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## International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

### Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

*Rapporteur:* Ms. Makarabo **Moloeli** (Lesotho)

#### I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 September 2024, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space” and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).
2. The Fourth Committee considered the item at its 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th meetings, on 29 and 30 October and 1 November 2024, and took action on the item at its 16th meeting. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee’s consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.<sup>1</sup>
3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its sixty-seventh session (A/79/20), as well as two draft resolutions, contained in documents A/C.4/79/L.6 and A/C.4/79/L.9, and two draft decisions, contained in documents A/C.4/79/L.10 and A/C.4/79/L.11.
4. At its 1st meeting, on 3 October 2024, the Committee decided to establish a Working Group of the Whole on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, chaired by Egypt, to prepare proposals to be submitted under the item.
5. At the 13th meeting, on 29 October, the representative of Egypt, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, introduced the report of that Committee.
6. At its 15th meeting, on 30 October, the Fourth Committee held a joint meeting with the First Committee to address possible challenges to space security and sustainability, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 78/52 and 78/72. Statements

<sup>1</sup> A/C.4/79/SR.13, A/C.4/79/SR.14, A/C.4/79/SR.15 and A/C.4/79/SR.16.



were made by the Director and Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the incoming Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts on Further Practical Measures for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, the Chair of the Disarmament Commission, the former Chair of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee – German Aerospace Center (DLR) and a Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations in New York and contributor to the Pact for the Future process on space matters, which were followed by an interactive dialogue.

## II. Consideration of proposals

7. At its 16th meeting, on 1 November, the Fourth Committee was informed that the draft proposals contained in documents [A/C.4/79/L.6](#), [A/C.4/79/L.9](#), [A/C.4/79/L.10](#) and [A/C.4/79/L.11](#) had no programme budget implications.

### A. Draft resolution [A/C.4/79/L.6](#)

8. At the 16th meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Egypt, in his capacity as Chair of the Working Group of the Whole, introduced a draft resolution entitled “International Year of Asteroid Awareness and Planetary Defence, 2029” ([A/C.4/79/L.6](#)).

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.4/79/L.6](#) without a vote (see para. 18).

### B. Draft resolution [A/C.4/79/L.9](#)

10. At the 16th meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Egypt, in his capacity as Chair of the Working Group of the Whole, introduced a draft resolution entitled “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space” ([A/C.4/79/L.9](#)).

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.4/79/L.9](#) without a vote (see para. 18).

### C. Draft decision [A/C.4/79/L.10](#)

12. At its 16th meeting, on 1 November, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled “Increase in the membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space” ([A/C.4/79/L.10](#)), submitted by Djibouti, Morocco, Nigeria, the Russian Federation and Senegal. Subsequently, Albania, Angola, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Comoros, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Montenegro, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft decision.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision [A/C.4/79/L.10](#), without a vote (see para. 19).

## D. Draft decision [A/C.4/79/L.11](#)

14. At its 16th meeting, on 1 November, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled “Increase in the membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space” ([A/C.4/79/L.11](#)), submitted by Austria, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland and Slovenia, subsequently joined by Albania, Angola, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

15. At the same meeting, on 1 November, the representative of the Russian Federation moved the adjournment of debate on draft decision [A/C.4/79/L.11](#) under rule 116 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. Statements in favour of the motion were made by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic and China; statements against the motion were made by the representatives of Canada and the Federated States of Micronesia.

16. The motion was rejected, by a recorded vote of 11 to 75, with 30 abstentions. The voting was as follows:<sup>2</sup>

*In favour:*

Belarus, China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Guinea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mali, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic.

*Against:*

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Myanmar, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay.

*Abstaining:*

Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Oman, Qatar, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Yemen.

17. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision [A/C.4/79/L.11](#) by a recorded vote of 116 to 5, with 9 abstentions (see para. 19). The voting was as follows:<sup>3</sup>

*In favour:*

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia

<sup>2</sup> The delegations of Mozambique, Pakistan and the United Republic of Tanzania subsequently indicated that they had intended to abstain.

