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International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 2022

[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee) (A/77/398, para. 12)]

77/120. Space and global health

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [51/122](#) of 13 December 1996, [54/68](#) of 6 December 1999, [59/2](#) of 20 October 2004, [66/71](#) of 9 December 2011, [69/85](#) of 5 December 2014, [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, [71/90](#) of 6 December 2016, [73/91](#) of 7 December 2018 and [76/3](#) of 25 October 2021,

Recalling also the recommendations contained in the resolution entitled “The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development”, adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,¹ in which participating States called for action to improve public health services by expanding and coordinating space-based services for telemedicine and for controlling infectious diseases,

Recalling further the fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50) and its thematic priority 5, on strengthened space cooperation for global health,

Acknowledging the importance of the contribution of space science and technology and their applications to efforts towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,² in particular Sustainable Development Goal 3, on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages, and conscious that the work done in the space health sector can contribute to sustainable

¹ *Report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 19–30 July 1999* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.I.3), chap. I, resolution 1.

² Resolution [70/1](#).



development, especially with programmes aimed at enhancing the quality of life in various ways, including improving human health,

Emphasizing that overarching objective 2 of the “Space2030” Agenda,³ to harness the potential of space to solve everyday challenges and leverage space-related innovation to improve the quality of life, could be attained by strengthening space-related cooperation in support of global health, by improving the use and application of space medicine, science and technology, innovations in the global health domain, cooperation and the sharing of information, while protecting the privacy of personal data, and tools to improve research advancement and the timeliness and effectiveness of public health and health-care interventions, and by enhancing capacity-building in space medicine, science and technology,

Convinced of the importance, and recognizing the existing contributions, of space science, space technology and space applications to enhance space life sciences and digital health technologies, such as telehealth, telemedicine⁴ and tele-epidemiology, for the prevention and control of diseases and global health issues, the promotion of human health, environmental health, animal health and food sourcing and supply, and the advancement of medical research and health practices, including the provision of health-care services to individuals and communities irrespective of geographical location as a means of promoting equitable, affordable and universal access to health for all,

Noting with concern that among the gaps in the areas of telemedicine and telehealth are the limited uptake of digital technologies in public health systems and health care, as well as the lack of harmonized data-sharing standards among the various manufacturers of medical equipment,

Noting with satisfaction the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its subsidiary bodies and the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat in the area of space and global health, including in the framework of action team 6, on public health, established to implement the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as well as the action team 6 follow-up initiative, the Expert Group on Space and Global Health, UNISPACE+50 thematic priority 5, on strengthened space cooperation for global health, and the Working Group on Space and Global Health of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee, and welcoming its report on the work conducted under its multi-year workplan,⁵

Deeply concerned about the devastating global effects of emerging infectious diseases and other emergencies with an impact on health, including the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, to the detriment of human life, society and development, and urging the international community to embrace a One Health approach by strengthening the role of space-based solutions, in particular telehealth, in monitoring, preparedness and response activities,

1. *Encourages* United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, Governments and the private sector to pursue effective coordination in all key space activities relevant to global health;

³ Resolution 76/3.

⁴ The term “telemedicine” is used broadly to refer to the use of telecommunications, satellite communications and information technology to provide clinical health care from a distance and includes many active and relevant subfields, such as tele-cardiology, tele-radiology, tele-ophthalmology, tele-oncology, tele-pharmacy, tele-surgery, tele-dermatology and other developing fields.

⁵ A/AC.105/C.1/121.

2. *Encourages* formalized cooperation between health authorities and space authorities at the domestic level, and welcomes existing cross-sectoral networks that foster the exchange of ideas between the space and health sectors;
3. *Encourages* Member States to establish a policy-enabled environment and governance mechanisms, with due consideration of legal and ethical issues, for removing challenges to facilitating the effective use of space-based technologies in support of global health, including telemedicine solutions and other emerging technologies;
4. *Also encourages* Member States to promote open data-sharing policies and participatory approaches to developing and improving access to all geospatial information relevant to global health, including remote sensing and Earth observation data, whenever possible;
5. *Further encourages* Member States to enable organizational and technical interoperability and promote research and innovation activities to facilitate the development and implementation of space-based science and technology in the health sector;
6. *Urges* United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations to support the wider development of, equitable access to and application of space solutions for global health, public health, including epidemics and pandemics, emergencies that may have an impact on health, and the individual health needs of Member States, and encourages the implementation of a broader range of space solutions for sustainable development, including public-private partnerships;
7. *Encourages* Member States and participating entities to advance their efforts related to the geotagging of all assets relevant to health systems, including health information systems, and to make them available to further the attainment of health goals;
8. *Encourages* Member States to recognize the relevance of access to the space environment and space analogues⁶ for health and life sciences research and development, especially in the area of astronaut health, for social and economic benefits on Earth;
9. *Also encourages* Member States to actively promote international cooperation in the field of space medicine on the basis of equal opportunities for all interested participants and in the interests of the further exploration of outer space by humankind, and further scientific and technological development and applications in the interests of global health;
10. *Further encourages* Member States to conduct appropriate drills and exercises to benchmark their operational preparedness and response capacities and capabilities for the appropriate use of space technologies in responding to global health events;
11. *Welcomes* the establishment of a dedicated, cooperative, globally accessible, multifaceted platform based in Geneva to promote effective collaboration on space and global health issues among Member States, United Nations entities, other international organizations and relevant actors;
12. *Emphasizes* that all key activities, reference documents and plans relevant to space for global health carried out or prepared by United Nations entities should be monitored and compiled on an annual basis, including those of the World Health Organization, other international organizations and States members of the Committee

⁶ Space analogues include parabolic flights, bed rest studies and expeditions to Antarctica and other isolated, confined and extreme environments that simulate the space environment on Earth.

on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as well as, to the extent possible, non-governmental organizations and other non-governmental actors, and also emphasizes that the resulting annual compilation of activities should serve as a reference to identify and discuss gaps and opportunities and should be shared broadly in an effort to raise awareness and promote cooperation among relevant actors in this domain;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of analysing and assessing the roles and interests of current actors in the domain of space and global health, with the aim of promoting synergy, complementarity, cooperation and coordination among all actors;

14. *Emphasizes* the need to enhance, in an equitable and sustainable manner, intersectoral coordination and cooperation for effective international, regional, national and subnational capacity-building activities relevant to the application of space science and technology in the field of global health;

15. *Encourages* Member States to engage learning institutions and other capacity-building mechanisms in motivating young health professionals, at an early stage, to acquire space-related skills and abilities;

16. *Agrees* to promote capacity-building events, to be organized by United Nations entities and other relevant actors, with the objective of further promoting awareness of and engagement with regard to the important contribution of space science and technology among actors applying One Health approaches, with a view to increasing the number of organizations and other actors in the health domain that are actively engaged in using space science and technology;

17. *Requests* the Office for Outer Space Affairs to strengthen, within existing resources, capacity-building and networking in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, through regional technical cooperation projects, and to support field projects for strengthening collaboration between the space and global health sectors as an efficient strategy for making better use of space science and technology for access to global health for beneficiary States and taking better advantage of opportunities offered by bilateral or multilateral collaboration;

18. *Encourages* Member States to foster linkages between academia, national experts, telecommunications regulatory authorities and science and technology authorities with a view to improving access to and the use of digital technologies and information systems in health.

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