



General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Fifty-seventh session
Vienna, 11-20 June 2014

Draft report

Chapter I

Introduction

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its fifty-seventh session in Vienna from 11 to 20 June 2014. The officers of the Committee were as follows:

<i>Chair:</i>	Azzedine Oussedik (Algeria)
<i>First Vice-Chair:</i>	Diego Stacey Moreno (Ecuador)
<i>Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur:</i>	Samir Mohammed Raouf (Iraq)

A. Meetings of subsidiary bodies

2. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its fifty-first session in Vienna from 10 to 21 February 2014, under the chairmanship of Elöd Both (Hungary). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/1065).

3. The Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its fifty-third session in Vienna from 24 March to 4 April 2014, under the chairmanship of Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Germany). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/1067).



B. Adoption of the agenda

4. At its opening meeting, the Committee adopted the following agenda:
 1. Opening of the session.
 2. Adoption of the agenda.
 3. Election of officers.
 4. Statement by the Chair.
 5. General exchange of views.
 6. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
 7. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fifty-first session.
 8. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-third session.
 9. Space and sustainable development.
 10. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
 11. Space and water.
 12. Space and climate change.
 13. Use of space technology in the United Nations system.
 14. Future role of the Committee.
 15. Other matters.
 16. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Election of officers

5. At the 675th meeting of the Committee, on 11 June, Azzedine Oussedik (Algeria) was elected Chair of the Committee and Diego Stacey Moreno (Ecuador) was elected First Vice-Chair, each for a two-year term of office. Samir Mohammed Raouf (Iraq) and Xinmin Ma (China) were elected Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur for 2014 and 2015, respectively.

6. Also at its 675th meeting, the Committee endorsed the election of Elöd Both (Hungary) as Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Germany) as Chair of the Legal Subcommittee for a two-year term of office, starting with the sessions of the Subcommittees held in 2014.

D. Membership

7. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1472 A (XIV), 1721 E (XVI), 3182 (XXVIII), 32/196 B, 35/16, 49/33, 56/51, 57/116, 59/116, 62/217, 65/97, 66/71 and 68/75 and decisions 45/315, 67/412 and 67/528, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was composed of the following 76 States: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan,

Belgium, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

E. Attendance

8. Representatives of the following 63 States members of the Committee attended the session: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

9. At its 675th meeting, on 11 June, the Committee decided to invite, at their request, observers for Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Israel, Luxembourg, Oman, Panama and the United Arab Emirates, as well as the Holy See, to attend its fifty-seventh session and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that it would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to invite, at the request of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the observer for that organization to attend the session and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that it would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

11. Also at the same meeting, the Committee decided to invite, at the request of the European Union, the observer for that organization to attend the session and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that it would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

12. Observers for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat (in Vienna) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) attended the session.

13. The session was attended by observers for the following intergovernmental organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee: Asia-Pacific

Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO), European Space Agency (ESA), European Telecommunications Satellite Organization (EUTELSAT-IGO), Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology (ISNET), International Organization of Space Communications (INTERSPUTNIK) and Regional Centre for Remote Sensing of North African States (CRETEAN).

14. The session was also attended by observers for the following non-governmental organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee: Association of Space Explorers (ASE), EURISY, European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), International Astronautical Federation (IAF), International Institute of Space Law (IISL), International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water (PSIPW), Secure World Foundation (SWF), Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) and World Space Week Association (WSWA).

15. At its 675th meeting, the Committee decided to invite, at the request of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE), the observer for that organization to attend its fifty-seventh session and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that it would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

16. A list of representatives of States members of the Committee, States not members of the Committee, United Nations entities and other organizations attending the session is contained in A/AC.105/2014/INF/1.

F. General statements

17. Statements were made by representatives of the following States members of the Committee during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Statements were also made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Group of African States and by the representative of Nicaragua on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. A statement was also made by the representative of Greece, together with the observer for the European Union, on behalf of the European Union. The observer for Luxembourg also made a statement. The observers for AARSE, APSCO, CRETEAN, IAA, IAF, ISNET, ESA, EUTELSAT-IGO, PSIPW, SGAC, SWF and WSWA also made statements.