<sup>3</sup> The delegation of Pakistan subsequently indicated that it had intended to vote in favour.

and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

*Against:*

Belarus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic.

*Abstaining:*

Bangladesh, China, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

### III. Recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

18. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

#### **Draft resolution I International Year of Asteroid Awareness and Planetary Defence, 2029**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recognizing* the unique platform at the global level for international cooperation in space activities represented by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee and assisted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat,

*Recalling* the “Space2030” Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development<sup>1</sup> and its implementation plan, in which Member States acknowledged that the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space had enriched our collective knowledge and revolutionized life on Earth, that space science and technology had become intrinsic to our daily lives and brought an abundance of unique and fundamental benefits to Earth, and that, as the space community moved forward with its space exploration endeavours, space would continue to serve as a source of inspiration and innovation and to provide applications for the benefit of humankind,

*Recalling also* its resolution [54/68](#) of 6 December 1999 on the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), organized by the Committee, and the resolution adopted by the Conference entitled “The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development”,<sup>2</sup> in which participating States called for, inter alia, improving the international coordination of activities related to near-Earth objects, harmonizing the worldwide efforts directed at identification, follow-up observation and orbit prediction, while at the same time giving consideration to developing a common strategy that would include future activities related to near-Earth objects,

*Noting* the establishment, in response to a recommendation of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,<sup>3</sup> of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and of the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, to consider international procedures for handling the near-Earth object impact hazard and to engage international stakeholders,

*Recalling* its resolution [68/75](#) of 11 December 2013, in which it welcomed with satisfaction the recommendations of the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects for an international response to the near-Earth object impact threat, which were endorsed by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fiftieth session and by the Committee at its fifty-sixth session,<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Resolution [76/3](#).

<sup>2</sup> *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.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/68/20)*, para. 144; and [A/AC.105/1038](#), para. 198 and annex III.

*Recognizing* the importance of information-sharing in discovering, monitoring and physically characterizing potentially hazardous near-Earth objects to ensure that all countries, in particular developing countries with limited capacity in predicting and mitigating a near-Earth object impact, are aware of potential threats, and emphasizing the need for capacity-building for effective emergency response and disaster management in the event of a near-Earth object impact,

*Recalling* its resolutions [70/82](#) of 9 December 2015 and [71/90](#) of 6 December 2016, in which it noted with satisfaction the establishment of and work carried out by the International Asteroid Warning Network and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group to implement the recommendations for an international response to the near-Earth object impact threat, with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, serving as the permanent secretariat of the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group,

*Noting* that near-Earth objects are asteroids and comets whose orbit brings them closer than 1.3 astronomical units, or approximately 195 million kilometres, to the Sun,

*Noting also* that potentially hazardous objects are a subset of the population of near-Earth objects with an Earth minimum orbit intersection distance of less than 0.05 astronomical units, or approximately 7.5 million kilometres, and a size larger than about 140 metres, indirectly inferred from the object's brightness,

*Noting further* the importance of awareness-raising with regard to asteroids and comets as celestial bodies that retain clues as to the early history and formation of the solar system and that could potentially pose an impact hazard to Earth, and recalling in this regard the proclamation, in its resolution [71/90](#), of 30 June as International Asteroid Day to observe each year at the international level the anniversary of the Tunguska impact event over Siberia, Russian Federation, on 30 June 1908 and to raise public awareness of the asteroid impact hazard,

*Noting* that, on 13 April 2029, the asteroid 99942 Apophis will pass safely but in very close proximity to the Earth, at about 32,000 kilometres above the surface of our home planet, thus inside the geostationary orbit, not posing any threat to the Earth, which in astronomical terms constitutes an extremely close approach, making the asteroid visible to billions of people with the naked eye in the clear night sky,

*Noting also* that this will be a once-in-a-millennium event and a unique occasion for a worldwide campaign to raise awareness with regard to asteroids, their scientific and resource value and the potential hazard they pose,

*Reaffirming* its resolutions [53/199](#) of 15 December 1998 and [61/185](#) of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#) of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, in particular paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto, on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14 of the annex, stating that an international year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements necessary for its financing and organization have been made,

