nations regional seminar on space applications for the benefit of member States in the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) region; to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for hosting a United Nations regional seminar on space applications for the benefit of member States in the ESCAP region; to the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) for hosting a United Nations interregional seminar on space applications for the benefit of member States in the ECA and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) regions; to WMO, ESA and FAO for co-sponsoring the first United Nations/WMO/ESA/FAO International Training Course on Remote Sensing Applications to Agro-meteorology for the benefit of developing countries, held at Niamey; and to the Government of Italy, FAO and UNESCO for co-sponsoring the eighth United Nations International Training Course on Remote Sensing Applications to water resources held in Rome. The Committee noted with appreciation the financial and other contributions made by the Government of Italy, FAO, UNESCO, WMO and ESA in connection with these training courses.

32. Regarding 1984 activities, the Committee also expressed its appreciation to the Government of USSR for hosting and co-sponsoring a United Nations International Course on Remote Sensing Applications to Forestry; and to the Government of Italy and FAO for co-sponsoring, with United Nations, the ninth United Nations/FAO International Training Course on Remote Sensing Applications. The Committee noted with appreciation the financial assistance provided or offered by the Governments of Italy and the USSR and FAO in connection with those training courses. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Government of the USSR to host training courses for developing countries on remote sensing and space telecommunications every two or three years, starting in 1984.

33. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Government of Austria for offering fellowships through the United Nations in 1983-1984 and for renewing its

offer of two fellowships for in-depth training for 1984-1985. The Committee also noted with appreciation that a number of fellowships for in-depth training had been offered by the Governments of Greece, Indonesia and the USSR and ESA, and the plans to implement some of these fellowships were progressing. The Committee noted that steps have already been taken both by the Governments concerned and the United Nations to implement a number of fellowship offers. The Committee further noted with appreciation the financial contributions made by the Governments of Cameroon, China and Pakistan, as mentioned in paragraph 33 of the Sub-Committee's report, and an offer of \$25,000 made by the Government of Sweden in support of the remote sensing training course to be held at Nairobi in 1985. The Committee welcomed the recent decision of the Government of Austria to contribute 350,000 Austrian schillings in support of the expanded and newly mandated activities of the Space Applications Programme.

34. Regarding technical advisory services, the Committee noted that the 1984 activities in this area would be devoted to meeting some of the needs and requests of member States which had been presented to the Sub-Committee at its last session. In this connection, the Committee noted that a United Nations Meeting of Experts on Space Science and Technology had been held in May 1984 for the benefit of member States of the ESCAP region and expressed its appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for having hosted the meeting. The Committee also noted that a number of consultative missions had been undertaken to Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ecuador and Mexico and that appropriate programme activities, emanating from these missions were being developed. Further consultative missions were being undertaken to other regions, particularly the ECA and ESCAP regions. The Committee also took note with satisfaction of the offer of the Government of Argentina to host in 1985 the first meeting of governmental experts on space science and technology for regional co-operation.

Co-ordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system

35. The Committee noted with appreciation the participation in all stages of its work and that of its Sub-Committee by representatives of United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other international organizations and found the reports they had submitted helpful in enabling the Committee and its subsidiary bodies to fulfil their role as a focal point for international co-operation, especially with respect to the practical applications of space science and technology in developing countries.

36. The Committee further noted with appreciation that the Sub-Committee continued to stress the necessity of ensuring continuous and effective consultations and co-ordination in the field of outer space activities among organizations within the United Nations system. In this connection, the Committee noted with satisfaction that the fifth Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities had been held in 1983 and it welcomed its decision that the United Nations publication entitled Space Activities and Resources should be updated and reissued. The Committee also noted with satisfaction that a sixth Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities will be held in October 1984 at ITU headquarters in Geneva.

2. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

37. The Committee noted with satisfaction that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/80, the Sub-Committee had given priority consideration to this item.

38. With regard to the newly mandated and expanded United Nations Programme on Space Applications as a result of UNISPACE 82, the views of the Committee are contained in paragraphs 28-34 of the present report.

