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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Sixty-second session
Vienna, 3–14 February 2025**

Draft report

Addendum

XII. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [79/87](#), the Subcommittee considered agenda item 14, entitled “Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union”, as a single issue/item for discussion.
2. The representatives of China, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under agenda item 14. The observer for ITU also made a statement. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were made by representatives of other member States.
3. In accordance with the invitation extended by the Subcommittee at its sixty-first session, in 2024 ([A/AC.105/1307](#), para. 245), the observer for ITU presented a report concerning the contribution of ITU to the peaceful uses of outer space, including the use of the geostationary satellite orbit and other orbits. In that connection, the Subcommittee took note with appreciation of the information provided in the annual report for 2024 of the Radiocommunication Bureau of ITU on the use of the geostationary satellite orbit and other orbits, as well as other documents referred to in conference room paper [A/AC.105/C.1/2025/CRP.25](#). The Subcommittee invited ITU to continue to submit reports to it.



4. Some delegations expressed the view that because the geostationary orbit was a limited natural resource that played an important and indispensable role in supporting commercial and socioeconomic development, and because it was governed by the Outer Space Treaty and relevant provisions of the ITU Constitution and the ITU Radio Regulations, it should be made available on an equitable basis to all States irrespective of their technical or socioeconomic development.
 5. Some delegations expressed the view that the “first-come, first-served” principle applied by ITU had in practice resulted in the biased distribution of the radio spectrum and had made equitable access to the geostationary orbit increasingly impractical, resulting in scarce orbits that had become oversaturated. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that because the geostationary orbit was a limited natural resource with strategic and economic value, it required a specific technical and governance framework to regulate its utilization in a rational, balanced, efficient and equitable manner to ensure its sustainable use.
 6. The view was expressed that it was necessary for the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Committee to consider ways to solve problems that did not relate to specific issues within the competence of ITU, such as the use of technologies only in jurisdictions that had given explicit consent for such use and the ability of a jurisdiction to exclude from its territory a foreign non-geostationary satellite system at any time in order to preserve its national interests.
 7. The view was expressed that the radio spectrum and the coordination of geostationary orbit slots were subjects that fell within the remit of ITU, and matters raised in the Committee and its subcommittees should not duplicate discussions that were better suited to the expertise of other international bodies.
 8. The view was expressed that use of the geostationary orbit provided crucial socioeconomic benefits by enabling technologies and applications to be used for diverse programmes such as tele-education, telemedicine, disaster management and emergency response, as well as them providing messaging capabilities for alerts regarding maritime weather and public transportation information, which benefited citizens at all levels of society.
 9. The view was expressed that because the geostationary orbit was a finite natural resource inextricably linked to the Earth, the segments of it were part of the territory over which the equatorial States exercised their sovereignty, thereby enabling such States to properly enshrine their rights over their segment of the geostationary orbit in their national constitutions.
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