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

Draft report

Addendum

Chapter II

Recommendations and decisions

H. Use of space technology in the United Nations system

1. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “Use of space technology in the United Nations system”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [71/90](#).
2. The representatives of India, Indonesia, Italy, Nigeria and Sri Lanka made statements under the item. The observer for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) also made a statement. During the general exchange of views, further statements relating to the item were made by representatives of other member States.
3. The Committee heard the following presentations under the item:
 - (a) “Practice of using space-based information for disaster risk management in China”, by the representative of China;
 - (b) “Future exploration missions of the Indian Space Research Organization”, by the representative of India;
 - (c) “India’s international cooperation in Earth observation missions”, by the representative of India.
4. The Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in her capacity as the Chair of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space), made a statement informing the Committee about the preparations for the thirty-seventh session of UN-Space, to be held in Geneva in conjunction with the United Nations/World Health Organization/Switzerland Conference on Strengthening Space Cooperation for Global Health from 23 to 25 August 2017.
5. The Committee welcomed with appreciation the special report of UN-Space on developments within the United Nations system related to space weather ([A/AC.105/1146](#)). The Committee noted that the report was instrumental in assisting



it in its preparations under the UNISPACE+50 thematic priority on an international framework for space weather services by providing an overview of efforts in the area of space weather.

6. The Committee noted the cooperative efforts by Member States and United Nations entities to promote the use of space technology, including in drought and desertification monitoring and in disaster risk reduction and emergency response operations, to resolve global issues.

7. The Committee requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to further promote, through United Nations entities, the increased practical application of space science and technology for development in view of the catalytic role that could play in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

8. The view was expressed that through continuous inter-agency collaboration, including joint meetings of the First Committee and the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly and of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), United Nations entities could find synergies between cross-cutting ideas on increasing the security, safety and sustainability of outer space activities. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that deliberations on the work of other institutions, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), could help the Committee to expedite its work on pending issues, such as the definition and delimitation of outer space.

I. Future role of the Committee

9. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “Future role of the Committee”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [71/90](#).

10. The representatives of China, Costa Rica, Indonesia, the Russian Federation 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 representatives of other member States.

11. The Committee agreed that it served, together with its two Subcommittees, as a unique common platform for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses and exploration of outer space on a global scale, facilitating the rule of law in outer space and capacity-building in space technology and its applications for the benefit of all States, in particular developing countries.

12. The view was expressed that coordination between the Committee and its subsidiary bodies was important to avoid duplication of work, given the need for enhanced common outputs of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. The Committee and its Subcommittees should formulate their common forward-looking agenda and further strengthen the governance role of the Committee as a whole in promoting international cooperation and strengthening the rule of law in outer space. In that context it was important to work towards avoiding fragmentation of international space law and to ensure that the Committee adequately addressed key matters, such as new legal issues pertaining to present and future outer space activities; the increasing role of space actors, including non-governmental entities; and the strengthening of technical assistance and the sharing of technology, data and expertise, in particular for the benefit of developing countries.

13. The view was expressed that the Committee should adapt to new realities and preserve its position as the focal point of communication and interaction between States on matters relating to the regulation of space activities, while effectively finding remedies for inefficient practices and being more proactive in addressing a number of important issues on its agenda that relate, first and foremost, to safety and security in outer space. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that in the near future the Committee should begin the discussion about ways and means to reach a number of realistic expectations regarding the relationships

between cross-cutting issues relating to safety and security of outer space activities, including the interpretation of the right of self-defence in outer space and of a harmful interference with peaceful activities in the exploration and use of outer space. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should create a working group that could address the matters of effective and responsible national supervision and control by States of space activities conducted by their private companies and corporations.

14. Some delegations expressed the view that the deliberations on the future role of the Committee should be aimed at strengthening the governance role of the Committee and its Subcommittees, and that issues pertaining to the Committee's method of work should be assessed carefully in order to improve its overall work and output as an intergovernmental platform. The same delegations were of the view that several measures to improve the organization of work of the Committee and its Subcommittees should be adequately addressed and thoroughly considered as part of strengthening the governance role of the Committee as a whole. It was of paramount importance to modernize the method of work of the Committee as an intergovernmental platform in order to strengthen its ability to address future scientific, technological, policy and legal aspects of outer space activities.

