

**REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE  
ON THE PEACEFUL USES  
OF OUTER SPACE**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS: TWENTY-NINTH SESSION**

**SUPPLEMENT No.20 (A/9620)**



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**New York, 1974**

#### **NOTE**

**Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its seventeenth session at United Nations Headquarters from 1 to 12 July 1974 under the chairmanship of Mr. Peter Jankowitsch (Austria). Mr. Ion Datcu (Romania) served as Vice-Chairman and Mr. Luiz Felipe de Seixas-Corrêa (Brazil) as Rapporteur. The verbatim records of the Committee's meetings are contained in documents A/AC.105/PV.131-143.

### Meetings of subsidiary bodies

2. The Legal Sub-Committee held its thirteenth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 6 to 31 May 1974 under the chairmanship of Mr. Eugeniusz Wyzner (Poland). The summary records of the Sub-Committee's meetings are given in documents A/AC.105/C.2/SR.208-225. The report of the Sub-Committee was issued under the symbol A/AC.105/133.

3. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee held its eleventh session at United Nations Headquarters from 15 to 26 April 1974 under the chairmanship of Mr. J. H. Carver (Australia). The summary records of the Sub-Committee's sessions are contained in documents A/AC.105/C.1/SR.119-135. The report of the Sub-Committee was issued under the symbol A/AC.105/131.

4. The Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites held its third session from 25 February to 5 March 1974 under the chairmanship of Mr. Franco Fiorio (Italy). The report of the Working Group was issued under the symbol A/AC.105/125.

5. The Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites held its fifth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 11 to 22 March 1974 under the chairmanship of Mr. Olof Rydbeck (Sweden). The report of the Working Group was reproduced as document A/AC.105/127

### Seventeenth session of the Committee

6. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its opening meeting, on 1 July 1974, adopted the following agenda:

1. Statement by the Chairman.
2. General debate.
3. Consideration of:
  - (a) Report of the Legal Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/133);
  - (b) Report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/131);
  - (c) Report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites (A/AC.105/127).

4. Other matters.

5. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

7. In addition to the reports of its subsidiary bodies, the Committee had before it the following documents:

A/AC.105/134	Draft international convention on direct broadcasting by satellite - Proposal by Argentina
A/AC.105/L.78 and Rev.1	Draft questionnaire on the needs of developing countries for assistance in the practical applications of space technology
A/AC.105/L.80	Statement in response to questions on servicing and financial aspects of meetings raised at the 139th meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
A/AC.105/L.81	Financial implications of changes in the pattern of meetings of the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

8. Representatives of the following Member States attended the session: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela.

9. Representatives of the following specialized agencies attended the session: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); World Health Organization (WHO). Representatives of the European Space Research Organization (ESRO) and the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) also attended the session.

10. A list of representatives of Member States and specialized agencies attending the session is contained in documents A/AC.105/XVII/INF.1 and Corr.1.

11. At the opening of the session, at the 131st meeting, the Chairman of the Committee made a statement reviewing the work of the Committee's subsidiary bodies and outlining the work of the Committee. The text of the Chairman's statement is given in annex I.

12. At the same meeting, the Chairman of Working Group II of the Legal Sub-Committee made a statement presenting the text of the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space approved by the Legal Sub-Committee and outlining the activities carried out by the Legal Sub-Committee at its thirteenth session. The text of his statement is given in annex II.

13. At the opening meeting, the Chairman made a statement on the occasion of the death of President Juan Domingo Perón of Argentina, after which the Committee observed a minute of silence in memory of President Perón. The representative of Argentina also made a statement.

14. At the same meeting, the Chairman announced that the Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, Mr. A. H. Abdel-Ghani, was leaving the Organization. The Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division made a farewell statement. The representative of the United States made a statement and presented a book entitled Eyewitness to Space to the Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division. The representative of the USSR made a statement and, on behalf of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, presented a memorial medal and a letter from Intercosmos to the Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division for his contribution to the development of international co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. In the course of the general debate, several representatives paid tribute to Mr. Abdel-Ghani, noting with great appreciation the outstanding and dedicated services that he had rendered to the Committee, since its inception, as its Secretary and as the Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division as well as Executive Secretary of the United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held at Vienna in 1968.

15. The Committee held its general debate on the items before it at the 131st to 135th meetings, from 1 to 3 July 1974, in the course of which statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, the German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Those statements are contained in the verbatim records of the 131st to 135th meetings of the Committee (A/AC.105/PV.131-135).

16. The representatives of FAO and WHO also made statements, which are given in the record of the 140th meeting (A/AC.105/PV.140). The representatives of ESRO and COSPAR also made statements, which are given in the record of the 132nd meeting (A/AC.105/PV.132).

17. After considering the various items before it, the Committee, at its 143rd meeting, on 12 July 1974, adopted its report to the General Assembly containing the recommendations and decisions set out in the paragraphs below.

## II. RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS

### A. Report of the Legal Sub-Committee

18. The Committee took note of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee on the work of its thirteenth session (A/AC.105/133).

19. The Committee noted with gratification that the Legal Sub-Committee had adopted a draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space, the text of which (A/AC.105/C.2/13) was reproduced in the Sub-Committee's report. The Committee acknowledged the outstanding work done by the Legal Sub-Committee in successfully completing the task entrusted to it by the General Assembly.

20. The Committee decided to delete the fifth preambular paragraph (referring to the unfinished treaty relating to the moon) of the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space (see annex III below) submitted by the Legal Sub-Committee. In that connexion, some representatives emphasized that they considered the completion of the draft treaty relating to the moon to be a most important task of the Legal Sub-Committee. Those representatives stressed that their agreement to the deletion of the fifth preambular paragraph was based on the understanding that work on the draft treaty relating to the moon would be completed as early as possible, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

21. At the 136th meeting, on 5 July 1974, the Committee adopted and decided to submit to the General Assembly, at its twenty-ninth session, for consideration and final adoption, the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space.

22. The Committee noted that Working Group I of the Legal Sub-Committee had pursued its work on the draft treaty relating to the moon, as referred to in paragraphs 14 to 18 of the Sub-Committee's report. The Committee also noted that the Sub-Committee, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 3182 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, had considered it necessary to continue work on the draft treaty relating to the moon at its fourteenth session as a priority item on its agenda. During the seventeenth session of the Committee, consultations were held among a number of representatives on the still outstanding issues relating to the draft treaty.