1. *Decides* to declare 2029 the International Year of Asteroid Awareness and Planetary Defence, in order to take advantage of the unique occasion of the close approach of 99942 Apophis in 2029 for a worldwide campaign to raise awareness regarding asteroids and to highlight the collaborative efforts being undertaken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to mitigate the potential hazard posed by the impact on the Earth of near-Earth objects, and as an excellent opportunity for a global educational campaign about near-Earth objects;

2. *Invites* Member States, space agencies, United Nations entities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other relevant

stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, astronomers, local communities and academia, to observe the International Year, as appropriate, through activities such as astronomical observation and scientific awareness-raising with regard to asteroids, promoting widespread access to new knowledge and observing experiences of asteroids, inspiring young people and empowering science communities, in particular in developing countries, and assisting the citizens of the world in understanding the nature of near-Earth objects, and to strengthen existing networks and facilitate new ones with a view to connecting amateur astronomers, educators, scientists and communications professionals with the public at large through local, regional, national and international activities;

3. *Invites* the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#), to facilitate the implementation of the International Year, in collaboration with Governments, space agencies, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders;

4. *Stresses* that the costs of all the activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met through voluntary contributions, including from the private sector;

5. *Requests* the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, mindful of the provisions of paragraphs 23 to 27 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#), to inform the General Assembly at its eighty-fifth session regarding the implementation of the present resolution, including an evaluation of the International Year;

6. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders to make voluntary contributions and to provide other forms of support for the International Year.

## Draft resolution II

### International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 51/122 of 13 December 1996, 54/68 of 6 December 1999, 59/2 of 20 October 2004, 61/110 and 61/111 of 14 December 2006, 62/101 of 17 December 2007, 62/217 of 22 December 2007, 65/97 of 10 December 2010, 65/271 of 7 April 2011, 66/71 of 9 December 2011, 67/113 of 18 December 2012, 68/50 of 5 December 2013, 68/74 and 68/75 of 11 December 2013, 69/85 of 5 December 2014, 70/1 of 25 September 2015, 70/82 of 9 December 2015, 70/230 of 23 December 2015, 71/90 of 6 December 2016, 72/77 and 72/78 of 7 December 2017, 73/6 of 26 October 2018, 73/91 of 7 December 2018, 74/82 of 13 December 2019, 75/92 of 10 December 2020, 76/3 of 25 October 2021, 76/76 of 9 December 2021 and 77/120 and 77/121 of 12 December 2022,

*Emphasizing* the significant progress in the development of space science and technology and their applications that has enabled humans to explore the universe, and the extraordinary achievements made in space exploration efforts, including deepening the understanding of the planetary system and the Sun and the Earth itself, in the use of space science and technology for the benefit of all humankind and in the development of the international legal regime governing space activities,

*Recognizing*, in that regard, the unique platform at the global level for international cooperation in space activities represented by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee and assisted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat,

*Deeply convinced* of the common interest of all humankind in promoting and expanding the exploration and use of outer space, as the province of all humankind, for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all Member States the benefits derived therefrom, and also of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

*Reaffirming* the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of international law, including the relevant norms of international space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and of the widest possible adherence to international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space in order to meet emerging new challenges, especially for developing countries,

*Seriously concerned* about the possibility of an arms race in outer space, and bearing in mind the importance of article IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,<sup>1</sup>

*Recognizing* that all Member States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the prevention of an arms race in outer space with a view to promoting and strengthening international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

*Deeply concerned* about the fragility of the space environment and the challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, in particular the impact of space debris, which is an issue of concern to all nations,

*Noting* the progress achieved in the development of peaceful space exploration and applications, as well as in various national and cooperative space projects, and

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.



the importance of further developing the legal framework to strengthen international cooperation in space,

*Convinced* that space science and technology and their applications, including satellite communications, Earth observation systems and satellite navigation technologies, provide indispensable tools for viable long-term solutions for sustainable development and can contribute more effectively to efforts to promote the development of all countries and regions of the world, and stressing in that regard the need to harness the benefits of space technology towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>2</sup>