18. At the 675th meeting, the Chair delivered a statement highlighting the role played by the Committee and its Subcommittees as a unique platform at the global level for enhancing efforts to strengthen the role of space tools for sustainable development to meet the challenges to humanity. He stressed the need to strengthen regional and interregional cooperation in the field of space activities and in capacity-building, and to ensure closer coordination between the Committee and

other intergovernmental bodies involved in the post-2015 development agenda and the establishment of sustainable development goals. He also drew attention to the role of the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Sustainable Development in setting up a framework for regional cooperation fostering the mutualization of the available human and material resources within the African countries to address their concern regarding appropriateness of the methods of use of space tools and meet common challenges related to the economic, social and cultural development of Africa.

19. At the 675th meeting, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat made a statement in which she reviewed the work carried out by the Office during the previous year, including outreach activities and cooperation and coordination with United Nations entities and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. She also highlighted the current financial status of the Office and stressed the importance of the availability of financial and other resources for the successful implementation of the programme of work of the Office. She explained that, as the world was shaping new sustainable development goals and formulating the global development agenda in the post-2015 context, it was a unique opportunity to mobilize support and commitment at the global level to increase the role of space-based technology and information as an enabler for reaching the goals and objectives of the post-2015 development agenda.

20. At its 678th meeting, the Committee invited the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, Yury Fedotov, to make a statement. He highlighted that as the global community moved towards the post-2015 development agenda, it was the right time to make the overall governance of the peaceful uses of outer space an integral part of the international community's global commitments on sustainable development. He also underlined that there was a growing need to ensure that the spatial data infrastructure was recognized as a means of achieving development objectives.

21. The Committee welcomed the election of Azzedine Oussedik (Algeria) as its Chair, Diego Stacey Moreno (Ecuador) as its First Vice-Chair and Samir Mohammed Raouf (Iraq) and Xinmin Ma (China) for the office of Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur of the Committee for 2014 and 2015, respectively.

22. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Yasushi Horikawa (Japan), the outgoing Chair, Filipe Duarte Santos (Portugal), the outgoing First Vice-Chair, and Piotr Wolanski (Poland), the outgoing Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur, for their excellent work and achievements during their terms of office.

23. The Committee welcomed the appointment of Simonetta Di Pippo to the post of Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

24. The Committee welcomed Belarus and Ghana as new members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. ISNET was welcomed as the newest permanent observer of the Committee.

25. The Committee congratulated the United States on the forty-fifth anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission, which had placed humans on the surface of the Moon for the first time.

26. The Committee also recognized the fiftieth anniversary of European cooperation in space.

27. The Committee noted with appreciation the special panel on the topic “Italy and space: prospects, opportunities and benefits of human spaceflight activities for sustainable development on our planet Earth”, organized by the Italian delegation and moderated by Giorgio Pacifici (Italy). The panel members were Ambassador Filippo Formica (Italy), Simonetta Di Pippo (Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs) and Samantha Cristoforetti (ESA), as well as Luca Parmitano (ESA) participating via satellite video from Houston, United States.

28. The Committee welcomed with appreciation the exhibitions held at the Vienna International Centre during the current session of the Committee. Algeria and South Africa were co-hosting an exhibition from 11 to 20 June on African space activities. The Russian Federation was presenting an exhibition on the Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS) from 11 to 20 June. The Committee also welcomed the donation by Poland of a model Lem satellite from the BRITE constellation and a painting of Copernicus, and the donation by China of the Yutu lunar rover model, to be displayed in the permanent exhibit of the Office for Outer Space Affairs at the Vienna International Centre.

29. The Committee heard the following presentations:

(a) “Future of space industry business in Thailand and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)”, by the representative of Thailand;

(b) “Space activities and regulatory framework of Luxembourg: an overview in relation to the application for membership in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space”, by the representative of Luxembourg;

(c) “The future of human spaceflight: celebrating Apollo and looking to Mars”, by the representative of the United States;

(d) “Japanese contribution to the International Space Station (ISS) programme”, by the representative of Japan;

(e) “Results from two capacity-building workshops on the prevention of, and response to, natural disasters in Mesoamerica”, by the observer for SWF.