39. Regarding the promotion of greater co-operation in space science and technology, the Committee welcomed the fact that the United Nations, in co-operation with COSPAR, the Committee on Science and Technology for Development (COSTED) and UNESCO would sponsor a number of participants from the developing countries to participate in the 1984 COSPAR meeting, its associated symposia and workshops. The Committee welcomed the decision of the Government of Austria to sponsor the participation of a specialist from a developing country in this meeting.

40. Regarding the International Space Information Service, which, by resolution 37/90, the General Assembly decided to establish in the Outer Space Affairs Division, the Committee noted the effort being made by the Secretariat (A/AC.105/336, paras. 40-42). In this connection, the Committee expressed its appreciation to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for having hosted in May 1984 the United Nations international meeting of experts on remote sensing information systems. The Committee also noted with appreciation the financial assistance offered by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and ESA.

41. With regard to the studies recommended to be undertaken by the United Nations independently or together with other United Nations organizations, the Committee noted with satisfaction that, in accordance with its recommendations and the decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the three studies had been carried out, each of which was carefully reviewed by the relevant Group of Experts as planned: the study on "assistance to countries in studying their remote sensing needs and assessing appropriate systems for meeting such needs" during the 1984 session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, the study on "the feasibility of obtaining closer spacing of satellites in the geostationary orbit and their satisfactory coexistence, including a closer examination of techno-economic implications, particularly for developing countries, in order to ensure the most effective utilization of this orbit in the interest of all countries" during the 1984 session of the Legal Sub-Committee, and finally the study on "the feasibility of using direct broadcasting satellites for educational purposes and of internationally or regionally-owned space segments" during the 1984 session of the Committee. The Committee noted that, in accordance with the agreed procedure, the three draft final studies would be submitted to the 1985 session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee for consideration and evaluation and through it to the Committee for recommendations for appropriate action.

42. With regard to inter-agency co-operation, the Committee noted the request of the General Assembly, contained in paragraph 21 of resolution 38/80, to all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and endorsed the view of the Sub-Committee that the United Nations should continue to seek the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other international funding

institutions. In this connection, the Committee noted with satisfaction that the 1984 session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities was planned for October 1984 to discuss, inter alia, the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82.

43. Regarding regional co-operation, the Committee noted with satisfaction that, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 38/80, the Secretariat had continued to seek to strengthen regional mechanisms of co-operation in carrying out various activities in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, in particular those under the Space Applications Programme. The Committee noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Poland concerning the utilization of an interregional centre for remote sensing as described in the Sub-Committee's report (A/AC.105/336, para. 48).

44. Regarding future projects to implement further the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, the Committee noted that the Sub-Committee at its last session requested the Secretariat to invite member States' views and to report thereon to the present session of the Committee. The Sub-Committee had also urged member States to consider providing additional voluntary contributions in this regard. Accordingly, the Committee had before it a report on this subject in document A/AC.105/L.147. The Committee noted that a number of replies had been received and that they would be issued as addenda to that document. The Committee reiterated the request to the Secretariat to invite member States' views on the future follow-up of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82. The Committee appealed to member States to reply promptly to the Secretariat so that a fruitful discussion could take place on this question at the 1985 session of the Sub-Committee. With regard to the source of funds to implement further the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, some delegations felt that, in view of the unpredictability and uncertainty of voluntary contributions, the General Assembly should consider increasing its annual budget allocation to the Outer Space Affairs Division from within the existing overall provisions of the United Nations regular budget. The view was expressed that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should consider, in light of the results of the first three studies, the future course of action to be taken with regard to the additional study projects recommended by UNISPACE 82. The view was also expressed that it was also important to carry out studies on mechanisms of regional co-operation, taking into account the experience acquired in this matter.

3. Remote sensing of the earth by satellites

45. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee, endorsed by the General Assembly, had continued its priority consideration of questions relating to remote sensing of the earth by satellites. The Committee also noted that, in the course of the debate in the Sub-Committee, delegations had reaffirmed their basic positions relating to remote sensing data which had been reflected in the reports of the previous sessions of the Sub-Committee.

46. The Committee endorsed the view of the Sub-Committee that remote sensing from outer space should be carried out with the widest possible international co-operation and participation and again emphasized the fundamental urgency of providing appropriate assistance to meet the needs of the developing countries.

47. Regarding improvements in the compilation of the list of remote sensing applications, the Committee endorsed the view of the Sub-Committee that the updating of the catalogue should be continued and that more member States should provide information to be included in the list, which should be made available to all interested nations.