23. The Committee noted with satisfaction that Working Group III established by the Legal Sub-Committee to consider the question of the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 2916 (XXVII) of 9 November 1972 and 3182 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, was able to draft texts of five principles relating to the following subjects: applicability of international law; rights and benefits of States; international co-operation; State responsibility; and the peaceful settlement of disputes. The Committee noted that each of the five texts included certain elements on which agreement was not achieved and which therefore were enclosed in square brackets. The Committee also took note of the Legal Sub-Committee's views that, having regard to the degree of consensus already



achieved and the amount of work yet to be done in the elaboration of principles in the field of direct broadcasting by means of satellite in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 2916 (XXVII) and 3182 (XXVIII), it should continue this work as a priority item at the fourteenth session of the Sub-Committee.

24. In the course of the current session of the Committee, the representative of Argentina presented a draft international convention on direct broadcasting by satellite, contained in document A/AC.105/134 referred to in paragraph 6 above.

25. The Committee was gratified that the Legal Sub-Committee was able to begin consideration of the legal implications of the earth resources survey by remote sensing satellites, by the General Assembly in resolution 3182 (XXVIII). It noted that the Legal Sub-Committee had before it several proposals, including draft principles and treaties relating to remote sensing of the earth from space. The Committee also noted the view of the Sub-Committee that it should continue work on this question as a priority item on its agenda at its fourteenth session.

26. The Committee also took note of the fact that, because of lack of time, the Legal Sub-Committee was not able to consider matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities, but that some delegations recorded their views on this item in the general exchange of views.

27. Having discussed the question of priorities of the items in the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee, the Committee agreed that the Legal Sub-Committee, at its fourteenth session, should consider as matters of high priority the draft treaty relating to the moon, the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting and the legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space. The Committee also requested the Legal Sub-Committee to consider, as time permits, matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities.

#### B. Report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee

28. The Committee took note of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on the work of its eleventh session (A/AC.105/131). In considering the various recommendations of the Sub-Committee contained in the report, the Committee expressed its views as set out in the following paragraphs.

##### 1. Remote sensing of the earth from space

29. The Committee noted that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, during its eleventh session, considered the final report of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites (A/AC.105/125) and joined the Sub-Committee in commending the Working Group for its accomplishments in assessing the current stage of development of remote sensing of the earth from space, in facilitating understanding of the potential benefits of this new space application for the international community and in promoting its optimum utilization.

30. Noting the view of the Sub-Committee that the important work thus initiated in the field of remote sensing of the earth from space should be continued, the Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Sub-Committee that the Secretary-General should prepare the following studies, making full use of the facilities

and means at his disposal and taking into account paragraphs 14, 15 and 16 of the Sub-Committee's report:

(a) A summary of available cost effectiveness studies;

(b) Organizational and financial requirements for the establishment of an international centre under United Nations auspices, as suggested in paragraphs 60, 61 and 69 (c) of the Working Group's report. This study should also cover the possible need for collection of information in certain specific fields, such as the monitoring of the global environment and the assessment of global food production, as mentioned in paragraphs 58 and 59 of the Working Group's report. The study should take into account potential sources of data. The study should cover, in addition, the possible relationship between such a centre and existing or planned regional reception facilities;

(c) Organizational and financial requirements for the establishment of one or more international regional data storage and dissemination centres under United Nations auspices, and of the inclusion in such centres of reception facilities, taking into account potential sources of data for such centres and taking into consideration the interest in such centres in Africa, Europe and South-East Asia which was expressed in the Sub-Committee and in the responses to the Secretary-General's second questionnaire, as mentioned in paragraph 52 of the Working Group's report. In particular, the possibility of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) financing such centres should be covered;

(d) Organizational and financial implications of attaching an education and training facility to the centres referred to in (c) above.

31. As far as the study proposed in paragraph 14 (e) of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee was concerned, namely the organizational and financial requirements of a future space segment for global coverage, the Committee felt that the Sub-Committee should consider the question again at its twelfth session and assess its implications, in the light of the results of the studies referred to in subparagraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) of paragraph 30 above, with a view to facilitating a final decision by the Committee at its eighteenth session.

32. Some representatives, while not objecting to the undertaking of the above-mentioned studies, stressed the view that they should not pre-judge or preclude the consideration of any legal framework to regulate remote sensing activities. Those representatives reaffirmed their conviction that the setting up of a legal framework for remote sensing of the earth from space should be the basis for international co-operation in this field and should precede any organizational arrangement and urged, therefore, the Legal Sub-Committee to speed up consideration of the matter in accordance with the priorities of the items on its agenda. Other representatives stressed the fact that in view of the interrelationship between organizational and legal aspects of remote sensing from space, consideration of those aspects should proceed concurrently.

33. The Committee, noting the work carried out in this field by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee and further noting that the Working Group had submitted its final report, considered that further studies by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of organizational and financial questions relating to remote sensing of the earth from space should progress together with

consideration by the Legal Sub-Committee of the legal aspects of remote sensing of the earth from space as a matter of priority.

34. The Committee considered that in its future work related to remote sensing of the earth from space, the Sub-Committee might also wish to give special attention to activity related to remote sensing of the environment by satellites and recommend that closer co-operation be established with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with the view to exploring more thoroughly the role of the United Nations in promoting international co-operation in the monitoring of the human environment. The Committee, furthermore, having noted that the Sub-Committee was informed of the FAO plan to establish an earth resources technology satellite (ERTS) library and video-tape display facility at its headquarters as a service for the benefit of the developing countries and to promote the setting up of regional remote sensing centres, in co-operation with various United Nations and non-United Nations bodies, recommended that the Sub-Committee follow the matter in its future activity. On 11 July 1974, the Committee viewed a demonstration of slides on agricultural remote sensing applications presented by the representative of FAO, who also gave an accompanying oral description of the agency's viewing service to developing countries.

## 2. United Nations programme on space applications

35. The Committee reviewed the report of the Sub-Committee relating to the status of the United Nations programme on space applications, as set out in chapter II of that report (A/AC.105/131).

36. The Committee noted with satisfaction that further progress had been made in the implementation of the programme and in that connexion expressed its appreciation to the Expert on space applications who had continued the successful implementation of the United Nations programme on space applications and contributed to the development of a further programme, as indicated in his report to the Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/126) and reflected in the work programme for 1975.

37. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Argentina, France, Kenya and Japan for hosting United Nations-sponsored panels/seminars/workshops in 1973 and 1974, and to the Governments of Egypt, Brazil and Indonesia for agreeing to host United Nations-sponsored panels/seminars/workshops in 1974 and 1975.

