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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Sixty-second session
Vienna, 12–21 June 2019

Draft report

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 73/91.

2. The representatives of India and Indonesia made statements under the item. The observer for ITU also made a statement. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

3. The Committee had before it the following:

(a) Special report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space) on partnerships in the use and applications of space science and technology within the United Nations system ([A/AC.105/1200](#));

(b) Report of UN-Space on its thirty-eighth session and fourteenth open session ([A/AC.105/1209](#));

(c) Conference room paper entitled “Marine environmental effects of jettisoned waste from commercial spaceflight activities” (A/AC.105/2019/CRP.11);

(d) Conference room paper entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the International Civil Aviation Organization” (A/AC.105/2019/CRP.14).

4. The Committee welcomed with appreciation the special report of UN-Space on partnerships and noted that there was a wide range of United Nations offices, departments and other entities involved in various aspects of partnerships aimed at promoting or facilitating the more effective engagement of public and private sector stakeholders with the United Nations development system.

5. The Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in her capacity as the Chair of UN-Space, made a statement informing the Committee about the thirty-eighth session of UN-Space, held in New York in October 2018. The Committee noted that the



session had been organized in the form of a workshop and had considered the issue of cooperation with the private sector in the use of space science, technology and applications for economic growth and sustainable development.

6. The Committee took note of the plan of UN-Space to hold its thirty-ninth session in New York in October 2019, in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and to hold its fortieth session in Bangkok in 2020, in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The Committee noted that the next UN-Space open session would constitute an integral part of the World Space Forum to be held in Vienna in November 2019.

7. The Committee noted with appreciation the increasing bilateral cooperation of the Office for Outer Space Affairs with other entities of the United Nations system, including with the International Civil Aviation Organization on matters relating to commercial space transportation, with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on increasing the use of space technology for sustainable development; and with the Office for Disarmament Affairs on a joint panel discussion by the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the General Assembly.

8. The Committee agreed that the Office for Outer Space Affairs should liaise with the secretariat of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter and its 1996 Protocol on matters relating to the effects on the marine environment of waste jettisoned from commercial spaceflight activities and report on the status of those matters to the Committee at its sixty-third session, in June 2020. In that regard, the Committee noted that it was the responsibility of member States to liaise and coordinate nationally with their respective authorities and departments responsible for the processes under those intergovernmental bodies.

9. The Committee noted that the third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok in October 2018, had adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030).

10. The Committee noted that ITU would hold the World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 28 October to 22 November 2019.

I. Future role of the Committee

11. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “Future role of the Committee”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/91.

12. The representatives of Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, France, India, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and the United States made statements under the item. The representative of Egypt made a statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the representative of Costa Rica made a statement on behalf of Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

13. The Committee agreed that it served, together with its two subcommittees, and supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as a unique common platform for promoting international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space on a global scale.

14. The view was expressed that it was the duty of the States members of the Committee to effectively enhance the role and importance of the Committee in addressing all issues relating to the peaceful uses of outer space. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that all rules governing space activities

should be adopted within the framework of the Committee in full observance of the established rules of procedure, and not within the framework of other informal platforms or alternative mechanisms.

15. The view was expressed that it was important for the Committee and its subsidiary bodies to firmly maintain their core role in the formulation, interpretation and application of rules and regulations pertaining to activities in outer space in order to avoid fragmentation of the legal framework governing activities in outer space, and to strengthen their role by adapting to changing realities and needs, such as the emergence of new non-State actors and new activities such as space resource development and space debris removal.

16. The view was expressed that it was necessary to support the work of the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, and to strengthen exchanges and collaboration between different regional centres to build the capacity of developing countries.

17. In accordance with the agreement reached at its sixty-first session, in 2018 ([A/73/20](#), para. 382), the Committee considered the governance and method of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies under the present item.

18. The Committee had before it the note by the Secretariat on the governance and method of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.377](#)), which had been made available to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee at their respective sessions in 2019.

19. The Committee took note of the work for 2019 under the multi-year workplan, as reflected in the reports of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee on their respective sessions in 2019 ([A/AC.105/1202](#), annex I and appendix; and [A/AC.105/1203](#), paras. 272–277).

20. The Committee agreed to the following administrative measures relating to the governance and method of work to be applicable to the Committee and its subcommittees starting in 2020:

(a) The Secretariat is requested to upload statements that have been voluntarily submitted by States for uploading to the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in a timely manner during all sessions. Upon submitting statements for interpretation purposes, delegations are to inform the Secretariat as to whether the statement may be uploaded;

(b) Statements by delegations should continue to be limited to 10 minutes. The time-keeping device should be used in all sessions. The Chair of each respective session should remind delegations when 1 minute remains. The Chair should interrupt the delivery of the statement when 10 minutes have elapsed;

(c) The time-keeping device should be used for the delivery of presentations. The Chair of each respective session should remind delegations when 1 minute remains. The Chair should interrupt the delivery of the presentation when 15 minutes have elapsed;

(d) The Secretariat is requested to inform States members of the Committee of the procedure for voluntary opting out of receiving paper copies of pre-session documents;

(e) The Secretariat is requested to publish the schedule of working group meetings, technical presentations and side events in advance of the respective sessions on the pages of the Office website dedicated to the sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees;

