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## Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Legal Subcommittee

Fifty-ninth session

Vienna, 23 March–3 April 2020

### Revised draft “Space2030” agenda and implementation plan

#### Working paper submitted by the Bureau of the Working Group on the “Space2030” Agenda

1. In accordance with its workplan for 2020, the Working Group on the “Space2030” Agenda will:

(a) Continue to consider and consolidate the draft “Space2030” agenda and implementation plan during the sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee in 2020. The Working Group may hold intersessional meetings, as necessary, to advance its work;

(b) Submit a final, consolidated draft of the “Space2030” agenda and implementation plan to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its sixty-third session, in 2020, for its consideration and submission to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, in 2020 (see document [A/AC.105/1202](#), annex IV, appendix).

2. At its meetings during the fifty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Working Group considered the draft “Space2030” agenda and implementation plan (A/AC.105/C.1/L.382). A summary report of the work of the Working Group during the fifty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee is contained in annex IV to the report of the Subcommittee on its session (A/AC.105/1224).

3. The present working paper<sup>1</sup> contains the revised draft “Space2030” agenda and implementation plan, based on the work of the Working Group during the fifty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. It is being provided to advance the work of the Working Group and so that the Working Group, during the session of the Legal Subcommittee, can consider the revised draft “Space2030” agenda and, in accordance with its workplan, submit a final consolidated draft of the “Space2030” agenda and implementation plan to the Committee at its sixty-third session, in 2020, for its consideration and submission to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, in 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> The present working paper uses text in square brackets to indicate those elements on which States members of the Committee have expressed different positions and/or formulations.



# The “Space2030” Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development

## Part A. Agenda

### I. Introduction

1. The United Nations has been at the centre of international cooperation in space activities since the beginning of the space age. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space came into being as a result of the recognition by the General Assembly, in its resolution 1348 (XIII) of 13 December 1958, of the importance of using outer space for peaceful purposes and of the need to promote international cooperation in the conduct of space activities; in its resolution 1472 A (XIV) of 1959, the Assembly permanently established the Committee.
2. Owing to its unique mandate and position at the centre of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space [and global governance of outer space activities,<sup>2</sup> consistent with international law], the Committee played a key role in the organization of the first three United Nations conferences on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, held in 1968, 1982 and 1999.
3. Fifty years after the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE), States Members of the United Nations and representatives of the international space community gathered in Vienna on 20 and 21 June 2018 for the high-level segment of the fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50) to reflect on more than 50 years of achievement in space exploration and use and to strengthen global cooperation in outer space and the use of outer space for sustainable development.
4. The General Assembly, in its resolution [73/6](#) of 26 October 2018, noted with appreciation that the preparatory process and the high-level segment of UNISPACE+50 had resulted in documents aimed at articulating a comprehensive, inclusive and strategically oriented vision on strengthening international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, in which space was seen as a major driver of and contributor to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for the benefit of all countries.
5. In that regard, the General Assembly invited the Committee to continue to develop, on the basis of the results of the UNISPACE+50 process, a “Space2030” Agenda and implementation plan and to provide the General Assembly with the outcome of its work for consideration by the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, in 2020.
6. The “Space2030” Agenda and implementation plan is submitted by the Committee to the General Assembly as a forward-looking strategy for reaffirming and strengthening the contribution of space activities and space tools to the achievement of global agendas,<sup>3</sup> addressing long-term sustainable development concerns of humankind. It also contributes to charting the future contribution of the Committee to [the global governance of outer space activities, consistent with international law].

### II. Strategic vision

7. We, the States Members of the United Nations, acknowledge that the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space have enriched our collective knowledge and revolutionized life on Earth. Space science and technology are now intrinsic to our

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<sup>2</sup> See [A/AC.105/1137](#).

<sup>3</sup> The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Paris Agreement.

daily lives and bring an abundance of unique and fundamental benefits to Earth. As the space community moves forward with its space exploration endeavours, space will continue to serve as a source of inspiration and innovation and to provide applications for the benefit of humankind.

8. We emphasize that space tools are highly relevant for the attainment of the global development agendas, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its goals and targets, either directly, as enablers and drivers of sustainable development, or indirectly, by providing essential data for the indicators used to monitor the progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the commitments by States parties to the Paris Agreement. The fulfilment of these global agendas requires improved access to space-based data and applications and space infrastructure, taking into account the particular needs of developing countries.