38. The Committee further expressed its appreciation of the assistance provided by the specialized agencies in co-sponsoring or participating in the various regional seminars/workshops held during 1973 and 1974 and those envisaged for 1974 and 1975, as set out in paragraphs 43-46 of the Sub-Committee's report.

39. The Committee renewed its recommendation to Member States engaged in space applications programmes to invite the holding of such panels, either on a regional or wider basis, with a view to the widest possible spread of information and sharing of experience in this new area for development, especially that of the developing countries.

40. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the offers of fellowships for training in the area of practical applications of space technology made by the Governments of Brazil, France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the

United States, as noted in paragraph 28 of the Sub-Committee's report. The Committee commended the fellowships to the attention of Member States, particularly the developing countries.

41. The Committee endorsed the United Nations programme on space applications for 1975, as proposed by the Expert in his report (A/AC.105/126), having considered the discussion of the programme in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the views expressed regarding the financing of the programme as reflected in paragraph 29 of the Sub-Committee's report. The Committee requested the Expert to continue to ensure the optimum utilization of the funds to be allocated for the implementation of the programme. Several representatives expressed the view that the United Nations programme should be expanded as regards both its content and its scope. Other representatives took the view that any expansion of the United Nations space applications programme should be based on a careful and substantive assessment of the need for such expansion.

### 3. Future planning for the United Nations programme on space applications

42. The Committee agreed with the view of the Sub-Committee that, bearing in mind the development of space technology and the need for Member States to engage in international co-operative programmes aimed at deriving maximum benefits from the practical applications of space technology, the United Nations programme on space applications should be reviewed annually to ensure that benefits of space applications could be made available to all countries.

43. In that connexion, the Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Sub-Committee that, with a view to the Sub-Committee's considering the formulation of a United Nations programme on space applications for the benefit of Member States, the Secretary-General be requested to prepare a comprehensive report to be circulated one month before the twelfth session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee covering the areas of interest, priorities and specific types of assistance needed and sought by Member States, especially the developing countries, in the field of applications of space technology for development. The Committee further agreed that the Secretary-General, in preparing his report, should obtain the views of Member States through the help of the questionnaire approved by the Committee which is contained in annex IV below, as well as through consultations with UNDP, the regional economic commissions and the specialized agencies. The Committee, in that connexion, expressed its appreciation to interested Member States who, through informal meetings and consultations, had agreed on a draft of the questionnaire for consideration by the Committee.

44. The Committee noted that the Sub-Committee had before it a suggestion concerning the convening of a United Nations conference, to be held on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of space activities, and that it had agreed to request the Secretary-General to obtain, for consideration by the Sub-Committee at its twelfth session, as set out in paragraphs 31 and 32 of its report, the views of Member States on the question of holding such a conference.

45. The Committee, recalling the recommendations made by it in the past concerning the need for proper co-ordination of activities relating to peaceful uses of outer space, noted with satisfaction that two ad hoc interagency co-ordination meetings had been held during the period 1973-1974 and that increased co-ordination within the United Nations system was taking place. In this connexion, the Committee

endorsed the view of the Sub-Committee that in the light of the fact that several specialized agencies have become increasingly involved in the growing area of space applications, an annual interagency meeting on outer space should be held prior to the Sub-Committee's session and that the Expert on space applications should continue to inform the Sub-Committee of the results of that interagency meeting. The Committee, in that connexion, reaffirmed the focal role of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee in co-ordinating the work of other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies involved in space applications.

#### 4. Exchange of information

46. The Committee noted with appreciation the reports submitted by Member States on their national and co-operative space programmes during the calendar year 1973 (A/AC.105/123 and Add.1-5 and Add.5/Corr.1). It further noted that the reports reflected a growth in the international co-operation in the peaceful exploration of outer space and the practical applications of space technology, as noted by the Sub-Committee in paragraph 53 of its report. The Committee joined the Sub-Committee in expressing its appreciation to those States which had supplied information on their national activities and hoped that more States would do so in the future.

47. The Committee noted that a report on types of assistance extended by the United Nations system to developing countries in the field of practical applications of space technology (A/AC.105/124 and Add.1 and Corr.1) had been prepared by the Secretary-General. It noted with particular interest the increasing involvement of UNDP and UNEP in assisting countries in the area of space applications and the assistance extended by FAO, UNESCO, ITU, WMO and IBRD, as noted in paragraph 50 of the Sub-Committee's report. It endorsed the recommendation contained therein that a further, more detailed report on assistance extended by the United Nations system to developing countries in the field of practical applications of space technology be included as part of the review of the activities and resources of the United Nations, of its specialized agencies and of other competent international bodies, the revised version of which is scheduled for publication in 1975.

#### 5. International sounding rocket launching facilities

48. The Committee shared the satisfaction expressed by the Sub-Committee in paragraph 56 of its report on the work being carried out at the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in India and the CELPA Mar del Plata Rocket Launching Station in Argentina relative to the use of sounding rocket facilities for international co-operation and training in the peaceful scientific exploration of outer space. The Committee accordingly recommended that the General Assembly continue to grant sponsorship to these two ranges.

#### 6. Future work of the Sub-Committee

49. The Committee took note of the views of the Sub-Committee regarding its future role and work, as expressed in paragraphs 58-64 of its report, and endorsed the recommended priorities for the work programme of the Sub-Committee contained in paragraph 61 of its report, namely:

- (1) Questions relating to remote sensing of the earth from space;
- (2) Consideration and review of the United Nations programme on space applications;
- (3) Possibility of convening a United Nations conference on space applications;
- (4) Review of the future role and work of the Sub-Committee.

C. Report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites

50. The Committee considered the report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites on the work of its fifth session (A/AC.105/127) and was unable to come to definite conclusions on matters arising from it.

51. The Committee took note of the views expressed by both the Working Group and its members on the various issues and subject areas relating to draft principles governing direct television broadcasting by satellites, as contained in paragraphs 31 to 63 of the Working Group's report.

52. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Working Group for the important work performed by it which helped the Legal Sub-Committee to a considerable extent in its work relating to direct broadcast satellites.

53. The Committee noted that the Working Group had recognized the importance and continued relevance of technical considerations of direct broadcast satellites and noted that technical feasibility of direct broadcasting from satellites had moved much nearer to practical realization within the last few years, making it possible to predict with some certainty that operational systems could be made available within the forthcoming decade, as noted in paragraph 21 of the Working Group's report.