48. The Committee took note of the importance of the compatibility and complementarity of systems for remote sensing of the earth from satellites, especially from the standpoint of land-based investments.

49. The Committee also took note of the importance of continuity of data availability in a form compatible with present systems, considering the investments already made - or to be made - on the ground by many countries (in the form of ground stations, processing equipment, data archival, software, and so on). The Committee noted that system operators should keep this consideration in mind in the planning of future systems.

50. The Committee took note of the importance of non-discriminatory and free-of-charge access to the information obtained from weather satellites. Accordingly, all countries were urged to maintain such co-operation and ensure its continuity.

51. The Committee agreed that the Sub-Committee should continue consideration of this item on a priority basis at its next session.

4. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

52. The Committee noted that the Sub-Committee, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/80, had reconvened its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space to conduct additional work on the basis of the report of the Working Group on the work of its third session.

53. The Committee noted that the Sub-Committee had adopted the report of the Working Group as contained in annex II of the report of the Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/336).

54. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Sub-Committee that this item should be kept as a priority item on its agenda for the next session and that the Working Group should continue its work at that session.

5. Space transportation systems

55. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/80, the Sub-Committee had continued the consideration of the item relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space.

56. The Committee took note of the statements on the progress being achieved in the various programmes in operation or planned as reported by China, France, India, Japan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and ESA.

57. The suggestion was made that the Secretariat should submit on a yearly basis a report compiling relevant information on space transportation systems on the basis of the information provided by member States.

58. The Committee endorsed the decision of the Sub-Committee that it continue consideration of this item at its next session.

6. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit

59. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/80, the Sub-Committee had continued the examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit.

60. The Committee noted that delegations had reiterated and elaborated on the views expressed by them at earlier sessions of the Sub-Committee.

61. The Committee endorsed the Sub-Committee's request that the study of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit continue to be brought up to date as required. The Committee also noted, in this connection, that studies were being undertaken by ITU in preparation for the World Administrative Radio Conference on the use of the geostationary satellite orbit and the planning of space services utilizing it to be held in 1985 and 1988.

62. The Committee endorsed the decision of the Sub-Committee that it continue consideration of this item at its next session.

C. Report of the Legal Sub-Committee

63. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee on the work of its twenty-third session (A/AC.105/337) which provided the results of its deliberations on the items assigned to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 38/80.

1. Legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space, with the aim of formulating draft principles

64. The Committee noted that, in continuing as a matter of priority its detailed consideration of the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth by satellites, the Sub-Committee had re-established its Working Group on Remote Sensing under the chairmanship of Mr. Cede (Austria). The Committee also noted that a principle-by-principle reading of the draft principles as formulated to date had been carried out with special attention being given to the discussion of principles XI to XV. The Committee further noted that a number of issues continued to require resolution before a final text could be prepared (A/AC.105/337, paras. 16-23 and annex I).

65. The Committee expressed its concern at the lack of progress achieved at the recent sessions of the Legal Sub-Committee on this item and emphasized the importance of intensifying efforts to complete the drafting principles in this field.

66. The Committee reaffirmed its recommendation that the Legal Sub-Committee should make every effort to finalize the draft principles on remote sensing.

67. The Committee recommended that this item should be retained as a matter of priority on the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee for its twenty-fourth session.

2. The possibility of supplementing the norms of international law relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space

68. The Committee noted that, in giving detailed consideration to this item, the Sub-Committee had re-established its Working Group on this item under the chairmanship of Mr. Cede (Austria) during its twenty-third session.

69. The Committee noted the work carried out by the Working Group, as reflected in the report of the Legal Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/337, paras. 24-29 and annex II).

70. Some delegations expressed the view that this item should be recognized as a priority item before the Sub-Committee and that the amount of time allocated to this item in the Sub-Committee should be increased. These delegations were also of the view that, in order to achieve further progress on this question, the Sub-Committee should be given a clear and unequivocal mandate to draft a set of principles governing the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. In that respect they proposed that the title of the item should be changed to read "Elaboration of draft principles governing the use of nuclear power sources in outer space". Other delegations expressed the view that there was no need to change the title or the basis on which the Sub-Committee has been treating the issue. These delegations reiterated their view that what was important was the achievement of concrete results and not procedural aspects relating to the issue.

