



General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Sixtieth session
Vienna, 7-16 June 2017

Draft report

Chapter I

Introduction

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its sixtieth session in Vienna from 7 to 16 June 2017. The officers of the Committee were as follows:

<i>Chair</i>	David Kendall (Canada)
<i>First Vice-Chair</i>	Vladimir Galuska (Czechia)
<i>Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur</i>	Omar Shareef Hamad Eisa (Sudan)

A. Meetings of subsidiary bodies

2. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its fifty-fourth session in Vienna from 30 January to 10 February 2017, under the chairmanship of Chiaki Mukai (Japan). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee ([A/AC.105/1138](#)).

3. The Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its fifty-sixth session in Vienna from 27 March to 7 April 2017. From 27 to 29 March, the session was conducted under the acting chairmanship of Laura Jamschon Mac Garry (Argentina), who was elected Acting Chair at the 937th meeting of the Subcommittee. From 30 March to 7 April, the session was conducted under the chairmanship of Hellmut Lagos Koller (Chile). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee ([A/AC.105/1122](#)).

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. Statement by the Chair.
4. General exchange of views.



5. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
6. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fifty-fourth session.
7. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-sixth session.
8. Space and sustainable development.
9. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
10. Space and water.
11. Space and climate change.
12. Use of space technology in the United Nations system.
13. Future role of the Committee.
14. Other matters.
15. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Membership

5. 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, 67/528 and 70/518, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was composed of the following 84 States: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

D. Attendance

6. Representatives of the following [...] States members of the Committee attended the session: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

7. At its 722nd meeting, the Committee admitted, at their request, observers for Cyprus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Malta, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Singapore and Yemen, as well as the Holy See, to attend its sixtieth 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.

8. Some delegations expressed their strong concern at the participation as an observer of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the current session of the Committee. Those delegations were of the view that the status of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as an observer of the Committee was inconsistent with repetitive violations by that State of Security Council resolutions [1718 \(2006\)](#), [1874 \(2009\)](#), [2087 \(2013\)](#), [2094 \(2013\)](#), [2270 \(2016\)](#) and [2321 \(2016\)](#). Those delegations were of the view that such participation in the Committee's session misrepresented that country's space programme as peaceful, while in fact, that was manifestly not the case, as any space launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea using ballistic missile technology directly violated the Security Council resolutions and brought that country closer to its stated objective of creating a nuclear-armed intercontinental ballistic missile.

9. Some delegations expressed the view that nothing in the framework established by the relevant Security Council resolutions prevented the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as a State Member of the United Nations, from observing the work of the Committee. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that the Committee was a platform for discussion among all Member States and that it should be inclusive for all States, irrespective of their level of social and economic development, and thus all Member States had equal right to familiarize themselves with topical matters relating to the peaceful uses of outer space.

10. The view was expressed that the participation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was not clear in relation to paragraph 11 of Security Council resolution [2321 \(2016\)](#), in which the Council decided that all Member States shall suspend scientific and technical cooperation involving persons or groups officially sponsored by or representing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and in relation to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution [2270 \(2016\)](#), in which the Council decided that all Member States shall prevent specialized teaching or training of nationals of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including teaching or training in aerospace engineering.

11. Also at the 722nd meeting, the Committee admitted, at its request, the State of Palestine, to attend the session as an observer 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. At the same meeting, the Committee admitted, 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.

13. Also at the same meeting, the Committee admitted, at the request of the League of Arab States, 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.

14. At the same meeting, the Committee admitted, at the request of the European Union, the observer for that organization to attend the session, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [65/276](#), entitled "Participation of the European Union in the work of the United Nations", 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.

15. Observers for the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific attended the session.

16. 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), International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) and International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO).

17. The session was also attended by observers for the following non-governmental organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee: African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE), Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), Eurisy, European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety (IAASS), International Astronautical Federation (IAF), International Astronomical Union (IAU), International Institute of Space Law (IISL), Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water (PSIPW), Secure World Foundation (SWF), Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), and World Space Week Association (WSWA).

18. At its 722nd meeting, the Committee admitted, at the request of CANEUS International, European Science Foundation and the University Space Engineering Consortium-Global (UNISEC-Global), the observers for those organizations 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.

19. 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.105/2017/INF/\[...\]](#).

E. General statements

20. Statements were made by representatives of the following States members of the Committee during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Luxemburg, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam. Statements were also made by the representative of Algeria on behalf of the Group of African States, by the representative of the European Union, by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and by the representative of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. The observers for Denmark and Norway made statements. The observers for APSCO, COSPAR, ESA, Eurisy, EUTELSAT-IGO, IAF, SGAC and SWF also made statements.