54. The Committee, taking into account the importance of the previous studies undertaken within the United Nations system in the field of direct broadcast satellites, agreed with the view of the Working Group, as set out in paragraph 15 of its report, that there was need to encourage further in-depth studies on the manner in which direct broadcast satellites can contribute towards the social and economic development, including, in particular, that of the developing countries. Such studies should give special attention to the existing and planned infrastructure and to how they might be improved to meet the changing educational and development needs.

55. Several suggestions were made concerning future work on direct broadcast satellites:

(a) Several representatives, noting that agreement on certain important issues had not been reached during the 1974 sessions of the Working Group and the Legal Sub-Committee, considered that the Working Group, at a sixth session, possibly to be held in 1975, should endeavour to widen the areas of agreement on still unresolved issues with a view to assisting the Legal Sub-Committee in the drafting of principles to form part of the agreement or agreements requested by



the General Assembly in resolution 2916 (XXVII) of 9 November 1972. Those delegations also felt that the Working Group should give continued attention to new developments in broadcast satellite technology and relevant economic factors;

(b) Other representatives expressed the opinion that, for the time being, there was no need to convene a new session of the Working Group. They stressed that the most important task of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies in the field of direct broadcast satellites, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII), was the elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements and that the Legal Sub-Committee was active in elaborating those principles;

(c) A proposal was put forward to convene a joint session of the drafting group of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites and Working Group III of the Legal Sub-Committee with the purpose of examining the possibilities of an agreed approach to still unresolved issues (such as, inter alia, participation, spill-over, prior consent, programme content and illegality of broadcasts) with a view to elaborating proposals to assist the Legal Sub-Committee in drafting principles to be included in the agreement or agreements requested by the General Assembly in resolution 2916 (XXVII), continued attention being paid to new developments in broadcast satellite technology and relevant economic factors;

(d) Some representatives expressed the view that a joint session of the Legal Sub-Committee and the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites could be convened just prior to the fourteenth session of the Legal Sub-Committee to elaborate proposals to assist the Legal Sub-Committee in drafting principles in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII);

(e) The view was also expressed that a decision on the reconvening of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites should be deferred to the eighteenth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

56. The Committee was unable to reach agreement on any of the proposals referred to above.

### III. OTHER MATTERS

57. The Committee briefly considered the question of the use by satellites of positions in geostationary orbit in view of the growing number of satellites planned to utilize such orbit. The Committee noted also that as a result of consideration of this matter at the ITU World Administrative Radio Conference on Space Telecommunications in 1971, the amended Radio Regulations of ITU, which came into force in January 1973, include provisions to ensure that the positions of satellites launched into geostationary orbit can be adjusted, if necessary, to accomodate future use of the orbit by other satellites. In light of the foregoing, the Committee requested the United Nations agencies having existing responsibilities or programmes of studies in this area, such as ITU, ICAO and IMCO, to provide the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its next session with background information brought up to date on this subject.

58. Some representatives expressed the idea that the Committee should try to adopt a draft resolution on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space to be submitted to the General Assembly for its final consideration. In that connexion, a tentative draft resolution was submitted to the members of the Committee on an unofficial basis. Though the Committee did not have time for the consideration of the draft, several representatives pointed out that the idea of having such a draft prepared by the Committee itself was very helpful and constructive and could be realized at the next session of the Committee. They emphasized that such a practice is normal in the work of other United Nations bodies.

59. Other representatives expressed the view that the procedure used by the General Assembly in drafting an appropriate resolution on the report of the Committee was satisfactory and should be continued; furthermore, for the Committee to do this itself would require considerable additional time.



#### IV. PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

##### A. Schedule of meetings for 1975

60. The Committee, having deliberated on the matter, agreed on the following schedule of meetings for 1975:

	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Legal Sub-Committee	New York	10 February-7 March
Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee	New York	21 April-2 May
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	New York	9-20 June

61. The Committee recommended that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee make every effort possible to accomplish its work in the scheduled time. Accordingly, and having in mind the importance of the items on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, the Committee suggested that the Sub-Committee should consider shortening the time to be allocated to its general debate. In scheduling a two-week session for the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, the Committee requested the Secretariat to make provision for additional meetings during the following week, should this prove necessary.

##### B. Related matters

62. The Committee regretted the fact that it was faced with a limited choice of dates for meetings that could be held in 1975 without financial implications. The Committee therefore expressed the hope that, in the future, appropriate arrangements could be made by its subsidiary bodies and by the Secretariat so that it might be provided with more flexibility in deciding on dates for its forthcoming session and those of its subsidiary bodies. Furthermore, the Committee, having been informed of the very heavy schedule of meetings of General Assembly organs and other bodies of the United Nations system during 1976 and the years thereafter, requested the Secretariat to provide the Committee with schedules for the meetings of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies along the following lines:

Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee	March/April
Legal Sub-Committee	April/May
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	June or September

63. A formal proposal, with reference to the note by the Secretary-General on financial implications (A/AC.105/C.2/L.109) referred to in paragraph 11 of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee on the work of its thirteenth session (A/AC.105/133), was put forward that, starting from 1975, the Legal Sub-Committee should hold all its sessions at Geneva and that the existing system of rotating those sessions between Geneva and New York be discontinued. The proposal was supported by a number of

representatives. Some representatives considered that the New York-Geneva rotation arrangement, which was agreed upon as recently as 1971 after prolonged discussion, should be maintained. Other representatives felt that a decision to discontinue the rotation system should be made only in the absence of additional costs incurred at Geneva. The opinion was also expressed that if the rotation of Legal Sub-Committee sessions were to be maintained, then the sessions of the Committee should also rotate between New York and Geneva. However, that suggestion was not discussed by the Committee.

64. The Committee decided to postpone the consideration of the proposal until its eighteenth session and requested the Secretariat to prepare an exact estimate of the total quantifiable cost of servicing the sessions of the Legal Sub-Committee at Geneva within the framework of the conference patterns of the biennium 1976-1977 and in accordance with the new programme budget system, and a comparative analysis of such cost against that of holding the sessions of the Sub-Committee in New York. The Committee further requested its Legal Sub-Committee, taking into account the estimates referred to above, to convey to the Committee its views on the venue of its future meetings.

65. The Committee also noted that under item 78 of the provisional agenda, entitled "Pattern of Conferences", the General Assembly would have before it at its twenty-ninth session, in accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 2960 (XXVII) of 13 December 1972, a study prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit on the most rational and economic use of premises and staff for conferences and meetings at Headquarters, at Geneva and at Vienna. The Committee agreed that in considering the scheduling of its own future sessions and those of its subsidiary organs, it should take into account the General Assembly's consideration of the conclusions and recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit study.