(f) The Secretariat is requested to prepare guidance to be made available on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs containing practical information on how to follow the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, as well as information on procedures on applications for membership and observer status with the Committee;

(g) The Secretariat is requested to provide invitation letters, together with the indicative schedule of work, well in advance of the sessions in order to allow sufficient time for the processing of government authorizations for delegations;

(h) A regular agenda item entitled “Future role and methods of work of the Committee” is to be introduced on the agendas of both subcommittees to allow for discussion of cross-cutting issues. The wording of the current agenda item of the Committee (“Future role of the Committee”) is to be amended accordingly to read as “Future role and method of work of the Committee”;

(i) An informal consultative group, comprising representatives of all interested States members of the Committee, is to be established to assist the Secretariat in advancing the work under the workplan on the governance and method of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. The group is to be inclusive in nature and States members of the Committee are to be invited to provide a contact point. The group is to use electronic means of communication and is to meet at the United Nations premises in Vienna. All designated contact points are to be updated on progress made.

21. The Committee noted the constructive discussion on the governance and method of work held at the present session and agreed that several issues had been raised that would be further considered under the current workplan.

L. Other matters

22. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “Other matters”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 73/91.

23. The representatives of China, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Russian Federation, Switzerland and the United States 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.

1. Programme 5, “Peaceful uses of outer space”: proposed programme plan for the period 2020 and programme performance for 2018

24. At the 758th meeting, on 14 June, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs presented to the Committee the following:

(a) A conference room paper entitled “Programme 5, ‘Peaceful uses of outer space’: proposed programme plan for the period 2020 and programme performance for 2018” (A/AC.105/2019/CRP.8);

(b) Proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/6 (sect. 6)).

25. The Committee was invited to provide inputs for the plan of the programme on the peaceful uses of outer space prior to the conclusion of the formal review of the programme by the General Assembly’s subsidiary organ for planning, programming and coordination, the Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its fifty-ninth session.

26. The Committee noted that the new form and presentation of the programme plan was clear and concise. The Committee further noted that the highlighted result in 2018 and the highlighted planned result for 2020 better illustrated and facilitated understanding of the work that the Office for Outer Space Affairs undertook. The Committee agreed on the proposed programme plan for the period 2020.

27. Some delegations welcomed the opportunity to provide inputs to the proposed programme plan and noted the breadth and relevance of the work of the Office. Information was requested on the collaborations and partnerships established by the Office in the delivery of activities for disaster risk reduction.

28. The view was expressed that there was a need to make adequate resources available for the Office to continue implementing its work.

2. Membership of the Committee

29. The Committee welcomed the application of Singapore for membership in the Committee (A/AC.105/2019/CRP.3) and decided to recommend to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, in 2019, that Singapore should become a member of the Committee.

30. The Committee welcomed the application of Rwanda for membership in the Committee (A/AC.105/2019/CRP.4) and decided to recommend to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, in 2019, that Rwanda should become a member of the Committee.

3. Observer status

31. With regard to the applications of non-governmental organizations for the status of permanent observer with the Committee, the Committee recalled its agreement at its fifty-third session, in 2010 ([A/65/20](#), para. 311), that observer status would be granted to non-governmental organizations on a provisional basis, for a period of three years, pending information on the status of their application for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; that the provisional observer status could be extended for an additional year, if necessary; and that it would grant permanent observer status to such non-governmental organizations upon confirmation of their consultative status with the Council.

32. The Committee took note of the application of the Moon Village Association for permanent observer status with the Committee. The application and the relevant correspondence were before the Committee in conference room paper A/AC.105/2019/CRP.5.

33. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly, at its seventy-fourth session, in 2019, grant to the Moon Village Association the status of observer, on a provisional basis, for a period of three years, pending information on the status of their application for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

34. In accordance with the request of the Committee at its fifty-sixth session, in 2013, the Secretariat had compiled information on the consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of non-governmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee (A/AC.105/2019/CRP.6). The Committee urged non-governmental organizations having permanent observer status with it that had not yet initiated the application process for consultative status with the Council to do so in the near future.

4. Joint panel discussion of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to space security and sustainability

35. The Committee noted that in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee (see [A/73/20](#), para. 385) and General Assembly resolutions 73/72 and 73/91, a joint panel discussion of the First and Fourth Committees of the General Assembly on possible challenges to space security and sustainability, with the joint support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Office for Disarmament Affairs, would be held in New York in October 2019.

36. The Committee considered a proposed draft concept note on the joint panel discussion prepared by the two Offices and recommended that the text of the draft concept note as contained in A/AC.105/2019/CRP.19 should form the basis of the upcoming preparations of the joint panel discussion.

5. Draft provisional agenda for the sixty-third session of the Committee

37. The Committee recommended that the following items should be considered at its sixty-third session, in 2020:

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-seventh session.
8. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-ninth 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 and method of work of the Committee.
15. Space exploration and innovation.
16. "Space2030" agenda.
(Work under a multi-year workplan of the working group (see [A/AC.105/1202](#), annex IV))
17. Other matters.

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

38. The Committee agreed on the following tentative timetable for its session and those of its subcommittees in 2020:

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	3–14 February 2020	Vienna
Legal Subcommittee	23 March–3 April 2020	Vienna
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	17–26 June 2020	Vienna