9. We acknowledge the distinguished historical record of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee and Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in the establishment and further development of the international legal regime governing outer space activities. Under that regime, outer space activities of States, international intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental entities are flourishing, and as a result, space science and technology and their applications are contributing immeasurably to economic growth and improvements in the quality of life worldwide.

10. We reaffirm the unique role of the Committee, and its subcommittees, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as unique platforms for international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, for [the global governance of outer space activities, consistent with international law], for developing international space law, for fostering dialogue among spacefaring and emerging space nations, and for promoting the increased involvement of all countries in space activities, including through capacity-building initiatives.

11. We underscore the importance of the Outer Space Treaty as the cornerstone of the international legal regime governing outer space activities. It contains the fundamental principles of international space law and will continue to provide an indispensable framework for the conduct of outer space activities. The universalization and effective implementation of the Outer Space Treaty should be promoted.

12. We encourage the Committee to continue to coordinate efforts to strengthen the implementation of the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space and to complement existing international space law, when appropriate, to respond to emerging issues. The Committee and its subcommittees should continue to demonstrate their relevance and address current and emerging challenges and opportunities, such as the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

13. We commit to addressing changes in the undertaking of outer space activities at a time when new technologies have emerged and when an increasing number of participants, representing both governmental agencies and non-governmental entities, including industry and the private sector, are becoming involved in ventures to explore and use space and carry out space activities. In that regard, we commit to ensuring that the Committee, and its subcommittees, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, continue, as appropriate, to respond to such changes, in their role as unique platforms for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

14. We commit to strengthening international cooperation, for which the Committee continues to provide a unique platform in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space and [the global governance of outer space activities, consistent with international law], taking into account the particular needs of developing countries. [[We also aim to contribute to [pursuing the common interest of all humankind]/ [realizing a shared vision for the future] in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of and in the interest of all humankind.]/[We

also aim to promote a vision of a shared future for humankind in the exploration and peaceful use of outer space].]

15. We aim to promote [diversity, as well as gender parity]/[equal opportunities] in the space sector by encouraging, in particular, young people and women to consider careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

16. We also aim to leverage to a greater extent new, innovative technologies, such as space technologies and their applications, to contribute to improved delivery of the mandates of the United Nations as a whole.

17. We emphasize that the seven thematic priorities developed by the Committee in the context of UNISPACE+50 constitute a comprehensive approach to addressing key areas and collectively serve to determine the core objectives of the future work of the Committee and its subcommittees and the Office for Outer Space Affairs in the areas of global partnership in space exploration and innovation (thematic priority 1), current and future perspectives of the legal regime of outer space [and global governance] (thematic priority 2), enhanced information exchange on space objects and events (thematic priority 3), an international framework for space weather services (thematic priority 4), strengthened space cooperation for global health (thematic priority 5), international cooperation towards low-emission and resilient societies (thematic priority 6) and capacity-building for the twenty-first century (thematic priority 7).<sup>4</sup>

18. We also emphasize that, in fulfilling the “Space2030” Agenda and implementation plan, importance is attached to global partnerships and strengthened cooperation among Member States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, industry and private sector entities, to ensure that, through joint efforts and by taking advantage of the practical experiences and contributions of different stakeholders, the benefits of space will be brought to everyone, everywhere.

### III. Objectives

19. We, the States Members of the United Nations, commit to pursuing, based on the above strategic vision, the following objectives. The actions described under each overarching objective could be taken by Member States to realize those objectives. The four overarching objectives are structured around the four pillars of space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy. Those four pillars are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

#### **Overarching objective 1: Enhance space-derived economic benefits and strengthen the role of the space sector as a major driver of sustainable development**

1.1. Raise awareness of the importance of space science and technology and their applications for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

1.2. Facilitate and promote the integration of the space sector with other sectors, including energy, public health, the environment, climate change, the management of resources and information and communication technology, as well as the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships leading to innovative space-based solutions for social and economic development that can be integrated into mechanisms for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

1.3. Address issues arising from commercial activities in outer space, including with a view to enabling space activities to better support the achievement of global

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 73/6, twenty-fourth preambular paragraph.

development agendas and to ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

1.4. Promote the development of the space industry, with a particular focus on small and medium-sized enterprises, with a view to increasing investment in the space sector and creating high-quality jobs, and promote the spin-off benefits of space technologies to the non-space sector.