## ANNEX I

### Opening statement by the Chairman at the 131st meeting of the Committee on 1 July 1974

In opening this year's session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, I take great pleasure in welcoming not only the past members of this Committee but also, and particularly, the new members: Chile, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Sudan and Venezuela.

When at our last session we initiated the discussion on the enlargement of the membership of the Committee, a/ we noted that in the light of the need to extend more widely the benefits of the peaceful uses of outer space the membership of the Committee should be broadened so as to allow more equitable geographical distribution as well as appropriate representation for developing countries. It is therefore with a sense of satisfaction that I note the General Assembly's decision to expand the membership of this Committee, b/ which for over a decade had remained the same. The Committee will no doubt draw immense benefits from the participation of its new members and we look forward to co-operating with them in our mutual work.

During the year under review many significant developments have taken place, both in the scientific and in the political aspects of the peaceful uses of outer space. We are full of admiration for the remarkable scientific feats that were conducted in outer space, particularly by the two major space Powers. It is not my intention to dwell at length on these achievements, which are well known to all of us here; however, mention might be made of the continued success of the ERTS-I programme and the launching of the ATS-F satellite last month, as they are clearly related to the work programmes with which we are concerned here. It is mostly the remarkable success of the ERTS-I programme that has encouraged the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Legal Sub-Committee to devote more time and energy to the implications of remote sensing of the earth by satellites. The successful operation of the experimental satellite-broadcasting programmes in the United States, and later in India, with the use of the ATS-F satellite will have far-reaching implications, with which the Committee will have to deal, particularly in finding ways and means whereby all States could benefit from these programmes.

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in addition to having scored great scientific achievements with its Luna and Soyuz series, as well as with its Intercosmos-Copernicus-500 launching, has been engaged with the United States in a series of preparatory work for its Apollo-Soyuz tests. All these developments have underlined the encouraging trend towards more extended and comprehensive international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

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a/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/9020 and Corr.1), para. 67.

b/ General Assembly resolution 3182 (XXVIII), para. 28.

It is to be hoped that remote sensing satellites, and broadcasting satellites in particular, will help to solve some of the problems of development with which the United Nations as a whole is preoccupied at present and after this spring, which saw the remarkable event of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the problems of raw materials and development.

For our part, the Committee and the subsidiary bodies have been fully concerned with these and other related matters during the last year. We have had a particularly heavy work schedule and our subsidiary bodies have had meetings almost continuously through the first half of this year. The reports of those bodies which are before us now are testimony to the extensive work that has been carried out. Their success was due in great measure to the dynamic leadership of the chairmen of those bodies and, on behalf of the Committee, I wish to thank, in particular, Ambassador Wyzner, Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee; Professor Carver, Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee; Ambassador Rydbeck, Chairman of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites; and Mr. Franco Fiorio, Chairman of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites.

Turning now first to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee, I wish to pay a warm tribute, on behalf of the full Committee, to the members of the Legal Sub-Committee for the outstanding achievement that body has recorded this year in improving upon its already impressive record and adding yet another important international agreement to the body of international legislation concerning outer space. The adoption by the Legal Sub-Committee of the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space c/ is without doubt a major accomplishment. I welcome the decision of the Legal Sub-Committee to authorize its Chairman or the Chairman of its Working Group II to attend this session of the Committee and present the draft convention and information relating to it. While it is a matter of regret that, owing to urgent business in Geneva, Ambassador Wyzner cannot be with us, we are happy to have among us today Mr. Tuerk, Chairman of Working Group II of the Sub-Committee, where most of the work of drafting this convention took place. It is therefore not my intention to go into further details on this question, except to draw members' attention to the fact that the text of the draft which has been submitted to the Committee for its approval is contained in paragraph 24 of the Legal Sub-Committee's report (A/AC.105/133) and to note that the Sub-Committee has left to the Committee the decision on whether or not to delete the fifth preambular paragraph of the text of the draft convention before it is submitted to the General Assembly for adoption, if the Committee should agree to do so.

The last session of the Committee requested the Legal Sub-Committee to complete the draft treaty relating to the Moon, along with the draft convention on registration, as matters of highest priority. At this year's session, the Sub-Committee continued its work and concentrated on those provisions on which agreement had not yet been reached. Several new proposals were made and they were discussed in Working Group I of the Sub-Committee. However, no agreement was reached on the main outstanding issues relating to the legal status of natural resources of the Moon and the scope of the treaty and, therefore, the Sub-Committee considered that it should continue its work at its next session and the Committee of

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c/ See A/AC.105/133, chap. II.

priority. A summary of the discussions that took place is set out in annex I of the report of the Sub-Committee. As this was a matter that was considered in detail in informal meetings of the Working Group at the last session of this Committee, perhaps we could look forward to continuing our consultations with a view to narrowing the gap between the various views held by members on these two main outstanding issues.

In taking up the matter of direct broadcast satellites, the Legal Sub-Committee had before it the report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites, and the Legal Sub-Committee established a working group of its own to consider principles relating to direct broadcast satellites. We welcome the decision of the Sub-Committee to begin substantive consideration of this matter through a working group which it has established to deal with it. I hope that the degree of consensus already achieved in the work of the Legal Sub-Committee will augur well for the future work of the Sub-Committee in this field.

Last year, the General Assembly also recommended that the Legal Sub-Committee should respond at its next session, this year, to the request by the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites for its views on the legal implications of the earth resources survey by remote sensing satellites. d/ There was a general exchange of views on the subject. The Sub-Committee, however, did not have time to formulate a response to the request of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites for its views on the legal implications of remote sensing, as recommended by the General Assembly, and was unable to give full consideration to the proposals before it under this item. The Sub-Committee therefore considered that at its next /fourteenth/ session it should continue work on this question as a priority item on its agenda.

The Sub-Committee, also because of lack of time, was not able to consider the other agenda item, dealing with matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities. However, some representatives recorded their views on this item in the general exchange of views.

Turning now to the work of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, I am happy to note that progress was made in the area of remote sensing of the earth by satellites, one of the two priority items assigned to the Sub-Committee last year. e/

I must note, in this connexion, the most useful work carried out by the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites and its task force. The detailed work accomplished by the Working Group enabled the Sub-Committee to concentrate on specific areas and arrive at a consensus. In this respect the possibility of establishing under United Nations auspices an international global centre for remote sensing, as well as of setting up regional data acquisition and/or data storage and dissemination centres, with the possible attachment of education and training centres to such facilities, was of major interest to the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee, realizing the complexity of the problems involved in these

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d/ General Assembly resolution 3182 (XXVIII), para. 7.

e/ See A/AC.105/131.

matters, has recommended to the Committee that the Secretary-General be requested to undertake, in consultation with other agencies concerned, studies relating to the organizational, the financial, the administrative and the cost implications of such a programme.