71. The Committee recommended that this item should be retained on the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee for its twenty-fourth session.

3. Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit including the elaboration of general principles to govern the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit, a limited natural resource

72. The Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/80, the Legal Sub-Committee continued to consider this item, starting with the current year, on a priority basis. The Committee noted that the Legal Sub-Committee considered the item through a Working Group, under the chairmanship of Mr. Montemayor (Mexico), which was established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/80, and that draft principles were submitted on that matter.

73. The Committee noted that a variety of views was expressed on this question and reflected in paragraphs 35 to 50 and annex III of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/337). These views were reiterated during the current session of the Committee.

74. Some delegations expressed the view that this item be retained on the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee as a priority item for further consideration at its

twenty-fourth session, on the same basis as recommended by the General Assembly in resolution 38/80. Other delegations expressed the view that the regulation of the geostationary orbit was the responsibility of ITU and that it was not necessary or appropriate at this stage to consider the questions of definition and delimitation of outer space.

D. Other matters

75. The Committee noted with appreciation the participation in its work and that of its sub-committees by representatives of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and found the reports they had submitted helpful in enabling the Committee and its subsidiary bodies to fulfil their role as a focal point of international co-operation. The Committee also noted with appreciation the participation in its work and that of its sub-committees by the representatives of ESA, COSPAR and IAF. The Committee requested concerned organizations to continue to keep it informed of their activities relating to the peaceful uses of outer space.

76. The Committee noted that an application for observer status with the Committee and its subsidiary bodies had been received from the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT). The Committee, pending its decision on the application for observer status, decided to invite INTELSAT to attend the current session of the Committee.

77. Regarding the working methods of the Committee and its two Sub-Committees, the Committee noted the working paper in document A/AC.105/L.148 submitted by the Netherlands. Differing views were expressed on the need to change the working methods of the Committee. Although some delegations expressed the view that the Committee should not devote too much time to organizational matters, other delegations, however, agreed that efforts to improve the working methods of the Committee deserve further attention. The Committee also agreed that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should consider possible ways in which it could further promote international co-operation in space science and applications.

78. The Committee agreed that it and its sub-committees should continue to make efforts to develop and promote further international co-operation in space science and applications. Furthermore, it was agreed that the Legal Sub-Committee should develop appropriate norms which would have the purpose of implementing international co-operation in this matter.

79. Some delegations expressed the view that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should give further consideration to the question of direct broadcasting satellites in order to conclude a legally binding instrument in the form of a convention or a treaty as recommended by General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII) of 9 November 1972. Other delegations did not share this view.

80. The view was expressed that the Legal Sub-Committee should elaborate general principles governing the use of space technology for practical purposes.

E. Future work of the sub-committees

81. The Committee noted the views expressed by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee as contained in paragraphs 73 to 75 of its report (A/AC.105/336) and endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraphs 73 and 74 concerning the agenda of the twenty-second session of that Sub-Committee.

82. Regarding the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee, the Committee recommended that the Legal Sub-Committee at its twenty-fourth session should:

(a) Continue on a priority basis its detailed consideration of the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space, with the aim of formulating draft principles relating to remote sensing;

(b) Continue its consideration of the possibility of supplementing the norms of international law relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space through its working group;

(c) Continue its consideration of matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space, bearing in mind, inter alia, questions relating to the geostationary orbit.

83. As indicated in paragraphs 70 and 74 above, the Committee was unable to agree on the precise way in which items (b) and (c) above should be dealt with.

F. Schedule of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

84. The Committee agreed on the following timetable for 1985:

	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee*	11-22 February	New York
Legal Sub-Committee	18 March-4 April	New York
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	17-28 June	New York

* The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space will meet during the first week (11-15 February).

G. Tribute to the Federal Government and people of Austria

85. The Committee expressed deep gratitude to the Federal Government and the people of Austria for making possible the holding of the twenty-seventh session of the Committee in Vienna and for their generous hospitality and great contribution to the successful completion of the work of the Committee. The Committee also expressed its deep gratitude to the Governor/Mayor of Vienna as well as the Governor and people of Burgenland for the generous hospitality extended to the Committee during its session in Vienna.

