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Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for 2022

(Item 3 (a))

Programme 5 Peaceful uses of outer space

1. During its sixty-first session, the Committee considered programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance for 2020 ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 6\)](#)).
2. The Chair drew attention to the statement of the representative of the Secretary-General introducing the programme. The representative of the Secretary-General responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed broad support for the programme as an important mechanism to strengthen international cooperation in space and in the use of space science and technology for peaceful uses. A delegation welcomed the information provided, which it found to be more comprehensive and instructive than previously. The delegation acknowledged and welcomed the continued increase in programme activities to strengthen the capacity of countries, in particular developing countries, to use space science and technology for peaceful uses. Another delegation encouraged the Office for Outer Space Affairs to link its work to the development pillar so as to better assist developing countries in promoting the peaceful use of outer space for development, poverty reduction and post-pandemic recovery.



4. Delegations expressed appreciation for the work carried out by the Office, noting in particular the efforts to advance international cooperation in space with the launch by Mauritius of its first satellite in June 2021. In follow-up to discussions on the programme at the sixtieth session, a delegation noted that no updates on the Timbuktu programme, a novel development in the context of promoting the utilization of outer space, had been included in the report and asked whether there were any new inputs to ensure that the programme had an effect on populations, especially in developing countries.

5. A delegation expressed appreciation for the work of the Office and its role in assisting countries during the pandemic. It was noted that the Office operated in a cutting-edge area of work and had responded well to the unexpected disruption wrought by the pandemic. The delegation welcomed the shift in the delivery of activities, such as the series on space law and policy, to online formats, which had expanded their reach to more participants. The delegation asked which countries and stakeholders had been reached. Clarification was sought on whether the Office had managed to reach more small island developing States by using virtual platforms. The delegation welcomed the innovations and flexible delivery approaches by the Office to advance more tailored and specific opportunities for learning and noted that the Office had reached more participants by increasing the number of training sessions delivered virtually, such as the webinars on space economy.

6. With regard to the mandates and background, a delegation expressed concern that the transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities contained in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.37 exceeded the mandate of the Office, suggesting that the previously agreed language should be maintained. It was noted that the Office's mandate was derived from relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions, as set out in paragraph 6.1. The delegation said that it was not convinced of the conclusion in paragraph 6.3 that new technologies and the increasing number of actors were rapidly changing the structure and content of space activities and that the increasingly complex environment, combined with the relevance of space science and technology and their applications for achieving the goals of the global agenda, as well as the need to ensure the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, were the main drivers of the responsibilities of the Office. It was of the view that, rather, paragraph 6.3 provided the conditions under which the Office would realize the programme.

7. With regard to the strategy, a delegation stressed the importance of setting out in paragraph 6.5 further improvement of the secretariat services provided to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The delegation asked how the Office's planned activities mentioned in paragraph 6.10, relating to its strengthened approaches that incorporated lessons from the pandemic, would result in greater participation in the work of the Committee, mentioned in paragraph 6.11 (a). The delegation stressed that, pursuant to the rules of procedure, States members of the Committee, States and international organizations that were granted observer status by the Committee participated in the work of the Committee. The delegation also noted that, for efficiency purposes, enhanced transparency as to the programme activities of the Office, including the provision of regular information on the Committee, projects and partnerships formed with space agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, referenced in paragraph 6.14, was crucial.

8. With regard to the programme performance in 2020 and planned results for 2022 (paras. 6.21, 6.28, 6.33 and annex II, recommendation B), a delegation stressed the importance of reflecting the fact that assessments of the space capacity needs of Member States had to be conducted upon request of the interested Member State.

9. With regard to new result 3, a more secure global navigation satellite systems spectrum, a delegation expressed concern that the information presented in paragraph 6.35 on the lessons learned for the Office and planned change gave the impression that the Office worked to protect the spectrum, a function that it did not have the technical capacity to perform nor was it mandated to do. The delegation suggested that the paragraph be amended.