It is heartening to note also that, under the guidance of the Sub-Committee and within the stringent financial implications, the United Nations space applications programme continues to make the useful contribution of drawing the attention of developing countries to the possible contribution of space technology to their development. Under the programme, several panel meetings, seminars and workshops were held during the year under review. Among them were a regional panel on remote sensing, in Argentina; a symposium on meteorological satellites, in France; a summer school on remote sensing, also in France; and a panel meeting on broadcasting systems, in Japan. During the rest of the year the United Nations will hold a regional seminar/workshop, in Egypt, on remote sensing, as well as an interregional seminar, in Brazil, on remote sensing. Others are planned for 1975, including a regional seminar on meteorological satellites, which will be held in Kenya, and a regional seminar on remote sensing, which will be held in Indonesia.

A number of fellowships offered by Member States in various areas of space applications have also been administered by the United Nations. The United Nations Expert on space applications has visited several developing countries in order to promote awareness in practical applications of space technology, and several regional consultants will be employed by the United Nations on a short-term basis to assist the Expert in this task.

Several of these projects have been undertaken in co-operation with the specialized agencies, which continue to conduct their own valuable programmes in this field. Of particular interest to the United Nations this year have been the meteorological research and operation programmes of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for improving international service and the action taken, in response to General Assembly resolution 3182 (XXVIII), on the WMO tropical cyclone project to find ways and means of mitigating the harmful effects of tropical storms by utilizing space technology. Also of interest has been efforts of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) towards the establishment of a maritime satellite system. IMCO is convening in 1975 an international conference for the purpose of establishing such a system. I am sure both these projects are of interest to the members of this Committee. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in the area of space communication, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UNESCO, in the area of remote sensing, continue to carry out their respective programmes, and members of the Committee may receive details of some of these programmes from representatives of these agencies during this session. At this stage I wish to welcome also the representatives of the specialized agencies and of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) to our meeting.

The United Nations programme on space applications has now been in existence for several years. It is perhaps time now to evaluate the impact of this programme with respect to the objectives given it in 1969. The Sub-Committee has recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to prepare a comprehensive report on the nature and types of assistance needed and sought by Member States, especially the developing countries, in the field of space applications with a view particularly

to considering the formulation of the future United Nations programme on space applications. In preparing this report, the Secretary-General was requested to seek the views of Member States through a questionnaire to be approved by the Committee. For that purpose a draft questionnaire was submitted to the Sub-Committee by some delegations, and it is annexed to the Sub-Committee's report. However, owing to lack of time, the Sub-Committee could not discuss it in depth and, consequently, invited interested members to meet prior to the Committee session to undertake the preparation of such a questionnaire for consideration and approval by the Committee. I understand that informal negotiations are taking place on this matter and that the Committee will have the opportunity to discuss this question within the next few days. It is appropriate that the Committee should devote due attention to this matter, as the response to this questionnaire from Member States will be most decisive in shaping the future United Nations programmes on space applications. It is my hope that on the basis of the replies of Member States to the questionnaire, which will be reported to the Committee, we shall be able to assess and develop the programme in a manner that is most effective in bringing the practical applications of space technology to the developing world.

The Sub-Committee also discussed the possibility of a second United Nations conference on the peaceful uses of outer space, to be held possibly in 1978, a decade after the first conference. The Sub-Committee did not reach any firm conclusions on this matter, as it did not have all the pertinent information, and therefore has requested the Secretary-General to obtain the views of Member States and to submit a report next year for consideration by the Sub-Committee. This is also a matter that the members of the Committee might wish to give some attention to at this session.

To turn to the work of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites, it is most gratifying to note that it has carried out the mandate, given to it by the Committee at our last session, in an exemplary manner. It is with great satisfaction that I note the important work accomplished by that Working Group over the years. Beginning in 1969 with the technical implications of direct broadcast satellites, the conclusions of which still appear to be valid, it has studied the entire gamut of the political, social, economic and legal implications of this new technology. Its five reports are comprehensive and include a complete survey of the subject. This year it carried out a study of the legal implications and, in accordance with the mandate given to it by the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session, f/ has established the areas in which legal principles may be drafted. It has identified areas of agreement on such principles, as well as those on which differences of view still exist, enabling the Legal Sub-Committee to undertake immediately the drafting of principles without the need for any further preliminary studies or discussions. The results of the consideration of the Working Group relating to the draft principles governing direct television broadcasting by satellites is contained in chapter IV, section B, of the report on its fifth session (A/AC.105/127), which is before us. We must all express our appreciation for the work which this Working Group has accomplished so well. Since the last session of the Working Group, the Legal Sub-Committee has had the opportunity to consider the question further, and I have already referred to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee in this area.

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f/ General Assembly resolution 3182 (XXVIII), para. 3.



Having thus briefly reviewed the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee, and having pointed out to you some, if not all, of the matters with which we have to deal here, I wish to conclude by drawing your attention to one or two important general questions with which we will have to deal at this session.

As a policy-oriented body, this Committee will have to establish a work programme for the subsidiary bodies and a system of priorities and direct them to make definite recommendations on given questions. In this way the subsidiary bodies should be able to give in-depth consideration and prepare useful programmes for the consideration of this Committee and thereby enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations as a whole in this field.

As far as the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee is concerned, it has recommended for the consideration of the Committee an agenda in paragraph 61 of its report. g/ However, with regard to the main item on that agenda, relating to remote sensing, the Sub-Committee, in paragraph 14 of its report, having noted the valuable work carried out by its Working Group and having recognized that the study of organizational and financial matters of remote sensing should progress together with consideration of its legal aspects, has suggested that the Committee at this session might wish to review the situation and formulate instructions to its subsidiary bodies in regard to their future work in this field, taking into account the results so far achieved in the subsidiary bodies.

In this connexion, we should also take note that the Working Group on Remote Sensing had itself considered its report final. Taking all this into account, we will have to establish a definite programme for the subsidiary bodies on the question of remote sensing.

Now, as far as the Legal Sub-Committee is concerned, the Committee will have to determine the various priorities that should be accorded by the Sub-Committee to the questions on its agenda. At its last session the General Assembly, in resolution 3182 (XXVIII), requested the Legal Sub-Committee to consider as a matter of priority questions concerning the draft treaty relating to the Moon and the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space and therefore to consider questions relating to direct broadcast satellites and remote sensing, in that order. Now that the draft convention on registration has been finalized, the Committee will have to give specific guidance to the Legal Sub-Committee on how it should organize its agenda on the remaining issues.