Opening statement by the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space

1. I welcome you most cordially to Vienna and to the twenty-seventh session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. A special welcome is due on behalf of the Committee to the distinguished representatives of Portugal and Turkey who have become members of this Committee and its Sub-Committees this year and will serve for the next three years in place of Spain and Greece.
2. Members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and their colleagues from various organizations, in particular the specialized agencies of the United Nations, are no strangers to Vienna. Vienna was the host city of the twentieth session of the Committee in 1977 and it is only a short two years ago that we met here in Vienna for the UNISPACE 82 Conference and addressed ourselves to the momentous task of setting an agenda for nations and organizations to follow in the area of co-operative, international space ventures in the next decade or two. And it is my hope, as indeed your hope, I believe, that meeting in Vienna once again will help us to recall and to reaffirm our commitment to international co-operation in the peaceful exploitation of outer space which was one of the major themes of UNISPACE 82 and indeed of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.
3. This past year has again been filled with many remarkable accomplishments in the peaceful uses of outer space. In September 1983 the European SPACELAB first travelled aboard the Space Shuttle to accomplish a number of missions and added a new nationality to the growing family of astronauts and cosmonauts, the Federal Republic of Germany. Earlier this year, efforts by the United States and the Soviet Union combined to set a new record in the exploration of outer space. In February this year, Soyuz Y-10 of the Soviet Union was launched with three cosmonauts for a mission with Salyut 7 and this resulted in a successful Soyuz T-10/Salyut 7 hook-up. At that time, the United States Space Shuttle Challenger was on an eight-day voyage with five American astronauts on board, bringing the total number of men in space to a record eight.
4. In April this year, the United States Space Shuttle Challenger completed the eleventh successful flight by a Space Shuttle amply demonstrating its reliable reusability. The most important and significant achievement of its eleventh mission was the recovery, repair and relaunch of Solar Max satellite. Also in April this year, China launched a development communications spacecraft into the geosynchronous orbit for television relay services. By this mission, which used a high-energy upper stage to place a payload in geosynchronous orbit, China has now joined the Soviet Union, the United States, ESA and Japan with this space capability.
5. Also in April, the joint Soviet-Indian manned flight to Salyut 7 aboard Soyuz T-11 which included the first Indian cosmonaut was successfully carried out, further expanding the scope of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. By these flights, the total number of astronauts/cosmonauts simultaneously in space reached 11, consisting of 5 on the Space Shuttle, 3 in the Soyuz T-11 including one Indian cosmonaut and 3 already on the Salyut Space Station since February, renewing the world record which was set only two months before that.

6. BS2A, Japan's first direct broadcast satellite, was deployed by the N-2 rocket in January this year, and March this year witnessed a successful Ariane launch of the INTELSAT F-8 communications satellite. Many other countries have made progress in less spectacular but perhaps in no less significant ways in applying developments in space technology for peaceful purposes.

7. I have listed only a few of the highlights of manned and unmanned space programmes. Together with many other they constitute the basis for our hope that much additional benefit will emerge from successful international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. As we review these splendid achievements, we are reminded of the steady progress also being made by many other countries. These efforts are equally important from the standpoint of our shared goal since it is these efforts on a massive scale that translate initial breakthroughs into benefits readily accessible to the majority of mankind.

8. On behalf of the Committee, I offer congratulations to all those who accomplished impressive successes and I offer good wishes to those who are on their way to do so. At the same time, I express the hope that the time gap between the initial successes and the eventual enjoyment of their benefits by the majority of mankind can be minimized through our effort towards further international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

9. This reminds us of the importance of the work of this Committee, indeed of the heavy responsibility we have collectively assumed as members of this Committee which is entrusted with the burden of steering the future direction of the peaceful uses of outer space within the framework of the United Nations.

10. While the Committee remains within the United Nations system the focal point of space activities we remain indebted to all those within and outside the system who continue to work in this direction.

11. I therefore welcome the presence here of numerous representatives of specialized agencies - whose contribution to our Committee work we value in particular - as well as those non-governmental organizations who have faithfully accompanied us over the years.