10. A delegation noted the omission, in table 6.1 on the deliverables for the period 2020–2022, of additional meetings that would be expected following the election of the Bureau for the Working Group on Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities at the fifty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in April, and the expected subsequent meetings to agree on the terms of reference, working methods and plan of work. The delegation said that such meetings should have been reflected in deliverable 8, which pertained to intersessional consultations on the Bureau.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. **The Committee noted with appreciation the contribution of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to the promotion of international cooperation in space activities, in particular its efforts to strengthen the capacity of a greater number of developing countries to use space science and technology, and encouraged the Secretary-General to further leverage cooperation with other United Nations agencies and Member States in that respect.**

12. **The Committee recalled the importance of the Office continuing to focus on its core functions, in particular being the secretariat of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, performing its duties as the register for space objects and raising awareness on the need to coordinate action regarding space debris.**

13. **The Committee noted the delay in the completion of the self-evaluations of the activities of the Beijing Office of the Programme on the Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), reiterated its great interest in the related results and recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General to integrate the results in the proposed programme budget for 2023.**

14. **The Committee welcomed the recommendations from the Office of Internal Oversight Services regarding registration processes of objects launched into outer space and recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to modernize the corresponding processes and ensure capacity for a high registration rate.**

15. **The Committee underlined the importance of effective monitoring and reporting and encouraged further quantifiable reporting on programme activities, including UN-SPIDER and the Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space.**

16. **The Committee welcomed the launch of the Space4Women platform and stressed the importance of increasing women's empowerment in space, including through relevant educational, capacity-building and training programmes, as well as awareness-raising activities.**

17. **The Committee noted the exponential increase in the number of satellites launched annually, emphasized the importance of strengthened efforts and cooperation to protect the spectrum and noted with appreciation the intended focus of the Office on the matter.**

18. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, subject to the following modifications:

A. Proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance for 2020

Overall orientation

Mandates and background

Paragraph 6.1

Replace “74/67” with “75/69”.

After “on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities,”, insert “as appropriate,”.

Paragraph 6.3

Replace “This increasing complex environment, combined with the relevance of space science and technology and their applications for achieving the goals of the global agenda, as well as the need to ensure the long-term sustainability of outer space activities” with “The Office will implement the programme in this increasingly complex environment, which, combined with the relevance of space science and technology and their applications for achieving the goals of the global agenda, as well as the need to ensure the long-term sustainability of outer space activities”.

Programme of work

Peaceful uses of outer space

Strategy

Paragraph 6.11

Delete “(a) Greater participation in the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, Legal Subcommittee and their working groups;”.

External factors for 2022

Paragraph 6.14

At the end of the paragraph, add “In this regard, the Office will enhance transparency in its programme activities and regularly inform the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space of the project being implemented and of its partnerships with space agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector.”

Programme performance in 2020

Greater access to capacity development during the pandemic

Paragraph 6.21

After “initiatives to assist”, insert “interested” and after Member States”, insert “upon their request”.

Planned results for 2022

Result 1: access to space for all

Programme performance in 2020

Paragraph 6.28

After “The Office has continued to support”, insert “interested”, and after “Member States”, insert “upon their request”.

Result 3: a more secure global navigation satellite systems spectrum

Proposed programme plan for 2022

Lessons learned and planned change

Paragraph 6.35

Replace “The lesson for the Office was the need to support the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems in fostering greater awareness and understanding of the need to protect the spectrum, with actions being required at both the international and national levels” with “The lesson for the Office as the executive secretariat to the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems was the need to support its activities in fostering greater awareness and understanding of the need to protect the spectrum, efforts at both the international and national levels”.

Replace “In applying the lesson, the Office will include in its portfolio of capacity-building activities a greater focus on spectrum protection, interference detection and mitigation in order to trigger and facilitate more discussion among the experts and regulators, including from developing countries” with “In applying the lesson, the Office will include in its portfolio of capacity-building activities a greater focus on promoting and facilitating more discussion among experts and regulators, including from developing countries, on spectrum protection, interference detection and mitigation”.

Legislative mandates

Paragraph 6.37

Delete “68/50; 75/69 Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities”.

Annex II

Summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of oversight bodies

Action taken to implement the recommendation

Recommendation B

In the second sentence, after “non-space-faring countries” insert “upon their request”.