1.5. Enable space activities for all, based on international law, by promoting an international framework that facilitates equal access to space for all, including non-spacefaring nations, and encourages safety and innovation.

1.6. Promote the use of space-based solutions in global efforts to ensure sustainable forest and ocean economies.

1.7. Strengthen the contribution of space technologies and their applications to sustainable fisheries management, agriculture, food safety and security, and nutrition.

1.8. Promote and facilitate collaboration and partnership between the private and public sectors, academic institutions and research and development centres in the field of the utilization of space for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as in the area of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

## **Overarching objective 2: Harness the potential of space to solve everyday challenges and leverage space-related innovation to improve the quality of life**

2.1. Support space science and research, as outer space provides a unique perspective for scientists to observe and study the Earth and the universe.

2.2. Promote the use of space technologies and their applications to enhance scientific knowledge of the natural environment, including oceans and seas, mountainous regions, water cycles and resources, forestry, biodiversity, desertification and land degradation, as well as urbanization, with a view to contributing to the preservation of the natural environment, sustainable resource management and the protection of ecosystems.

2.3. Strengthen the use of integrated space applications to facilitate the observation of the climate and the assessment of disaster risks, improve early warning disaster systems and provide data for the indicators used to track progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework and commitments by States parties to the Paris Agreement.

2.4. Advance the role of space technologies in highlighting, analysing and addressing climate change and facilitating the transition to low-emission societies, and promote international collaboration in that regard, in line with existing and recognized international mechanisms and organizations.

2.5. Promote the use of space-based technologies in all phases of the disaster management cycle, applicable to both natural and man-made disasters, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation; monitor and assess elements such as exposure, hazards, disaster risk and damage in different regions of the world; and promote the sharing of disaster monitoring data.

2.6. Strengthen space-related cooperation in support of global health; improve the use and application of space medicine, science and technology, innovations in the global health domain, cooperation and the sharing of information and tools to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of public health and health-care interventions; and enhance capacity-building in space medicine, science and technology.

2.7. Strengthen the use of space technologies and their applications to support the development of socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements and

infrastructure, both urban and rural; improve livelihoods; study urbanization and migration patterns; and monitor cultural heritage sites and contribute to their preservation.

2.8. Promote space open data policies and the sharing of data.

**Overarching objective 3: Improve access to space for all and ensure that all countries can benefit socioeconomically from space science and technology applications and space-based data, information and products, thereby supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals**

3.1. Leverage the potential of space to inspire youth, increase the involvement of young people in the space sector, support national and international initiatives that inspire the interest of young people in space activities, from elementary school onwards, and strengthen their engagement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects.

3.2. Enhance space exploration as a long-term driver of innovation and strengthen international cooperation in that regard.

3.3 Promote exploration beyond low Earth orbit, as the scientific, technological, economic and inspirational contributions of those missions will benefit humanity.

3.4. Enhance capacity-building, education and training in space science and applications, in particular for developing countries.

3.5. Increase knowledge of outer space, including through enhanced access to astronomical and space science data, for the benefit of humankind.

3.6. Promote and support the use of space technologies to enhance worldwide access to data and broadband technologies, giving special attention to developing countries and areas with less-developed infrastructure.

3.7 Promote [diversity and]/[equal opportunities]/[gender mainstreaming and gender parity]/[the participation of women] in space activities, including by strengthening the possibility for women to participate in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education.

3.8. Increase awareness of the risks of adverse space weather and mitigate those risks, in order to ensure increased global resilience against space weather effects, and improve the international coordination of space weather-related activities, including outreach, communication and capacity-building, as well as the establishment of an international mechanism to promote increased high-level coordination in relation to space weather and increased global resilience against space weather effects.

3.9. Strengthen international cooperation and preparedness to respond to the threat posed by near-Earth objects.

3.10 [[Strongly urge States] [to refrain] from promulgating, adopting and applying any unilateral economic, financial and trade measures that could impede the space activities and full implementation of the provisions of the Space “2030” Agenda in particular in developing countries.]

**Overarching objective 4: Build partnerships and strengthen international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and in [the global governance of outer space activities]**

4.1. Strengthen the role and activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as a unique platform for international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

4.2. Promote the implementation by States parties of the United Nations treaties on outer space, as well as the implementation of related principles and General Assembly resolutions, and encourage the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, to continue to coordinate efforts in that regard and to complement and develop international law related to outer space, as appropriate, to respond to emerging issues.