*Seriously concerned* about the devastating impact of disasters,<sup>3</sup> and desirous of enhancing international coordination and cooperation at the global level in disaster management and emergency response through greater access to and use of space-based services and geospatial information for all countries and facilitating capacity-building and institutional strengthening for disaster management, in particular in developing countries,

*Firmly convinced* that the use of space science and technology and their applications in areas such as telehealth, tele-education, disaster management, environmental protection, natural resources management and ocean and climate monitoring contribute to achieving the objectives of the global conferences of the United Nations that address various aspects of economic, social and cultural development, particularly poverty eradication,

*Deeply concerned* about the devastating effects of infectious diseases, including the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and Ebola virus disease, to the detriment of human life, society and development, and urging the international community to enhance the role of space-based solutions, in particular tele-epidemiology, in monitoring, preparedness and response activities,

*Recalling* the fact that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, recognized the important role that space science and technology play in promoting sustainable development,<sup>4</sup>

*Recognizing* the “Space2030” Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development and its implementation plan<sup>5</sup> as a forward-looking strategy for reaffirming and strengthening the contribution of space activities and space tools for the achievement of global agendas,<sup>6</sup>

*Bearing in mind* the deliberations at the commencement of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, which reaffirmed the importance of the widest possible adherence to and full compliance with the Outer Space Treaty, and the role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in discussing the establishment of new frameworks for space traffic, space debris and space resources,<sup>7</sup>

*Recognizing* the Outer Space Treaty as the cornerstone of the international legal regime governing outer space activities,<sup>8</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>3</sup> The term “disasters” refers to natural or technological disasters.

<sup>4</sup> Resolution 66/288, annex, para. 274.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution 76/3.

<sup>6</sup> The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Paris Agreement.

<sup>7</sup> Resolution 79/1, action 56.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

*Having considered* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its sixty-seventh session,<sup>9</sup>

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its sixty-seventh session;

2. *Agrees* that the Committee, at its sixty-eighth session, should consider the substantive items recommended at its sixty-seventh session,<sup>10</sup> taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

3. *Encourages* the Committee to further consult on the proposal to hold a fourth United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Exploration of Outer Space (UNISPACE IV) in 2027;<sup>11</sup>

4. *Notes* that, at its sixty-third session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee continued its work,<sup>12</sup> as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 78/72;

5. *Agrees* that the Legal Subcommittee, at its sixty-fourth session, should consider the substantive items and reconvene the working groups recommended by the Committee,<sup>13</sup> including holding intersessional consultations as necessary, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

6. *Urges* Member States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space<sup>14</sup> to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties in accordance with their national law, as well as incorporating them into their national legislation;

7. *Urges* Member States who are not yet members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to give consideration to applying for membership of the Committee as a unique platform for international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;<sup>15</sup>

8. *Notes with satisfaction* that the space law curriculum developed by the Office and published in all official languages of the United Nations could encourage further studies within Member States in cooperation with relevant entities in support of capacity-building efforts in space law and policy;

9. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on the Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space on the work conducted under its multi-year workplan,<sup>16</sup> as finalized at the fifty-sixth session of the Legal Subcommittee, and notes that the report provides an important source of information and useful guidance for further joint undertakings by spacefaring nations and emerging space nations, as appropriate;

<sup>9</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/79/20).*

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 403.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 350; see also resolution 79/1, action 56.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. II, sect. C; see also A/AC.105/1311.

<sup>13</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/79/20)*, paras. 250–253.

<sup>14</sup> Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843); Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 672, No. 9574); Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 961, No. 13810); Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1023, No. 15020); and Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1363, No. 23002).

<sup>15</sup> Resolution 76/3, para. 10.

<sup>16</sup> A/AC.105/C.2/112.

10. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress in work, under its multi-year workplan,<sup>17</sup> of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space of the Legal Subcommittee;

11. *Also notes with satisfaction* the progress in work, under the five-year workplan,<sup>18</sup> of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities of the Legal Subcommittee;

12. *Notes* that, at its sixty-first session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continued its work,<sup>19</sup> as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 78/72 of 7 December 2023;

13. *Agrees* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its sixty-second session, should consider the substantive items and reconvene the working groups recommended by the Committee,<sup>20</sup> including holding intersessional consultations as necessary, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

14. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on Space and Global Health on the work conducted under its multi-year workplan,<sup>21</sup> as finalized at the fifty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and notes that the report provides an important source of information and useful guidance for advancing the use of space science and technology for global health for spacefaring nations and emerging space nations, as appropriate;

15. *Recalls with satisfaction* the establishment of the Space and Global Health Platform, based in Geneva, welcomes the progress in the work of the Space and Global Health Network,<sup>22</sup> and requests the Office for Outer Space Affairs to strengthen 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, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 77/120;

16. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space on the work conducted under its multi-year workplan,<sup>23</sup> as finalized at the sixtieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and notes with satisfaction the work under the five-year workplan of the Working Group;<sup>24</sup>

17. *Reiterates* the importance of information-sharing in discovering, monitoring and physically characterizing potentially hazardous near-Earth objects to ensure that all countries, in particular developing countries with limited capacity for predicting and mitigating a near-Earth object impact, are aware of potential threats, emphasizes the need for capacity-building for effective emergency response and disaster management in the event of a near-Earth object impact, and notes with

<sup>17</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/79/20)*, annex II.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, annex III.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. II, sect. B; see also [A/AC.105/1307](#).

<sup>20</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/79/20)*, paras. 179–180 and 184–185.

<sup>21</sup> [A/AC.105/C.1/121](#).

<sup>22</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/79/20)*, paras. 162–165.

<sup>23</sup> [A/AC.105/C.1/124](#).

<sup>24</sup> See [A/AC.105/1279](#), annex III, para. 8; see also [A/AC.105/1307](#), annex III.

satisfaction the work carried out by the International Asteroid Warning Network and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group to strengthen international cooperation to mitigate the potential threat posed by near-Earth objects, with the support of the Office, serving as the permanent secretariat of the Advisory Group;<sup>25</sup>

18. *Recalls with satisfaction* the adoption by the Committee of the preamble and 21 Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, as contained in annex II to the report of the Committee on its sixty-second session,<sup>26</sup> and the work, under a five-year workplan, of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee, notes that the Committee encouraged States and international intergovernmental organizations to voluntarily take measures to ensure that the Guidelines were implemented to the greatest extent feasible and practicable, and emphasizes that the Committee serves as the principal forum for continued institutionalized dialogue on issues related to the implementation and review of the Guidelines;

19. *Notes with appreciation* that some Member States are already implementing space debris mitigation measures on a voluntary basis, through national mechanisms and consistent with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee and with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,<sup>27</sup> endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/217, and invites other States to implement, through relevant national mechanisms, the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

20. *Considers* that it is essential that Member States pay urgent attention to the problem of the gradually increasing probability of collisions of space objects, especially those with nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, calls for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, considers that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and agrees that international cooperation is needed to expand appropriate and affordable strategies to minimize the impact of space debris on future space missions;

21. *Urges* all Member States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

22. *Requests* the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its eightieth session, and agrees that the Committee should continue to consider the broader perspective of space security and associated matters that would be instrumental in ensuring the safe and responsible conduct of space activities, including ways to promote international, regional and interregional cooperation to that end;

23. *Welcomes* the convening of a joint half-day panel discussion of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) that addressed possible challenges to space security and sustainability;

<sup>25</sup> A/AC.105/1307, paras.146 (a) and 148–158.

<sup>26</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/74/20).

<sup>27</sup> Ibid., Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/62/20), paras. 117 and 118 and annex.