30. The Committee noted with appreciation the successful completion of the sixty-fourth International Astronautical Congress, held in Beijing from 23 to 27 September 2013. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the sixty-fifth Congress would be hosted by the Government of Canada and held in Toronto from 29 September to 3 October 2014.

31. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the International Space Exploration Forum (ISEF) had been held in Washington in January 2014, hosted by the United States in collaboration with IAA, with a large number of States attending.

G. Adoption of the report of the Committee

32. After considering the various items before it, the Committee, at its [...] meeting, on [...] June 2014, adopted its report to the General Assembly containing the recommendations and decisions set out below.

Chapter II

Recommendations and decisions

A. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes

33. In accordance with paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 68/75, the Committee continued its consideration, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes, including consideration of ways to promote regional and interregional cooperation and the role that space technology could play in the implementation of recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012.

34. The representatives of Chile, Egypt, Italy, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under the item. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by other member States, the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Group of African States and the representative of Nicaragua on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

35. The Committee heard the following presentations under the item:

- (a) “Space Security Index 2014”, by the representative of Canada;
- (b) “Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) activity in the Asia-Pacific region for the next decade”, by the representative of Japan;
- (c) “50 years of European cooperation in space”, by the observer for ESA.

36. Some delegations emphasized the following principles: equal and non-discriminatory access to outer space and equal conditions for all States, irrespective of their level of scientific, technical and economic development; non-appropriation of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, by claim of sovereignty, use, occupation or any other means; non-militarization of outer space and its exploitation strictly for the improvement of living conditions and peace on the planet; and regional cooperation to promote space activities, as established by the General Assembly and other international forums.

37. Some delegations expressed the view that in order to further the objective of promoting peaceful uses of outer space, it was important to preserve the principle embodied in 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.

38. The view was expressed that, with regard to the need to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes, the Committee should play a key role by disseminating information on and promoting the peaceful uses of outer space and by continuing to contribute to consolidating and perfecting the ethical principles and legal instruments that could guarantee the non-discriminatory use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes.

39. Some delegations expressed the view that it was necessary to ensure greater security in outer space through the development and implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures.

40. The view was expressed that there was a self-induced lack of confidence in the potential of the Committee's work under this priority agenda item and that the Committee's work should go beyond mere reaffirmations of allegiance to peace in outer space.

41. The view was expressed that the Committee should begin to consider the legal basis for, and the modalities of, the exercise, in a hypothetical case, of the right to self-defence in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as applied to outer space; that articles 2 and 51 of the United Nations Charter should be thoroughly analysed and interpreted in relation to outer space activities, with its complex system of maintenance of security and where potential conflicts of interest could lead to the emergence of extreme situations; and that this work, logically associated with a responsible conduct of space activities, would help States to reach an understanding and partnership in establishing and sustaining a highly adaptive regulatory system that would adequately alleviate or avoid situations and problems that might cause conflicts in outer space.

42. The view was expressed that adequate arrangements on the safety of space operations, if reached by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee under the concept of and guidelines for ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, should have a role to play in establishing conditions under which pragmatic regulations would prevail. In this connection, the view was also expressed that consideration of all aspects of the matter of the right of self-defence in outer space would be instrumental in enabling States to reach a higher level of perception and comprehension of current realities of security in outer space, as well as of the genesis, nature and perspectives of future developments in this domain.

43. The view was expressed that in dealing with matters under this agenda item, the Committee should take a gradual approach and begin with the consideration of less controversial technical issues, rather than embarking on long-lasting and overly political issues such as disarmament in outer space.

44. Some delegations expressed the view that the existing legal regime with respect to outer space was not adequate to prevent the placement of weapons in outer space or to address issues concerning the space environment, and that it was important to further develop international space law in order to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes. In this regard, those delegations were of the view that in order to ensure that outer space was used peacefully and to prevent its militarization, the preparation of binding international legal instruments was necessary.