4.3. Strengthen capacity-building and technical assistance, including that provided by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, for Member States, in particular in the field of international space law and policy.

4.4. Enhance existing registration practices and information exchange and acknowledge the role of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in maintaining the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space to increase transparency and improve the efficiency of the registration mechanism and the timeliness and consistency of the registration of objects, including by providing technical assistance to Member States in this regard.

4.5. Ensure the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and the preservation of the outer space environment for peaceful uses, including through the implementation on a voluntary basis of the adopted preamble and the guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and the sharing of experiences in implementing the guidelines, and address new challenges, risks and threats posed to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

4.6. Enhance the safety of outer space operations as a contribution to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

4.7. Promote international cooperation and exchange information and best practices, within the framework of the Committee, on the supervision of space activities of non-governmental entities, [consistent]/[in accordance] with international law, with a view to enhancing the safety and long-term sustainability of outer space activities while facilitating the development of the space industry.

4.8. Enhance, within the framework of the Committee, the exchange of information on space objects and events, as well as the discussion on the prediction and prevention of potential collisions.

4.9. Strengthen the coordination and interrelationship between the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees, with the assistance of the Office for Outer Space Affairs as the secretariat.

4.10. Encourage strengthened cooperation between the United Nations entities dealing with space, in line with the United Nations system-wide efforts to increase coherency and deliver as one, on interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral space-related matters, in order to promote international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space and in the utilization of space science and technology for sustainable development.

## **Part B. Implementation plan**

20. Each Member State will implement the “Space2030” Agenda on a voluntary basis.

### **I. Partnerships**

21. In fulfilling the “Space2030” Agenda and its implementation plan, importance is attached to strengthened partnerships and cooperation among Member States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, industry and private sector entities.

22. The Office for Outer Space Affairs serves as a conduit for promoting and facilitating the use of space-based solutions, including in the implementation of the “Space2030” Agenda, and should continue, within its mandate, functions and existing resources to pursue partnerships, including with research institutions, academia, industry and the private sector, to provide broader opportunities to access space for purposes of science, innovation, research and development, education and capacity-building. In that regard, the Office should implement activities to promote the use of space-based applications and technologies to support Member States in meeting the objectives of the global development agendas.

23. In view of implementing the “Space2030” Agenda, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Office for Outer Space Affairs should continue to fulfil their respective mandates and to cooperate and coordinate with other relevant entities within the United Nations system, including through the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space).

## II. Tools

24. In implementing the “Space2030” Agenda, Member States could contribute to and benefit from a number of international and regional mechanisms, programmes, projects and platforms that are already in place or are being developed, such as the following:

(a) The seven thematic priorities in the context of UNISPACE+50, undertaken in the agendas and work of the Committee and its subcommittees, and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in the areas of global partnership in space exploration and innovation, current and future perspectives of the legal regime of outer space and [global governance], enhanced information exchange on space objects and events, an international framework for space weather services, strengthened space cooperation for global health, international cooperation for low-emission and resilient societies and capacity-building for the twenty-first century;<sup>5</sup>

(b) The United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER),<sup>6</sup> a programme of the Office for Outer Space Affairs that provides Member States with access to space-based data and services for disaster-risk reduction and emergency response, and through the UN-SPIDER knowledge portal, enables access to space-based resources in all phases of disaster management cycle;

(c) The regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations,<sup>7</sup> including the alliance of the regional centres. The regional centres are designed to enhance capacity-building, education and training in space science and applications, as well as space law and policy, in particular for developing countries;

(d) The Charter on Cooperation to Achieve the Coordinated Use of Space Facilities in the Event of Natural or Technological Disasters (also called the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters), as a worldwide collaboration among space agencies and space system operators, through which satellite-derived information and products are made available to support disaster response efforts;

(e) The Recovery Observatory of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, as a means to increase the contribution of satellite data to recovery from natural disasters;

(f) The international Space Climate Observatory, whose main goal is to study and monitor the impacts of climate change, especially at local scales, using

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<sup>5</sup> Related documents include [A/AC.105/1168](#), [A/AC.105/1169](#), [A/AC.105/1170](#), [A/AC.105/1171](#), [A/AC.105/1172](#), [A/AC.105/1173](#) and [A/AC.105/1174](#); see also para. 18 above.