24. *Notes with satisfaction* the establishment of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation of the Committee to facilitate international consultations to ensure that lunar activities are conducted in a safe, peaceful and transparent manner, and notes that the Committee will further consult on the bureau and workplan of the Action Team for endorsement by the Committee at its sixty-eighth session, in 2025;<sup>28</sup>

25. *Emphasizes* the central role of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in promoting international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space for economic, social and scientific development, in particular for the benefit of developing countries;

26. *Notes with satisfaction* the programme of work undertaken by the Office in 2024 to strengthen international cooperation in the conduct of space activities for peaceful purposes and the use of space science and technology and their applications towards the achievement of the internationally agreed Sustainable Development Goals, including the workshops and symposiums conducted to build capacity, the assistance provided to developing countries, at their request, in the development of national space policy and legislation in conformity with international space law, and actions implemented to strengthen institutional capacity in space activities;

27. *Welcomes*, in that regard, the activities being carried out by the Office to promote gender equality and the increased role of women in space activities, including through targeted capacity-building and technical advisory activities, and efforts to encourage enhanced involvement of women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, and invites Member States to make voluntary contributions to those activities;

28. *Requests* the Office to continue to apprise the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee, at their respective sessions in 2025, of the status of its capacity-building activities;

29. *Recognizes with appreciation* the capacity-building activities under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, which provide unique benefits for Member States, in particular developing countries, participating in those activities, and calls upon the Office for Outer Space Affairs to further its support in this regard, particularly to developing countries;<sup>29</sup>

30. *Notes with satisfaction* the activities carried out under the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), and recognizes the significant achievements made and the advisory support provided to Member States, in particular to developing countries, within the framework of UN-SPIDER since its establishment in 2006<sup>30</sup> with the valuable contributions of its network of regional support offices, and encourages Member States, on a voluntary basis, to provide the programme with the additional resources necessary to address the increasing demand for support successfully and in a timely manner, while taking into consideration recent natural disaster events, including severe weather and sea-level rise due to climate change;

31. *Reiterates* the importance of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>31</sup> in which the value of space-based technology and Earth observation for disaster management and emergency response is recognized, and, in that regard, notes with satisfaction the efforts of the Office and its UN-SPIDER programme towards promoting international cooperation as a way to enhance the use of space-based technologies and related services at the national and local levels in

<sup>28</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/79/20)*, paras. 351–352 and annex IV.

<sup>29</sup> See [A/AC.105/1307](#), para. 63.

<sup>30</sup> See resolution [61/110](#).

<sup>31</sup> Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

contributing to the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

32. *Notes with satisfaction* the continuous progress made by the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems with the support of the Office, in its capacity as executive secretariat of the International Committee, towards achieving compatibility and interoperability among global and regional space-based positioning, navigation and timing systems and in the promotion of the use of global navigation satellite systems and their integration into national infrastructure, particularly in developing countries, and notes with appreciation that the International Committee held its eighteenth meeting in Wellington, from 6 to 11 October 2024;

33. *Notes with appreciation* that the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, namely, the African regional centres for space science and technology education in the French and English languages, located in Morocco and Nigeria, respectively, the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Asia and the Pacific, located in China, the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific, located in India, the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean, with campuses located in Brazil and Mexico, and the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Western Asia, located in Jordan, have continued their education programmes in 2024, encourages the regional centres to continue to promote greater participation of women in their education programmes, and agrees that the regional centres should continue to report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on their activities;

34. *Emphasizes* that regional and interregional cooperation in the field of space activities is essential to strengthen the peaceful uses of outer space, assist Member States in the development of their space capabilities and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to that end requests relevant regional organizations and their groups of experts to offer the assistance necessary so that countries can carry out the recommendations of regional conferences, and in that regard notes the importance of the equal participation of women in all fields of science and technology;

35. *Recognizes*, in that regard, the important role played by such organizations as the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization and the European Space Agency and by conferences and other mechanisms, such as the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum and the Space Conference of the Americas, in strengthening regional and international cooperation among States;

36. *Recalls* the adoption of the African Space Policy and Strategy by the Assembly of the African Union at its twenty-sixth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January 2016, also recalls that this achievement marks the first step towards the realization of an African outer space programme within the framework of the African Union Agenda 2063, and recalls with satisfaction in that regard the establishment of the African Space Agency, hosted by Egypt;

37. *Emphasizes* the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, including strengthening sustainable spatial data infrastructure at the regional and national levels and building resilience to reduce the consequences of disasters, in particular in developing countries;