12. I regard it as a special tribute to the Committee's work and reputation that this year we have a request for observer status from another important intergovernmental organization active in our field, namely INTELSAT, and I hope that the Committee will act rapidly on their request.

13. As we review the work of the two Sub-Committees and the programmes of work before this session of the Committee, let us remember this special responsibility, but also the deeper meaning of our work at hand.

14. Again, this year the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee had full agendas before them as they continued their efforts in their respective areas of competence. Before we go into a brief review of their work, I should like to express appreciation on behalf of the Committee to Professor John Carver of Australia, Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and to Ambassador Ludek Handl of Czechoslovakia, Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee for their skilled leadership in the work of these two Sub-Committees.

15. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee has presented a report on its twenty-first session in document A/AC.105/336. The Sub-Committee gave priority consideration to: the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the co-ordination of space activities within the United Nations system; the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82; remote sensing of the earth by satellites; and the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. Careful consideration was also given to the questions relating to space transportation systems and the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit.

16. After a review of the past and proposed future work under the Space Applications Programme, the Sub-Committee noted with satisfaction the work carried out by the Expert on Space Applications and recommended the proposed work programme for 1985 to the Committee for approval.

17. In considering the most recent accomplishments of the Space Applications Programme, the Sub-Committee expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Brazil and Italy, as well as to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the European Space Agency (ESA) for their contributions to the seminars and training courses held in 1983. The Sub-Committee welcomed the invitations extended by the Government of the USSR and FAO to host the training courses planned for 1984 and, at the same time, welcomed the financial support for these training courses offered by the Governments of the USSR and Italy as well as FAO. The Sub-Committee also expressed its appreciation to the Government of Austria for having offered training fellowships in 1983-1984.

18. The Sub-Committee's priority attention was given to the concrete measures to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, which cover the Space Applications Programme as well. Because of the overlap, the Space Applications Programme and the implementation of UNISPACE 82 recommendations were jointly considered by the Sub-Committee. In connection with the expansion and reorientation of the Space Applications Programme in accordance with the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, the Sub-Committee's report mentions, aside from those already noted, various voluntary contributions that have been offered or received from the Governments of Austria, Cameroon, China, Egypt, Greece, Indonesia, Pakistan and the USSR, as well as the European Space Agency, the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), the Committee on Science and Technology for Developing Countries (COSTED) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to assist the United Nations in carrying out the programmed activities for 1984. As far as the International Space Information Service is concerned, the Sub-Committee appreciated the voluntary contributions extended by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the European Space Agency for the meeting of experts on remote sensing information systems.

19. Regarding the study projects, I am pleased to note that, in accordance with the recommendations of this Committee at its last session and the General Assembly resolution at its thirty-eighth session, the meetings of the Group of Experts on Remote Sensing and of the Group of Experts on the Geostationary Orbit were held and they successfully completed their task during the meetings of the two Sub-Committees this year, and the third and last group, the Group of Experts on Direct Broadcasting Satellites, is scheduled to meet here in Vienna during the session of this Committee. The three important reports completed by these Groups

of Experts which will be before the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its 1985 session will no doubt stimulate the discussion of the Sub-Committee.

20. Aside from the immediate concern before us, it is perhaps high time for the Committee to consider the next stage of the follow-up to UNISPACE 82 and it was timely that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should have invited, through the Secretariat, the views of member States regarding future projects to implement further the recommendations of UNISPACE 82. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to appeal to member Governments to offer their views on this important matter at the earliest possible moment.

21. I should like to stress here that, because of the particular manner in which the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 is to be financed, it is to a certain extent inevitable that the amount of voluntary contributions from member States is viewed as a barometer of the member States' will to fully follow up on the UNISPACE 82 Conference in which all of us so enthusiastically participated. The first batch of voluntary contributions which have already been offered to let us start with the initial stage of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 is in this sense indeed an encouraging demonstration of the will of the member States and the international organizations concerned to make active contributions to the work we initiated with the UNISPACE 82 Conference. Let us hope that the initial batch of voluntary contributions will induce a second wave of contributions in sufficient amount to let us put our foot a step further in the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82.

22. In the area of remote sensing, where little progress was reported by the Sub-Committee for this year, it is none the less encouraging that the Sub-Committee reaffirmed the view that remote sensing from outer space shall be carried out with the greatest possible international co-operation and participation and emphasized the need of providing assistance to the developing countries in this area.

