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WAYS AND MEANS OF MAINTAINING OUTER SPACE FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES

Working paper submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

BASIC PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER OF A WORLD
SPACE ORGANIZATION (WSO)

I. AIMS

The purposes of the World Space Organization, hereinafter referred to as WSO, are as follows:

To serve as a focal point for broad international co-operation for the exploration and use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes;

To co-ordinate efforts undertaken by States and international organizations in the context of peaceful space activities;

To facilitate for all States access to and participation in space activities and the benefits derived therefrom;

To verify compliance with international agreements to prevent the extension of an arms race into outer space.

II. FUNCTIONS

1. To encourage all forms of activity relating to the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space and to the development of international co-operation in this field in the interests of the socio-economic advancement of all countries.

2. To elaborate and implement international co-operation projects relating to various aspects of space exploration and application and the practical exploitation for peaceful purposes of the achievements of space science and technology.
3. To co-ordinate international activity in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space.
4. To provide support to States in the elaboration and implementation of their national space programmes, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries.
5. To launch special ventures which will operate under the auspices of WSO.
6. To create a system for the collection and dissemination of information on various aspects of the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space.
7. To assist States in training scientific and technical space specialists, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries.
8. To help to strengthen the rule of law in space and to contribute to the progressive development of international space law.

For the purpose of carrying out these tasks, WSO may lease, acquire or develop the necessary elements of a research and production base, including space objects, equipment, launchers, ground facilities, tracking and flight-control stations and laboratories.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION PROJECTS

1. WSO shall use its own resources to elaborate and implement international co-operation projects in various areas of space exploration and its practical applications.
2. International co-operation projects, financed by the member States concerned by means of special funds or earmarked contributions, may be carried out under the auspices of WSO. Proposals for the initiation of such projects shall be made by the member States concerned.

IV. SPECIAL VENTURES

1. WSO may establish, in areas involving the practical uses of outer space, special ventures operating on a fully self-financing basis or on the principle of commercial enterprises.
2. Once established, the special ventures shall operate autonomously and independently but shall be obliged to take into consideration the recommendations of WSO, to which they shall submit regular reports on their activity.

3. The financial activity of the special ventures shall be independent of the financial activity of WSO, except that a portion of their profits, as determined in their constituent instruments, shall be transferred to the WSO budget.

4. WSO may participate in the special ventures as one of the shareholders.

V. DEVELOPMENT FUND

1. A WSO Development Fund shall be established for the funding of international projects designed primarily to provide aid and assistance to the developing countries in the practical applications of space science and technology.

2. The annual contributions of member States to the Development Fund shall be apportioned on the basis of the following principle:

60 per cent: States members of the WSO Council, being the States most actively engaged in the exploration and use of outer space (equal shares);

30 per cent: other member States actively engaged in the exploration and use of outer space (equal shares according to a list approved by the Assembly of WSO);

10 per cent: all other member States (equal shares on the basis of a scale approved by the Assembly).

VI. VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH AGREEMENTS TO PREVENT THE EXTENSION OF AN ARMS RACE INTO OUTER SPACE

1. WSO shall create a system of international verification of compliance with agreements to prevent the extension of an arms race into outer space.

2. To this end, it shall use the technical resources which may either belong to it or be placed at its disposal or leased to it by Member States.

3. On the basis of a special agreement with the United Nations, the WSO verification system may also be used to monitor compliance with other agreements on the limitation and cessation of the arms race.

VII. FINANCING THE WORK OF WSO

1. The financial resources of WSO shall consist of the obligatory annual contributions of member States and a proportion of the profits of the special ventures, together with the earmarked and voluntary contributions of States, international organizations and non-governmental corporate bodies.