38. *Reiterates* the need to promote the benefits of space technology and its applications in the major United Nations conferences and summits for economic,

social and cultural development and related fields, and recognizes that the fundamental significance of space science and technology and their applications for global, regional, national and local sustainable development processes should be promoted in the formulation of policies and programmes of action and their implementation, including through efforts towards achieving the objectives of those conferences and summits and in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

39. *Encourages* Member States, to that end, to promote the inclusion in those conferences, summits and processes of the relevance of space science and technology applications and the use of space-derived geospatial data, and in general, space-based data and infrastructures, with the involvement of the Office;

40. *Encourages* the Office to take active part in those conferences, summits and processes and other activities in support of their objectives, as appropriate, and to conduct capacity-building activities, hold lectures and participate in academic and research activities to foster international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space;

41. *Urges* the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space), under the leadership of the Office, to continue to examine how space science and technology and their applications could contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourages entities of the United Nations system to increase their collaboration, including through UN-Space, with a view to better coordinating their data-sharing, building United Nations system capacity and cooperating on the procurement of space-based information, to achieve cost savings in that regard, to accelerate the application of space assets in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,<sup>32</sup> and to participate, as appropriate, in UN-Space coordination efforts;

42. *Encourages* the Office to continue to conduct capacity-building and outreach activities associated with space security and transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, as appropriate, and within the context of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, in particular for developing countries;

43. *Also encourages* the Office to explore existing avenues and new opportunities to increase its capability to meet the growing demand for support to strengthen the capacity of countries, in particular developing countries, in using space science and technology and their applications and to inform the Committee of those efforts;

44. *Agrees* that the Office should pursue greater engagement with industry and private sector entities to further their support for and contributions to the overall work of the Office;<sup>33</sup>

45. *Appeals* to Governments, the relevant entities of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, institutions, industry and private sector entities and individuals to urgently increase their voluntary contributions to the trust fund in support of the United Nations Programme on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in order to support the efforts of the Office to secure additional resources to facilitate the full implementation of its programme of work, including, where appropriate, the financing of special projects, and otherwise to assist the Office in carrying out technical cooperation and assistance activities, in particular for developing countries;

<sup>32</sup> See A/77/CRP.1/Add.6; and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/79/20)*, para. 324.

<sup>33</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/72/20)*, para. 326.



46. *Notes* that the Western European and other States, the Asia-Pacific States and the Eastern European States have nominated their candidates for the offices of Chair of the Committee, Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and First Vice-Chair of the Committee, respectively, for the period 2026–2027, and urges the African States and the Latin American and Caribbean States to nominate their candidates for the offices of Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur of the Committee and Chair of the Legal Subcommittee, respectively, for the period 2026–2027, before the respective sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees, to be held in 2025;<sup>34</sup>

47. *Reiterates*, with regard to the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subcommittees for the period 2026–2027,<sup>35</sup> that the Committee and its subcommittees should elect their officers at their respective sessions in 2025 in accordance with that composition;

48. *Endorses* the decision of the Committee to grant the status of observer to the African Astronomical Society, the Global Satellite Operators Association, the Outer Space Institute, the Space Data Association and Space Renaissance International, in accordance with the procedures of the Committee;<sup>36</sup>

49. *Encourages* the regional groups to promote active participation in the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies by the States members of the Committee that are also members of the respective regional groups.

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<sup>34</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/79/20)*, paras. 380 and 381; and official communications from the Office for Outer Space Affairs to States members of the Committee, dated 18 and 25 October 2024.

<sup>35</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/58/20)*, para. 12 and annex II.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/79/20)*, paras. 383–393.



19. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

**Draft decision I****Increase in the membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

The General Assembly, taking note of the application of Djibouti for membership in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as noted in paragraph 382 of the report of the Committee on its sixty-seventh session, held in Vienna from 19 to 28 June 2024,<sup>1</sup> decides to appoint Djibouti as a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

**Draft decision II****Increase in the membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

The General Assembly, taking note of the application of Latvia for membership in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as noted in paragraph 382 of the report of the Committee on its sixty-seventh session, held in Vienna from 19 to 28 June 2024,<sup>2</sup> decides to appoint Latvia as a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/79/20).*

<sup>2</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/79/20).*