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Original: English

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
**Sixtieth session**  
Vienna, 7-16 June 2017  
Item 5 of the provisional agenda  
**Ways and means of maintaining outer space for  
peaceful purposes**

**Views of States members of the Committee on the  
Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on transparency and  
confidence-building measures in outer space activities**

**Note by the Secretariat**

1. At its fifty-ninth session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that States members of the Committee should be invited to submit their views on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, on the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities ([A/68/189](#)) and on document [A/AC.105/1116](#) to the sixtieth session of the Committee, in 2017, and that those matters should be addressed under the item on ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes (see [A/71/20](#), para. 272).
2. In a note verbale dated 26 January 2017, the Secretary-General invited States members of the Committee to submit their reports by 25 March 2017. The present note was prepared by the Secretariat based on the replies received to that invitation.
3. The present document contains a reply received from Pakistan.



## Pakistan

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[Received on 29 March 2017]

### Comments on Document: A/68/189

Pakistan believes that outer space is a common heritage of humankind and is committed to the peaceful uses of outer space for the socioeconomic uplift of the country. Pakistan appreciates the efforts of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities for preparing the consensus report of the study on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space. Considering the importance of society's growing reliance on space resources and their vulnerability, Pakistan supports the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts for consideration by all States as non-legally binding voluntary measures.

Moreover, Pakistan endorses that draft transparency and confidence-building measures can reduce misunderstandings and miscalculations regarding space activities of States. In this regard, guidelines being drafted by the Working Group on Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities would be helpful in addressing threats to the sustainability, safety and security of outer space activities.

Pakistan, envisaging fruitful outcomes of transparency and confidence-building measures, also welcomes exchange of information relating to major military expenditures on outer space, consultative mechanism, outreach, coordination and particularly international cooperation as these steps would improve interaction between participants in clarifying information and ambiguous situations.

Pakistan reiterates its stance that transparency and confidence-building measures should be aimed at increasing the security, safety and sustainability of outer space. It particularly welcomes the Group of Governmental Experts' recommendation to further develop international cooperation between spacefaring and non-spacefaring nations in the peaceful uses of outer space for the benefit of all Member States.

Pakistan recognizes the value of transparency and confidence-building measures as well as non-legally binding International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities in promoting trust among States. It has been participating actively in these efforts and believes that such initiatives should be pursued in an inclusive, universal and participatory manner within the United Nations system, taking into account the interests of all Member States. However, these voluntary measures cannot be a substitute for legally binding treaty based obligations. There are clear gaps in the international legal regime governing the uses of outer space with security implications. These gaps must be plugged by concluding a treaty on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space in the Conference on Disarmament.

Pakistan hopes that the Office for Outer Space Affairs would conduct capacity-building and outreach activities on transparency and confidence-building measures within the context of the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities in line with the United Nations General Assembly resolutions.

### Comments on Document: A/AC.105/1116

The report describes the role of United Nations entities in supporting Member States in the implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities within existing mandates and identifies the ways that United Nations entities can further assist Member States in implementing recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities.

Pakistan acknowledges and supports the initiatives and mechanisms aimed towards increasing confidence among the States for interrelated environmental

sustainability, global peace and security under five treaties and agreements of international space law. We also appreciate the proposal of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for expansion of the existing treaty mechanisms of the Registration Convention and Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space to provide regular notifications relating to the risk reduction in outer space activities.

Furthermore, Pakistan believes in strengthening of coordination mechanisms related to space activities within United Nations entities such as United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), United Nations Geographic Information Working Group, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Report on Military Expenditure, United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and database.

Pakistan extends and supports the recommendation of voluntary familiarization visits of space launch sites, flight command and control centre and other operational facilities of the outer space infrastructure with reference to the Outer Space Treaty. We also appreciate the role of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to assist Member States in implementing the Secretary-General's obligations under the Outer Space Treaty to facilitate voluntary visits, or even organize the logistics of the visits.

Pakistan recognizes the importance of international cooperation in developing and exchanging knowledge, expertise and technologies in strengthening transparency and building confidence among Member States. In this regard, the role of United Nations entities in supporting member States through various intergovernmental platforms, mechanisms and initiatives is appreciable. Moreover, Pakistan is a member of various United Nations-led international forums related to space activities including but not limited to International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN), Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG), COSPAS-SARSAT, Expert Group on Space Weather and Working Group on Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, etc. These forums are helpful in enhancing confidence and coordination among Member States.

Moreover, international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space provides a basis for all States to develop and strengthen their capacity to undertake and/or derive benefits from space activities. Pakistan supports the initiatives of capacity-building of the Member States especially non-spacefaring developing nations through United Nations platforms such as the Office for Outer Space Affairs, UN-SPIDER and United Nations Programme on Space Applications, etc. as recommended by the Group of Governmental Experts.

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