2. The financial resources of WSO shall be utilized for:

- (a) The implementation of international co-operation projects;
 - (b) The establishment and maintenance of the Development Fund;
 - (c) Shared participation in the implementation of the special ventures;
 - (d) Support for the system of international verification of compliance with agreements to prevent the extension of an arms race into outer space;
 - (e) Development of the equipment and technical resources of WSO and establishment of the corresponding infrastructure;
 - (f) Administrative requirements.
3. The activity of WSO shall be organized on the basis of biannual budgets.

VIII. RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

1. WSO and the United Nations shall conclude agreements on co-operation and consultation, including a possible agreement on the use of the verification system of WSO to monitor compliance with agreements on the limitation and cessation of the arms race.
2. WSO shall submit to the United Nations annual reports, which shall be examined by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and then by the General Assembly. In the light of its consideration of those reports the General Assembly may make appropriate recommendations, to which WSO shall give due consideration.

IX. RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

1. In order to avoid duplication of effort and to make the most efficient use of resources, WSO shall co-ordinate its activities on the basis of appropriate understandings or agreements with other international organizations and agencies involved in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. Such organizations and agencies, which shall operate on a commercial basis, may obtain the status of WSO special ventures.
2. WSO shall provide for other international organizations and agencies a unified approach to the global development of international co-operation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, together with a mechanism for making the best use of the potential of such organizations and agencies in the implementation of that approach.

X. MEMBER STATES

Membership in WSO shall be open to all States which have signed and ratified its Charter or which have acceded to it.

XI. STRUCTURE

The principal bodies of WSO shall be:

- A. The Assembly;
- B. The Council;
- C. The Secretariat.

A. The Assembly

1. The Assembly shall consist of all States members of WSO;
2. The Assembly shall discuss any questions or matters belonging within the scope of the Charter and shall, in particular:

Establish the policies governing the Organization's activities;

Approve international co-operation projects submitted by the Council which are to be carried out by WSO;

Approve the constituent instruments of the special ventures and the principles governing their activities;

Establish the principles governing the system for monitoring compliance with agreements to prevent the extension of an arms race into outer space;

Develop a unified approach to the global development of international co-operation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space;

Establish a scale of annual contributions of member States to the regular budget and the Development Fund;

Review and approve the budget of WSO;

Establish the Council;

Receive and consider reports of the Council and other bodies;

Appoint the Director-General of WSO.

3. Regular sessions of the Assembly shall be held once a year. Special sessions of the Assembly shall be held at the decision of the Assembly or the Council, or at the request of any member State, provided that such request is supported by the majority of member States.

4. Each member State shall have one vote in the Assembly.

5. Decisions on matters of procedure, including decisions on the holding of special sessions, shall be taken by a majority vote of member States present and voting.

6. Decisions on substantive matters shall be taken by a three-quarters majority of votes of the member States present and voting, provided that such a majority represents the majority of member States.

B. The Council

1. The membership of the Council shall be constituted by the Assembly for a term of four years according to the following principle:

One third of the members shall be appointed from among the member States which are most active in the exploration and use of outer space, without regard for the principle of equitable geographical distribution; and

Two thirds of the members shall be elected according to the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

The Council shall not have more than 30 members.

2. The Council shall be the executive body of WSO. In this capacity it shall, inter alia:

Draw up international co-operation projects for adoption by the Assembly and supervise their implementation;

Appoint the directors of international co-operation projects;

Monitor the use of the resources of the Development Fund; and

Supervise the functioning of the system for monitoring compliance with agreements to prevent the extension of an arms race into outer space.

3. The Council shall convene whenever necessary for the effective discharge of its functions, but no less often than three times a year.

4. The Council shall endeavour to take its decisions by consensus. If this is not possible, decisions of the Council shall be taken on the basis of a majority of three fourths of the votes of the member States present and voting, provided that such majority includes the majority of the member States of the Council.

C. The Secretariat

1. The Secretariat shall consist of a Director-General and such staff as WSO may require.

2. In discharging their duties, the Director-General and the staff of the organization shall function as international civil servants.