In drawing up the work programme and priorities, we will also have to consider the future of the two Working Groups, which have contributed a great deal to our work so far.

In connexion with our task in dealing with this matter, I wish to repeat what I said in my first statement as Chairman of this Committee in 1972:

"As the policy-oriented focal point, it is up to the Committee to identify the interests of the international community in the field assigned to it and to ensure that due action is being taken in important areas of space applications. If the Committee establishes a work programme and proper

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g/ A/AC.105/131.



priorities for both its Sub-Committees it will not be considered simply a body which only formalizes the work of its subsidiary organs but a real catalyst for international action in the area of space applications as well as in other areas" (A/AC.105/PV.110, p. 23).

It is my hope that we can all work and co-operate together during the next two weeks to further, in some measure, the international collaboration in the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space.

Before I conclude my statement, I wish to make reference to an event which is as regrettable to me personally as I am sure it is to our Committee as a whole. This is the event referred to in paragraph 13 of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee report relating to Mr. Abdel-Ghani's decision to leave the United Nations and return to the service of his own country after an association of nearly 25 years with the United Nations in one capacity or another. Mr. Abdel-Ghani has been the Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division since its inception. In that capacity, as well as in the positions he has held as Executive Secretary of the United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as Secretary of this Committee, and, for a time, as Secretary of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, Mr. Abdel-Ghani has been of great assistance to all of us, as individuals, as Member States, and as an international community facing the problems and potentials of a new technology. We shall miss him. I think I speak for all of us when I wish him well in his future work.

## ANNEX II

### Statement by the Chairman of Working Group II of the Legal Sub-Committee at the 131st meeting of the Committee on 1 July 1974

It is a great privilege for me to be present here today, on behalf of the Legal Sub-Committee and its Chairman, His Excellency Ambassador Eugenius Wyzner, for the purpose of submitting to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space, which was adopted by the Legal Sub-Committee at its thirteenth session in May this year in Geneva. a/

I wish to express to you, Mr. Chairman, the deep appreciation of the Legal Sub-Committee for the profound interest you have constantly shown in its work as well as for your guidance and valuable assistance during the consultations regarding the draft treaty relating to the Moon and the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space in the course of the sixteenth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1973. b/

For the benefit of those representatives who did not assist at the last session of the Legal Sub-Committee, and with your permission, Mr. Chairman, I should like to give a very brief summary of the work of the Legal Sub-Committee on the various items before it, before turning to the draft convention on registration.

As members are well aware, the General Assembly, by resolution 3182 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, requested that the Legal Sub-Committee should give highest priority to the draft treaty relating to the Moon and the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space. The General Assembly also requested the Sub-Committee to give high priority to the question of elaborating principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements and to devote part of its next session to the legal implications of the earth resources survey by remote sensing satellites. The General Assembly also agreed that the Sub-Committee should, as time permitted, consider matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities. The workload thus confronting the Legal Sub-Committee was rather heavy, but it tried its very best to comply with the requests contained in the aforementioned General Assembly resolution.

Three Working Groups were established for that purpose. Working Group I dealt with the treaty relating to the Moon on the basis of a draft consisting of a

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a/ See A/AC.105/133.

b/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/9020 and Corr.1).

preamble and twenty-one articles which were approved by the Legal Sub-Committee in 1972, six provisions endorsed by the Working Group in 1973, various informal proposals elaborated last year and also a number of new proposals made by various delegations at this year's session. The three unresolved issues regarding the treaty relating to the Moon are: the scope of the treaty - article I of the draft; the information to be furnished on missions to the Moon - article IV; and the question of the natural resources of the Moon - article X. Of those three problems, only the first, the scope of the treaty, and the third, the natural resources of the Moon have been discussed in a detailed manner in the meetings of Working Group I. The Working Group thereby focused on article X relating to the natural resources, as many delegations thought that a solution of this problem should precede that of the remaining questions. In spite of prolonged discussions, it was not possible, however, to reach agreement on the legal status of the natural resources of the Moon.

I should like to recall that already last year this problem proved to be the main stumbling block in the way of the completion of the treaty relating to the Moon. This year's discussions in the Legal Sub-Committee have shown again that it is unlikely that the treaty will be completed before an understanding on this question has been reached.

The Legal Sub-Committee thus finally considered that it should continue to work on the draft treaty relating to the Moon at its next session as a priority item on its agenda.

Working Group II of the Legal Sub-Committee dealt with the convention on registration, on which I shall report later on in greater detail.

Working Group III was set up to discuss the report of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites on its fifth session (A/AC.105/127). It was decided to discuss the following principles, on which there was a high degree of consensus during the session of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites: applicability of international law; rights and benefits of States; international co-operation; State responsibility; and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Following consideration of various proposals submitted by delegations and also of informal papers, five principles in the aforementioned areas were formulated by a drafting group and then endorsed by Working Group III. These draft principles are, however, still quite heavily bracketed, which means that either no consensus could be reached or that there was no substantive discussion. The Sub-Committee finally expressed the opinion that it should continue its work on the matter as a priority item at its next session. In spite of the amount of work yet ahead, the Legal Sub-Committee has nevertheless already made a strenuous effort to establish legal principles in this certainly difficult field and it is to be hoped that further substantial progress will be made in the near future.

The Legal Sub-Committee also considered matters relating to activities carried out through remote sensing satellite surveys of earth resources. The Sub-Committee had before it the text of various proposals on this matter. In view of the time taken up by the consideration of the other matters, only a short general debate on this item was possible. The Sub-Committee therefore also considered that it should continue work on this question as a priority item at its next session.

As you have already mentioned, Mr. Chairman, the Sub-Committee, because of lack of time, was unable to consider the agenda item dealing with matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities. The Sub-Committee finally also considered the question of the venue of its future sessions. In this connexion I should like to draw the Committee's attention to paragraph 11 of the Sub-Committee's report (A/AC.105/133).

It is with great pleasure that I now turn to the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space as contained in paragraph 24 of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee.

For the Legal Sub-Committee the completion of the draft convention is the end of a long and sometimes difficult journey. I may recall that the General Assembly, in its resolution 1721 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, called on States "launching objects into orbit or beyond to furnish information promptly to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, through the Secretary-General, for the registration of launchings" and requested the Secretary-General "to maintain a public registry of the information furnished".

