



General Assembly

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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Sixty-seventh session Vienna, 19–28 June 2024

Draft report

Addendum

Chapter II

Recommendations and decisions

A. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [78/72](#), the Committee continued its consideration, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and its consideration of the broader perspective of space security and associated matters that would be instrumental in ensuring the safe and responsible conduct of space activities, including ways to promote international, regional and interregional cooperation to that end.

2. The representatives of Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under agenda item 6. Statements were also made by the observers for For All Moonkind and IAF. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by other member States.

3. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Conference room paper submitted by the Russian Federation entitled “Draft resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on ‘Space science and technology for promoting peace’” (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.10);

(b) Conference room paper submitted by the Russian Federation entitled “Building common understanding on new phenomena in space activities with a view of possible self-restricting measures” (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.23).

4. The Committee heard the presentation entitled “Cultural heritage’s role in maintaining peaceful purposes”, by the observers for For All Moonkind.

5. The Committee agreed that, through its work in the scientific, technical and legal fields and through the promotion of international dialogue, the exchange of information and the international and regional cooperation on various topics relating



to the exploration and use of outer space, it had a fundamental role to play in ensuring that outer space was maintained for peaceful purposes.

6. The Committee reaffirmed that international space law, with the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (the Outer Space Treaty) at its core, should be strictly adhered to. The Committee further reaffirmed the obligations of all States parties under article IV of the Outer Space Treaty not to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction.

7. The Committee encouraged its member States to become States parties to the Outer Space Treaty, which contained fundamental principles on the peaceful uses of outer space.

8. Some delegations expressed the view that transparency and confidence-building measures were essential to ensuring the peaceful uses of outer space.

9. Some delegations expressed the view that voluntary actions, such as sharing information on their intentions, capabilities, doctrines and policies and exchanging data, tools, knowledge and best practices, could contribute to increasing transparency and confidence-building among States.

10. The view was expressed that space situational awareness capabilities were essential to ensuring safe and sustainable space operations given that the number of space objects continued to grow, and that it was crucial to regularly track and monitor activities in space in order to mitigate associated risks.

11. Some delegations expressed the view that States members of the Committee should implement, without delay, the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities ([A/68/189](#)).

12. Some delegations expressed the view that it was regrettable that the recently proposed draft Security Council resolution on weapons of mass destruction in outer space, in which the Council would have reaffirmed the basic obligations of the Outer Space Treaty and thus prevent any nuclear weapons being placed into Earth orbit, had not been adopted.

13. The view was expressed that the above-mentioned proposed draft resolution of the Security Council could have been adopted if the proposed amendments had been accepted.

14. Some delegations expressed the view that the threat of the militarization of outer space underscored the importance of international dialogue and negotiation aimed at creating legally binding norms for transparency and confidence-building in outer space activities.

15. Some delegations reiterated that more consideration should be given to the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects, as that treaty paved the way for ensuring the use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

16. Some delegations expressed the view that adherence to a common set of voluntary, non-legally binding measures could increase stability and predictability, enable crisis management, enhance operational safety and reduce the risks of misperception and miscalculation, thus contributing to the prevention of misconduct in outer space activities.

17. Some delegations expressed the view that, in order to ensure the sustainable and peaceful use of outer space, it was crucial that outer space activities be carried out in accordance with international law, rules, regulations and norms, including the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee and the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee ([A/74/20](#), annex II).

18. Some delegations expressed the view that the intentional destruction of space objects, which generated large amounts of space debris, increased the risk of collisions of on-orbit space objects and constituted irresponsible behaviour that would undermine the sustainable and stable use of outer space.
19. Some delegations expressed the view that General Assembly resolution [77/41](#) had reaffirmed the importance of States not conducting destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile tests.
20. Some delegations expressed the view that the rapidly increasing numbers of space actors, space activities and space objects resulted in the further creation of space debris and presented risks and threats to space activities, and called for an international framework on responsible behaviour in outer space.
21. The view was expressed that pragmatic, non-binding standards of responsible behaviour, if accepted by a majority of States, could become legally binding international law in the future.
22. Some delegations expressed the view that all States should be encouraged to engage in the discussion of the open-ended working group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours, which would commence its work in 2025.
23. Some delegations reaffirmed their position that it would be more appropriate to discuss issues related to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, the use of outer space for national security activities and related matters in forums whose mandates focused on those issues, such as the Conference on Disarmament, the Disarmament Commission and the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) of the General Assembly.
24. Some delegations expressed the view that, although the Committee did not directly discuss the prevention of an arms race in outer space, it played a vital role in ensuring that the space domain remained accessible to all and that the activities conducted were carried out in a sustainable manner.
25. The view was expressed that, in line with the provisions set out in the Outer Space Treaty, the Committee should focus on the challenges posed by the development of commercial space activities, ensure that the space activities of non-governmental entities were consistent with the use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and enhance transparency in space activities at the international level. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that it was necessary to attach importance to the safety of outer space activities and to seek solutions to the safety risks posed by megaconstellations.
26. Some delegations expressed the view that there was significant concern about a recent trend by which civilian space infrastructure, primarily communications and remote sensing satellites, had been used in armed conflicts, causing the unpredictable operation of space objects, thereby diminishing transparency and posing significant risks to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.
27. The Committee took note of the draft resolution on space science and technology for promoting peace (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.10). Since consensus had not been reached regarding the draft resolution during the sixty-seventh session of the Committee, some delegations expressed the view that the issue could be revisited at the sixty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, to be held in 2025.
28. The Committee, while reiterating the respective mandates of the relevant United Nations bodies, discussed issues related to the broader perspectives of space safety, security and sustainability, and associated matters, including existing and emerging space technologies such as satellites and large satellite constellations, in the context of its consideration, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining space for peaceful purposes.

29. The Committee noted with appreciation that a joint panel discussion of the First Committee and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the General Assembly on possible challenges to space security and sustainability was scheduled to be held in New York later in 2024, during the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The Committee also noted that such joint panel discussions should continue to be organized in order to discuss cross-cutting issues.

30. The view was expressed that the above-mentioned joint panel discussion would serve an important role in highlighting the fundamental role of the Committee as a focal point for international cooperation in maintaining the peaceful uses of outer space.

31. The Committee decided that, at its sixty-eighth session, in 2025, consideration of the item on ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes should be continued.
