



## General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/36/657  
10 November 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-sixth session  
Agenda items 61 and 62

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE  
PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING  
THE USE BY STATES OF ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITES FOR DIRECT  
TELEVISION BROADCASTING

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Zahary RADOUKOV (Bulgaria)

### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The following items were included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-sixth session in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 35/14 and 35/15 of 3 November 1980:

"International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space:

"(a) Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

"(b) Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

"Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space."

2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 18 September 1981, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the two items in its agenda and to allocate them to the Special Political Committee.

3. At its 15th meeting, on 27 October, the Special Political Committee decided to hold a combined general debate on items 61 and 62. The general debate on these items took place at the 15th to 20th meetings, held between 27 and 30 October (see A/SPC/36/SR.15-20).

4. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; 1/

(b) Report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. 2/ At the 15th meeting, Mr. Peter Jankowitsch (Austria), Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, introduced the reports and the Secretary-General of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space reviewed the preparatory work being carried out in preparation for the Conference.

## II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

5. At the 18th meeting, on 29 October, the representative of Austria introduced draft resolutions A/SPC/36/L.4 and A/SPC/36/L.5.

6. Draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.4, entitled "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space" was sponsored by Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sweden, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia. Subsequently, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Japan, Lesotho, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Sudan, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United Republic of Cameroon joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

7. Draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.5, entitled "Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space", was sponsored by Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Egypt, the German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia. Subsequently, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, France, Japan, Lesotho, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Sudan, Turkey and the United Republic of Cameroon joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

8. At its 20th meeting, on 30 October, the Committee adopted draft resolutions A/SPC/36/L.4 and A/SPC/36/L.5 without a vote (see para. 10, draft resolutions I and II).

9. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics explained its position on draft resolution A/SPC/36/L.4.

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/36/20).

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 46 (A/36/46).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

10. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sweden, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia: draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 35/14 of 3 November 1980,

Deeply convinced of the common interest of mankind in promoting the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, as well as the importance of international co-operation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

Reaffirming the importance of international co-operation in developing the rule of law in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space,

Taking note with satisfaction of the progress achieved in various national and co-operative space projects, such as the launch of the Ariane rocket by the European Space Agency, the flight of the United States Space Shuttle Orbiter Columbia and the completion of the first stage of the Voyager II mission, the SALYUT/SOYUZ orbital research programme of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the successful outer space missions by the first Mongolian and Romanian cosmonauts, the successful launching of the ROHINI II and APPLE satellites by India and the placing into orbit of a group of three satellites with a single carrier rocket by China,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its twenty-fourth session. 3/

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3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/36/20).

1. Endorses the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;
2. Invites States which have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the use of outer space 4/ to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties;
3. Takes note with appreciation of the progress in the preparation of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space achieved by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, acting as Preparatory Committee and Advisory Committee for the Conference;
4. Notes that the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its twentieth session:
  - (a) Continued its efforts to formulate draft principles relating to the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space;
  - (b) Continued its efforts to complete the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting;
  - (c) Continued its discussion of matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, bearing in mind, inter alia, questions relating to the geostationary orbit;

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4/ Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI), annex);

Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (General Assembly resolution 2345 (XXII), annex);

Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (General Assembly resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex);

Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (General Assembly resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex);

Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and other Celestial Bodies (General Assembly resolution 34/68, annex).

(d) Considered the possibility of supplementing the norms of international law relevant to the use of nuclear-power sources in outer space and established a Working Group in connexion with this time;

5. Decides that the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its twenty-first session should:

(a) Continue on a priority basis its detailed consideration of the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space, with the aim of formulating draft principles relating to remote sensing;

(b) Continue its consideration of:

(i) The possibility of supplementing the norms of international law relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space through its working group;

(ii) Matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, bearing in mind, inter alia, questions relating to the geostationary orbit, and devote adequate time for a deeper consideration of this question;

6. Decides to convene the twenty-first session of the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at Geneva from 1 to 19 February 1982, with the possibility of extending its session to 26 February 1982;

7. Decides that further attempts to complete the elaboration of a draft set of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting shall be made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space during its twenty-fifth session;

8. Decides to consider at its thirty-seventh session the adoption of a draft set of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting;

9. Notes that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its eighteenth session continued

(a) its consideration of questions relating to remote sensing of the earth by satellites;

(b) its consideration of the United Nations programme on space applications and the co-ordination of space activities with the United Nations system;

(c) its examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit;

(d) its consideration of technical aspects of and safety measures relating to the use of nuclear-power sources in outer space and adopted the report of the Working Group;

(e) its consideration of questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space;

(f) preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as Advisory Committee to the Preparatory Committee;

10. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its nineteenth session should:

(a) Consider the following items on a priority basis:

- (i) Consideration of the United Nations programme on space applications and the co-ordination of space activities within the United Nations system;
- (ii) Questions relating to remote sensing of the earth by satellite;
- (iii) Preparations for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;
- (iv) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space;

(b) Consider the following items:

- (i) Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space;
- (ii) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit;

11. Endorses the United Nations programme on space applications for 1982 as proposed to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee by the Expert on Space Applications;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to appoint a new Expert on Space Applications without delay, taking into account the important role of the Expert in the preparation of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

13. Expresses its appreciation to all Governments as well as specialized agencies and other international organizations which acted as hosts to, offered fellowships for, or otherwise assisted in the holding of, international training seminars and workshops on space applications, particularly for the benefit of developing countries;

14. Requests the specialized agencies and international organizations to continue their co-operation with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and to provide it with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

15. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its work, in accordance with the present resolution and previous resolutions of the General Assembly, to consider, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities and to submit a report to the Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 33/16 of 10 November 1978, 34/67 of 5 December 1979 and 35/15 of 3 November 1980 concerning the convening as well as the preparation of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to be held at Vienna from 9 to 21 August 1982,

Having considered the report submitted to the General Assembly by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in its capacity as Preparatory Committee for the Conference, 5/

1. Approves the recommendations contained in the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space concerning, in particular, the publicity arrangements, the outline of the draft report, the provisional rules of procedure, the schedule of meetings and the officers of the Conference;
2. Expresses its appreciation to the United Nations Space Applications Programme for the holding of regional seminars related to the preparation of the Conference, as well as to all the Governments which have acted as hosts to these seminars;
3. Expresses its concern that all the officers necessary for the preparation of the Conference have not yet been appointed;
4. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to make all the necessary appointments without further delay, and in any case not later than 31 December 1981 in order to ensure the efficient preparation of the Conference;
5. Invites Member States actively to promote, to the extent possible, public awareness of the Conference through their national radio and television networks, as well as through the efficient use of other mass media;

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5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 46 (A/36/46).

6. Requests the Preparatory Committee and its Advisory Committee to continue the preparatory work of the Conference;

7. Commends the Secretary-General of the Conference for the satisfactory arrangements for the Conference;

8. Requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue fulfilling his mandate and to mobilize further assistance of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and other relevant services of the United Nations system as well as the non-governmental organizations in disseminating effectively information on the Conference to ensure world-wide awareness of the Conference and its objectives;

9. Request the Conference to submit a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

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