23. The Sub-Committee also gave priority consideration to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, mainly through its Working Group which was reconvened for a fourth session. While it is premature to discuss its accomplishments, I am pleased to note that the Working Group has reached an agreement on the subjects it should tackle, which by itself is a very encouraging sign given the high complexity of the question involved. The questions relating to space transportation systems and the examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit were also considered by the Sub-Committee. There was, however, little concrete progress which could be reported to this Committee.

24. The lack of progress in some of the long-standing agenda items before the Sub-Committee could of course be attributed to various factors which may not lend themselves to easy identification. The concern over the lack of progress, none the less, did exist among the membership of the Sub-Committee and there was a brief discussion about its working method. It appears that the members of the Sub-Committee welcomed the idea of improving its working method although there was no agreement on concrete measures to do so. If the Committee and its two Sub-Committees are to maintain or perhaps regain their effectiveness, a periodic review of their working methods might serve some useful purposes. But, of course, this is up to the Committee to decide.

25. I should like now to turn to the report of the Legal Sub-Committee on the work of its twenty-third session which is before us in document A/AC.105/337. The

Sub-Committee continued its priority consideration of the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space with the aim of formulating draft principles through its Working Group chaired by Mr. Cede of Austria. The Working Group concentrated its consideration on three outstanding draft provisions on the basis of its previous work at the twenty-first and twenty-second sessions and working papers recently submitted, particularly the working paper submitted by Brazil. Although an intensive discussion, which included a number of informal consultations convened by the Chairman to bridge the differences of views in the Working Group, did not solve the central questions involved and the texts of the draft principles remained unchanged, the intensive discussion helped further clarify the issues facing the Sub-Committee and indeed the world community. The text of the draft principles as they appeared at the close of the session is annexed to the report of the Legal Sub-Committee and the Committee members might give it some further attention.

26. The Sub-Committee also continued consideration of the possibility of supplementing the norms of international law relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space through its Working Group which was also chaired by Mr. Cede of Austria. Following the successful development at its last session of a format for notification in case of malfunction, the Sub-Committee discussed a wide range of topics relating to this agenda item and a full report on its deliberations can be found in annex II to its report.

27. The Legal Sub-Committee continued its consideration of matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit in a different fashion this year - that is, on a priority basis and through a Working Group especially established for the first time in compliance with General Assembly resolution 38/80. The intensive discussion conducted under two separate aspects of this item - that is, the question of the definition and delimitation of outer space and the question of the geostationary orbit - indicated that more time is needed before major differences could be solved and concerted efforts could be under way toward a major progress.

28. As members are well aware, international law-making is inevitably a prolonged and painstaking process which often tests our will and patience as in recent years. Admittedly, much work remains to be done to build a solid foundation for international co-operation in outer space but, as we review the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, we are reminded of the fundamental reality of international life that patient negotiations are the only way to attain our goal and there is no better alternative, and in that process there is no substitute for the spirit of mutual give and take, the spirit of compromise and mutual restraint which accord the best chance, as we know, through our experience, of success to this difficult process. It is hoped that the consideration in this Committee will further facilitate the work of the Sub-Committee.

29. In addressing the issues which will be before the Committee this year we would certainly delude ourselves, we would certainly be found lacking in honesty towards ourselves were we not to admit that the Committee will be meeting in an atmosphere of crisis. The origins of this crisis are manifold and appear to be a combination of factors and facts lying both within but also outside the Committee.

30. On the one hand, the work of the Committee has never been isolated from the general international atmosphere dominating the world scene, world politics, and indeed, some of the most productive years of the Committee's work have seemed to

coincide with years of intensive international co-operation. 1979 was not only the year of the signing of the SALT II Treaty, but also the year in which the last major Agreement was unanimously adopted by the Committee and later by the General Assembly.

31. We can of course pretend that the East-West relationship, Soviet-American relationships, in particular, are of no consequence for our work and that we should therefore conduct business as usual. But while I would certainly not suggest that a good level of East-West relations is the indispensable prerequisite for progress on each and any international problem, far removed as it might be in content and geography from the Soviet-American agenda, there can certainly be no doubt that in an area as sensitive to ours a reduced level of East-West co-operation cannot fail to influence our own work.