21. At the 722nd meeting, the Chair delivered a statement highlighting the rapid growth of the membership of the Committee as evidence of the increasing importance that the international community attached to cooperation in outer space affairs. He also stressed the need for the Committee to find constructive solutions to important issues relating to the mandate of the Committee, including the safety, security and sustainability of outer space activities, and noted that the Committee's mandate contributed to an essential debate on the major treaties, agreements and conventions in order to reflect the current global space situation, especially in relation to space resource extraction, space debris, and the growth of use of small satellites. The Chair also noted the valuable progress that the UNISPACE+50 process had made towards steering the way towards strengthening the Committee's

mandate to more effectively address current challenges and opportunities in the area of enhanced international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

22. At the same meeting, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs made a statement in which she reviewed the work carried out by the Office during the previous year. The Director highlighted the ongoing progress of the UNISPACE+50 process and stressed that the interdependencies in the space sector made international cooperation necessary. She also reiterated the Office's commitment to discharging the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the United Nations treaties on outer space and in maintaining the Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space in accordance with the obligations set out in the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. The Director noted that space science and technology were key to addressing development concerns and reiterated the Office's readiness to support the promotion of applications and technologies to help Member States to meet the objectives of the global development agendas. Regarding the current unfavourable financial situation of the Office, the Director stressed the importance of the availability of financial and other resources for the successful implementation of the Office's programme of work, and in order to address its human resources shortfall.

23. The Committee heard the following presentations:

- (a) "ESPI and international cooperation activities", by the observer for ESPI;
- (b) "SPACEIL", by the representative of Israel;
- (c) "ISS inside: 3D interactive presentation", by the representative of the Russian Federation;
- (d) "World Space Week", by the observer for the World Space Week Association;
- (e) "Capacity-building for satellite technology through the United Nations/Japan Long-term Fellowship Programme", by the representative of Japan;
- (f) "South Asia Satellite: a new approach to regional cooperation", by the representative of India;
- (g) "Open Universe initiative: progress report", by the representative of Italy;
- (h) "Recent achievements of the Algerian Space Programme", by the representative of Algeria;
- (i) "On the development of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications", by the representative of China;
- (j) "Cassini's grand finale", by the representative of the United States;
- (k) "Austria in space", by the representative of Austria;
- (l) "Recent development of China's manned space programme", by the representative of China.

24. The Committee noted with appreciation the holding of the panel discussion entitled "The Outer Space Treaty: 50 years — looking ahead towards 2030", organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs. The panel discussion was moderated by the Chair of the Committee. An opening address was delivered by Yury Fedotov, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna. Introductory remarks were made by the moderator, followed by presentations by Simonetta Di Pippo, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs; Kai-Uwe Schrogl, President of IISL; Lennard Fisk, President of COSPAR; Jean-Yves LeGall, President of IAF, via pre-recorded video message; and Sergio Marchisio, President of the European Centre for Space Law. The moderator made concluding remarks.

25. The Committee noted that the dedicated panel discussion, in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the entry into force, on 10 October 1967, 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, had provided important and valuable insight into the role of the Outer Space Treaty over the past 50 years and in the future, giving consideration to the scientific, technical, policy and legal developments in the area of space activities.

26. The Committee, on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the launch of the first man-made satellite, Sputnik 1, on 7 October 1957, recognized this extraordinary achievement in the history of space flight.

27. Some delegations expressed the view that the Committee played a leading role in promoting and regulating space exploration, as well as through its two Subcommittees, and that the Committee remained the appropriate forum for discussion and cooperation among States in order to ensure the continued peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

28. Some delegations underscored the commitment of their countries to the peaceful use and exploration of outer space and emphasized the following principles: universal and equal access to outer space for all countries without discrimination, regardless of their level of scientific, technical and economic development, as well as the equitable and rational use of outer space for the benefit of all humankind; non-appropriation of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, by claim of sovereignty, use, occupation or any other means; the commitment by States to the strict use of outer space for peaceful purposes; the non-weaponization of outer space, which shall never be used for the installation of weapons of any kind, and as a province of mankind, its strict use for the improvement of living conditions and peace among all peoples; and international cooperation in the development of space activities, especially those referred to in the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries.

29. Some delegations expressed the view that space science and technology held immense potential to benefit both developed and developing countries, and that the Committee provided a vital platform for constant examination of ways in which space science and technology and its applications could contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Those delegations also expressed the view that the examination and contribution of space science and technology to the 2030 Agenda should remain part of the work of the Committee.

30. The view was expressed that there was a need to care for the outer space environment in the same way as the Earth should be cared for and to avoid creating an artificial divide between the planet and the space around it, so as to allow future generations to enjoy the benefits of outer space.

31. Some delegations expressed the view that the Office for Outer Space Affairs should consider setting up a Spanish language version of its website.

32. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the organization of the following events during the session:

(a) Lunch-time event in honour of the fiftieth anniversary of the Outer Space Treaty, organized by the delegation of Canada;

(b) A dedicated exhibition and an evening event on the theme “Sixtieth anniversary of the launch of the first artificial satellite of Earth: Sputnik 1”, organized by the delegation of the Russian Federation;

(c) A lunch-time event titled “TP7: effective approaches of capacity-building in Latin America and the Caribbean”, organized by the delegation of Argentina;

(d) The launch of the International Gender Champions network;

(e) An evening event entitled “Space security: some perspectives”, organized by ESPI.

F. Adoption of the report of the Committee

33. After considering the various items before it, the Committee, at its [...]th meeting, on [...] June 2017, adopted its report to the General Assembly containing the recommendations and decisions set out below.