15. Some delegations expressed the view that the Committee, as the only guiding body dealing with the promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful use and exploration of outer space, should carefully study the cross-cutting issues pertaining to the peaceful uses of outer space, including on space security. Current items on the agenda of the two Subcommittees were of a cross-cutting nature, such as those items relating to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, space debris mitigation and the geostationary orbit, and therefore served as examples of areas in which the two Subcommittees should improve their coordination.

16. The Committee noted that the deliberations under the agenda item on the future role of the Committee were closely linked to the UNISPACE+50 process, and that it was therefore important that it align its work with the overall considerations linked to UNISPACE+50 in order to strengthen its role in the global governance of outer space activities.

Annex

Draft declaration on the fiftieth anniversary 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

We, the States Members of the United Nations, in observing the fiftieth anniversary 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,¹

1. Reiterate the importance of the principles contained in General Assembly resolution 1962 (XVIII) of 13 December 1963, entitled "Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space";

2. Recall that the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2222 (XXI) of 19 December 1966, was opened for signature in London, Moscow and Washington, D.C., on 27 January 1967, and entered into force on 10 October 1967;

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

3. Note that, as at 1 January 2017, 105 States had become parties to the Treaty and an additional 25 States had signed it;

4. Reaffirm the fundamental role played by the Treaty in maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and in furthering the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation and understanding;

5. Are convinced that the Treaty and its principles, as reflected in its articles I to XIII, will continue to provide an indispensable framework for the conduct of outer space activities, which continue to hold immense potential to deliver further advancements in human knowledge, to drive socioeconomic progress for all humankind and to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030;

6. Recognize that the achievements made in space exploration and the development of space science and technology for the benefit of all humankind, and international cooperation initiatives to those ends, have exceeded all expectations existing at the time of the adoption of the Treaty;

7. Acknowledge that there has been a significant rise in the importance to States of space science and technology applications, which enable greater understanding of the universe and of the Earth and contribute to advances in, inter alia, education, health, environmental monitoring, the management of natural resources on Earth, disaster management, meteorological forecasting, climate modelling, protection of cultural heritage, information technology and satellite navigation and communications, and to the well-being of humanity through economic, social and cultural development;

8. Are deeply convinced that strengthening the long-term sustainability of outer space activities requires efforts at the national, regional, interregional and international levels;

9. Emphasize the constantly evolving and increasingly multifaceted nature of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, with fundamentally complex scientific and technological advancements in the space field and an increasing variety of actors in the space arena, and therefore encourage the building of stronger partnerships, cooperation and coordination;

10. Call upon all States parties to the Treaty conducting outer space activities to work under the principles of cooperation and mutual assistance, paying due regard to the corresponding interests of other parties to the Treaty;

11. Are inspired by the prospects that continue to open up before humankind as a result of human activities in outer space;

12. Urge States that have not yet become parties to the Treaty, in particular those States that are members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to consider becoming party to it;

13. Emphasize, in this regard, that the benefits arising from adherence to the Treaty, as part of the legal regime of outer space, are significant for all States, irrespective of the degree of their economic or scientific development, and that being party to the Treaty would enhance the ability of States to become part of international cooperation efforts in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

14. Reiterate the role of the Treaty as the cornerstone of the international legal regime governing outer space activities and that the Treaty manifests the fundamental principles of international space law;

15. Affirm that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, including its Legal Subcommittee and Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, has a distinguished history in the establishment and further development of the international regime governing outer space activities, and that under this regime,

outer space activities by States, international intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental entities are flourishing and, as a result, space science and technology, and their applications and services, contribute immeasurably to economic growth and improvements in the quality of life around the world;

16. Call upon the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee to continue, with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, to promote the widest adherence to the Treaty, and its application by States, and to foster the progressive development of international space law;

17. Request the Office for Outer Space Affairs to continue fostering capacity-building in space law and policy for the benefit of all countries and to continue providing assistance to developing countries, at their request, in the development of national space policy and legislation, in conformity with international space law.