32. But if work within the Committee has become more difficult, it is also because we are now - as indeed many other bodies of the United Nations - more fully exposed than ever before (and the continued expansion of our membership is an external sign of this exposure) to winds of change, new currents and under-currents coming from the developing countries with many new demands on our agenda. We have, to an increasing degree, to deal with the legitimate expectations that developing countries bring to the agenda of international co-operation in outer space, expectations that are not always easy to meet, but which can - as UNISPACE 82 has amply demonstrated - be accommodated.

33. This increase in issues and expectations (which might not be formally on our agenda), this growth of players and interests has undoubtedly slowed down progress in negotiations, made agreement more elusive and built up (besides much malaise) a challenge of unusual dimensions - a challenge not least to those who have over the years carried the heaviest burden of our work in our Committee.

34. Not the least part of the new challenges to this Committee comes from a new item which the General Assembly, in its wisdom, has put on our agenda, an agenda item linked to a perception, shared by many in this Committee - and I suspect even by all of us - of the danger of an impending arms race in outer space.

35. As you are well aware, this Committee, over the past years, has given increasing voice to a growing international concern over the question whether it might be possible to preserve outer space as an environment dedicated to peaceful activities only, to peaceful competition between nations in the exploration and use of man's last frontier.

36. A similar concern was voiced unanimously by UNISPACE 82 in Vienna.

37. At the same time, forums officially designated by the United Nations - in particular the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva - have been entrusted with a special mandate to negotiate agreements to stop such an arms race.

38. While this Committee during its past sessions could not find agreement on possible extension of its mandate to questions relating to militarization of outer space, the General Assembly, during its last session, has requested the Committee to consider, as a matter of priority, the questions relating to the militarization of outer space, bearing in mind the work of the Conference on Disarmament and to report to it the outcome of its considerations.

39. There is no doubt that this request by the General Assembly raises a great many questions of importance for the Committee and will certainly require a supreme effort in conciliation and compromise.

40. While it is certainly not up to the Chairman to speculate on the outcome of our deliberations, I believe that I should indicate in which spirit we should approach a question which may for some time to come decide the ways in which our Committee will be able to work.

41. Let me therefore say that, while every effort should be made to discharge a mandate received from the General Assembly, we should also bear in mind the overall objectives and role of this Committee.

42. This objective is no doubt to offer whatever assistance we can give to strengthen international co-operation in outer space and, in doing so, harness all the support we can get, mobilize all the constructive forces that are present in this domain.

43. We should also, in this regard, be aware of the perennial focal points of our work which lie most squarely in the growing area of peaceful activities in outer space, many of which will be listed and explained over the coming days and weeks. Filling outer space with these activities, demonstrating to the world their usefulness and indispensability may indeed create one of the firmest barriers against an arms race in outer space.

44. We might, therefore, while loyally striving to fulfil a mandate given us by the General Assembly, also act in its spirit if we indicated all those other ways in which this Committee can strengthen peace and security in outer space. We should also, on the basis of these efforts, indicate to the General Assembly in which ways we believe compliance with its mandate can best be assured in the future.

45. Finally, the most important consideration to bear in mind is the fact that a part of our crisis seems to come from uncertainty about our ability to maintain a principle that has always served us well in the past and that was indeed one of the foundation-stones of the success story that was ours not so many years ago. Here I speak, of course, of the principle of CONSENSUS to which we have always tried to adhere faithfully, at least as far as work in the Committee is concerned. I think we should leave no doubt about our willingness, individually and as a Committee, to apply this principle in good faith and within its real meaning, which does not mean to confer powers extraordinary on the occasional dissenter, but rather to allow an agreement to emerge among equals after careful and painstaking negotiation.

46. I have tried, at the outset of our deliberations, to present not only a report on the activities of this Committee and its sub-bodies, but also to alert you, in no uncertain terms, of some of the elements of the crisis that I, your Chairman and faithful companion of a Committee embarked on a most noble task, believe to perceive.

47. Let me also say that in this crisis there are also elements of great opportunity, namely, the opportunity to breathe into this Committee a new life, new efforts, new ideas which can bring us nearer to our common goal.