<sup>6</sup> See General Assembly resolution [61/110](#).

<sup>7</sup> See General Assembly resolution [73/91](#), para. 24.

satellite-based Earth-observation tools in combination with field data and models, thus providing a tool for decision-making on preparedness, adaptation and resilience to climate change and its impacts, in particular at the local level;

(g) The Global Observing System, which provides observation data useful for weather analyses, forecasts, advisories and warnings, as well as for climate monitoring and environmental activities;

(h) The International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems,<sup>8</sup> which promotes voluntary cooperation on matters of mutual interest related to civil satellite-based positioning, navigation, timing and value-added services, and encourages and facilitates compatibility, interoperability and transparency between all the satellite navigation systems;

(i) The International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN) and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG),<sup>9</sup> which are designed to strengthen preparedness for the threat of potential impacts of near-Earth objects through international cooperation and information-sharing.

25. In addition, several tools and initiatives have been and are being developed by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as part of the capacity-building for the twenty-first century, and in cooperation with its partners, including:

(a) Access to Space for All initiative,<sup>10</sup> aimed at broadening access to space in support of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through triangular cooperation between spacefaring nations, the United Nations and non-spacefaring or emerging spacefaring nations, with the involvement of the private sector;

(b) The Open Universe initiative, in order to enhance access to astronomical and space science data;<sup>11</sup>

(c) The space solutions compendium, as a tool for supporting Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, linking space solutions with Sustainable Development Goals and targets;<sup>12</sup>

(d) The “Space for women” initiative, aimed at broadening the possibilities for women to pursue space-related education and careers;

(e) The “Space law for new space actors” project, as part of capacity-building and advisory services in response to the needs and requirements of policymakers and legislators in governmental and regulatory authorities of countries that are either entering the space sector for the first time or that are embarking upon new phases of space activities;

(f) The Space4Water portal, as a platform for interdisciplinary knowledge exchange on space technologies and water-related topics;

(g) Space for Youth, to advance Youth 2030: The United Nations Strategy on Youth, the United Nations-wide initiative in the area of space-related activities and projects;

(h) The “Space solutions for the Pacific” project, aimed at offering a range of programmatic services to Pacific island States to enhance their ability to meet Sustainable Development Goals, including in the areas of climate change, illegal fishing, telecommunications, global health and disaster risk reduction;

(i) The World Space Forums on space as a driver for socioeconomic sustainable development aimed at strengthening partnerships and continuous dialogue among the global community on a broad range of space matters and at raising

<sup>8</sup> See General Assembly resolution 59/2, para. 11.

<sup>9</sup> See General Assembly resolution 70/82, para. 9.

<sup>10</sup> See [A/72/20](#), para. 326.

<sup>11</sup> See [A/AC.105/1175](#).

<sup>12</sup> See [A/AC.105/1174](#).

awareness and supporting the implementation of the “Space2030” Agenda through the broad involvement of all relevant space actors.

26. The above lists are not exhaustive, and new initiatives could be developed, including with a view to assisting Member States in implementing the “Space2030” Agenda.

### **III. Resources**

27. Member States are invited to actively undertake bilateral, multilateral, regional and broader international space cooperation in various forms, including capacity-building, the sharing of information and infrastructure and the development of joint projects, and, as appropriate, to integrate space cooperation with economic and development cooperation, in order to promote the fulfilment of the “Space2030” Agenda and its implementation plan.

28. Member States and other donors are invited to provide voluntary extrabudgetary resources to the Office for Outer Space Affairs to advance the implementation of the “Space2030” Agenda, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

29. The Secretary-General is urged to consider the sufficiency of resources provided to the Office for Outer Space Affairs in its role as secretariat to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees, and to ensure that the Office can fully and effectively implement its mandate, including capacity-building activities for Member States in the field of space science and technology and their applications, as well as in space law and policy, taking into account the “Space2030” Agenda and implementation plan.

### **IV. Review of progress**

30. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should include an item on its agenda for each session allowing for an exchange among States members of the Committee and its permanent observers on their experiences in implementing the “Space2030” Agenda. In 2025, the Committee should carry out a midterm review of progress made in implementing the “Space2030” Agenda. In 2030, the Committee should carry out a final review of the implementation of the “Space2030” Agenda and report to the General Assembly on the results.

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