45. The view was expressed that the development of a legally binding treaty on the prevention of an arms race in outer space should be conducted without prejudice to ongoing discussions on the international code of conduct for outer space activities.

46. The view was expressed that in order to maintain the peaceful nature of space activities and prevent the placement of weapons in outer space, it was essential for the Committee to enhance its cooperation and coordination with other bodies and

mechanisms of the United Nations system, such as the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament.

47. The view was expressed that the Committee had been created exclusively to promote international cooperation with respect to the peaceful uses of outer space and that disarmament issues were more appropriately dealt with in other forums, such as the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament. In that connection, that delegation was of the view that no actions by the Committee were needed regarding the weaponization of outer space and that there was no scarcity of appropriate multilateral mechanisms where disarmament could be discussed.

48. The Committee noted with satisfaction the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 68/50 of 5 December 2013, as well as the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities (A/68/189).

49. The Committee noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/50, had encouraged relevant entities and organizations of the United Nations system to coordinate, as appropriate, on matters related to the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts.

50. The Committee noted that China and the Russian Federation had submitted to the Conference on Disarmament, on 10 June 2014, an updated draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects.

51. The view was expressed that the work of the Conference on Disarmament should receive the full support of the Committee.

52. Some delegations informed the Committee about the continuous work in the development, in an open, transparent and inclusive manner, of an international code of conduct for outer space activities, thus offering all interested member States the opportunity to participate in the process and share their views. Those delegations also informed the Committee that the third open-ended consultations had been held in Luxembourg on 27 and 28 May 2014.

53. Some delegations expressed the view that consultations on the international code of conduct for outer space activities should be conducted within the framework of the United Nations.

54. Some delegations expressed the view that new initiatives in the field of international space law and policy should not undermine the fundamental principles underlying the existing legal regime, but should enrich and further develop those principles.

55. Some delegations expressed the view that the best way to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes was to strengthen international cooperation, in particular with respect to the safety and security of space assets.

56. Some delegations expressed the view that the Committee played a notable role in advancing space cooperation and provided a unique forum for the exchange of information among States and that there were tangible opportunities to enhance international cooperation, in keeping with the Committee's mandate.

57. The Committee agreed that, through its work in the scientific, technical and legal fields, as well as through the promotion of international dialogue and exchange of information on various topics relating to the exploration and use of outer space, it had a fundamental role to play in enhancing transparency and confidence-building among States, as well as in ensuring that outer space was maintained for peaceful purposes.

58. The Committee emphasized that international, regional and interregional cooperation and coordination in the field of space activities were essential to strengthen the peaceful uses of outer space and to assist States in the development of their space capabilities.

59. The Committee noted with satisfaction continuous developments in a number of international cooperative endeavours that were being pursued at the international, regional and interregional levels by various actors, such as States and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

60. The Committee noted with appreciation that the fifth African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development had been hosted by the Government of Ghana in Accra from 3 to 5 December 2013, and the various outcomes of the Conference. The Committee also noted with appreciation the support and contribution of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to the organization of that Conference.

61. The Committee recalled the Pachuca Declaration, adopted by the Sixth Space Conference of the Americas, held in Pachuca, Mexico, from 15 to 19 November 2010, which developed a regional space policy for the near future and also, *inter alia*, created a space experts advisory group. The Committee noted that the *pro tempore* secretariat of the Sixth Space Conference of the Americas was continuing the implementation of the Pachuca Declaration.

62. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the twentieth session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) had been held in Hanoi from 3 to 6 December 2013 under the theme “Values from space: 20 years of Asia-Pacific experiences”. The Committee further noted that the twenty-first session of the Forum would be held in Tokyo from 2 to 5 December 2014.

63. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the seventh meeting of the Council of APSCO had been held in Beijing on 5 July 2013, at which it had approved a number of new projects, reviewed the progress being made on those approved earlier and agreed to hold its next meeting in 2014.

64. The Committee noted the important role that bilateral and multilateral agreements played in promoting common space exploration objectives and cooperative and complementary space exploration missions.

65. The Committee recommended that, at its fifty-eighth session, in 2015, consideration of the item on ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes should be continued, on a priority basis.