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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
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Draft report

Addendum

Chapter II

Recommendations and decisions

G. Space and climate change

1. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled "Space and climate change", in accordance with General Assembly resolution 78/72.

2. The representatives of Austria, Canada, China, Ecuador, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States made statements under the item. The observer for SGAC 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 report on the United Nations/Austria Symposium on Space for Climate Action held in Graz, Austria (online), from 12 to 14 September 2023 (A/AC.105/1299).

4. The Committee heard the following presentations:

(a) "Models of public funding for the Brazilian space sector", by the representative of Brazil;

(b) "An innovative satellite-based approach to urban heat islands in cities", by the representative of Italy;

(c) "Earth observation for the study of the impacts of climate change on water resources and agriculture in Morocco", by the representative of Morocco;

(d) "Supporting voluntary carbon markets by monitoring greenhouse gas emissions from tropical peatlands", by the representative of Singapore.

5. The Committee underscored the importance of collective action to mitigate and adapt to climate change as one of the most pressing global challenges of our time. In that regard, the Committee noted the growing value of space-based technology and space-based observations for scientific research on and a better understanding of

climate change and its impacts, and, consequently, for producing actionable data in support of decision-making and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 13, on climate action, as well as for monitoring the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

6. The Committee noted the growing number of efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels in developing and operating satellites for observing atmospheric conditions.

7. The Committee also noted the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and actions to tackle climate change by utilizing space-based observations and technologies, and the importance of supporting international cooperation in Earth observation, including through long-established organizations and bodies such as the World Meteorological Organization, CEOS, the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites, the Global Climate Observing System, the Group on Earth Observations and APSCO.

8. The Committee noted the growing international collaboration among international partner agencies and organizations in joining and contributing to the efforts of the Space for Climate Observatory, of which currently France served as the secretariat. To date, there were 47 signatories to the Charter of the Observatory, which had entered into force on 1 September 2022, making the Observatory part of the landscape of multilateral networks dedicated to combating climate change and supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

9. The Committee noted with appreciation that the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would be held in Baku from 11 November to 22 November 2024 under the presidency of Azerbaijan.

10. The Committee noted that the United Nations/Austria Symposium on Space for Climate Action had been held from 12 to 14 September 2023 on the theme “Space for climate action: space applications and technologies for sustainability on Earth”.

11. The Committee noted the efforts of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, through its United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) programme and its network of currently 28 regional support offices, to build capacity and increase access to and the use of space-based solutions for disaster management, inter alia in relation to climate change-related natural disasters, and to facilitate the activation of the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters, a worldwide collaboration through which satellite data are made available to help countries with disaster relief efforts.

12. Some delegations expressed the view that making space-based data more accessible, available and usable would enhance collective efforts to respond to climate change and that there was an urgent need for capacity-building in utilizing space solutions to address challenges arising from climate change.