Since then information has been published by the Secretary-General in a series with the document symbol A/AC.105/INF and the register has been maintained in the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Secretariat. Registration statements have been filed by Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States.

As early as 1968, France submitted to the Legal Sub-Committee a proposal entitled "Draft convention concerning the registration of objects launched into space for the exploration or use of outer space" (A/AC.105/C.2/L.45, reproduced in annex II, section A, of A/AC.105/101).

The Legal Sub-Committee then briefly considered, at its eighth (1969) session, the French proposal and recommended that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee be invited to study the technical aspects of the registration of objects launched into outer space. In response to the request of the Legal Sub-Committee, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, at its 1970 session, after a study of the technical aspects of registration, concluded, inter alia, that, in the light of present knowledge and for reasons of economy and safety, a marking system to survive re-entry was not considered technically practical at the present time.

At its ninth (1970) and tenth (1971) sessions, the Legal Sub-Committee was unable to consider the question of registration further in view of the priority accorded to the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects. c/ At the 1971 session, the Legal Sub-Committee, having completed the draft convention on liability, gave consideration to its further work. This consideration led to the recommendation to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the latter consider the desirability of establishing a priority order for several important subjects to be included in the agenda of the next session of the Legal Sub-Committee. At its 1971 session, the Outer Space Committee recommended that priority be given to matters relating to the registration of

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c/ See General Assembly resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex.

objects launched into space for the exploration and use of outer space, and to questions relating to the Moon.

Substantive discussion of the registration convention therefore began at the eleventh (1972) session of the Legal Sub-Committee, which had before it the aforementioned French proposal. During the session a draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space was submitted by the delegation of Canada (A/AC.105/C.2/L.82, reproduced in annex II, section B, of A/AC.105/101). Following consultations between the two sponsors, the French and Canadian drafts were combined into a single draft convention (A/AC.105/C.2/L.83, reproduced in annex II, section C, of A/AC.105/101). The Legal Sub-Committee re-established a working group of the whole to consider the provisions of the joint draft convention. The Working Group formulated a preamble and nine articles (A/AC.105/101, para. 31) including provisions on which agreement was not reached and which were placed in square brackets. The Legal Sub-Committee noted the texts prepared by the Working Group and was of the opinion that the draft convention on registration required further consideration as a matter of priority. In fact, most of the provisions formulated by the Working Group were placed in square brackets. The only provisions on which agreement was reached in the Working Group were the establishment of national registration by States individually or jointly and the maintenance of a central register by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, while the contents of such registers - that is, the information to be furnished - remained a matter of disagreement. Essentially disagreement centred on the question of the marking of the space objects.

At its twelfth (1973) session, the Legal Sub-Committee resumed its consideration of the draft convention on registration. A proposal entitled "Convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space" was submitted by the United States (A/AC.105/C.2/L.85, reproduced in annex II, section (A) (1), of A/AC.105/115); and Canada and France replaced their previous joint proposal by a proposal entitled "Convention on the registration of objects launched into outer space" (A/AC.105/C.2/L.86, reproduced in annex II, section (A) (2), of document A/AC.105/115), which was based on the text elaborated by the Sub-Committee at its previous session, together with certain changes and amendments. The Sub-Committee re-established Working Group II to consider those proposals. Following this consideration and after substantial informal consultations, the Working Group approved the texts of a preamble and 10 articles, as well as the title of the draft convention (A/AC.105/115, para. 24).

In my capacity as Chairman of Working Group II, I then reported to the Legal Sub-Committee on the work of that Group, drawing the attention of the Sub-Committee, inter alia, to the questions on which no agreement had been reached; these were: the question of the marking of space objects and the question of the inclusion of a review clause. Differences of views on marking ranged from considering marking as an essential element of registration to regarding marking as not technically feasible and therefore considering that no reference to it should be included in the convention.

The Legal Sub-Committee took note of the texts approved by Working Group II, which did not include provisions concerning the aforementioned unresolved issues - and recommended that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should make its best efforts to complete the draft convention relating to registration at its sixteenth session, in June-July 1973.

Following that recommendation of the Legal Sub-Committee, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its last session, established an informal working group, under the chairmanship of the distinguished Chairman of this Committee, which was able to agree on the text of a review clause. No agreement could, however, be reached on the question of marking. The different views on this question were summarized by the Chairman of the informal working group as follows:

"... a number of delegations maintained the view that any provision on marking should be mandatory and was an indispensable element of the convention. The view was also held that it would be desirable to include an article providing for marking applied internally or externally on the space object at the time of the manufacture and for communication of this fact to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. A further view was advanced that the convention should not contain any provision on marking because there was not now available, nor will it be in the foreseeable future, an economically feasible or technologically practicable marking system. The opinion was expressed that a reasonable compromise might be the adoption of a provision for non-compulsory marking, but making mandatory the providing of information on such marking to the Secretary-General."

As it had thus not been possible to finalize the draft convention on registration, the General Assembly, in its resolution 3182 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, recommended, as I have already stated, that the Legal Sub-Committee should, as a matter of highest priority, make every effort to complete that draft convention at its next session.

The Legal Sub-Committee at its thirteenth session, held at Geneva from 6 to 31 May 1974, re-established Working Group II in order to pursue its work on the draft convention on registration. Working Group II thereby based itself on the text of a draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space contained in appendix B of annex II of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; d/ that text consisted of a preamble and 10 articles as well as the title of a draft convention - which were, as I have already mentioned, approved by Working Group II during the twelfth session of the Legal Sub-Committee in 1973 e/ and taken note of by the Sub-Committee at that session - and a review clause approved by the aforementioned informal Working Group of the Outer Space Committee in 1973, as well as a provision on marking of space objects which had been worked out at that time in informal consultations and submitted to member Governments for consideration, but on which no agreement had been reached.

The discussions in Working Group II focused mainly on the marking provision contained in article III (bis) of appendix B, annex II, of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. f/ After various proposals on this question had been submitted by a number of delegations, a compromise article on marking was finally agreed upon in the course of informal consultations. As this provision provides for voluntary marking and a substantial number of delegations had been of the opinion that a convention on registration should contain a provision

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d/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/9020 and Corr.1).

e/ See A/AC.105/115.

f/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/9020 and Corr.1).

on mandatory marking, a further compromise was reached during the aforementioned informal consultations to amend the review clause contained in article VIII (bis) of appendix B, annex II, of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. f/ I shall give more details on these provisions in the further course of my report.

. After further informal consultations, Working Group II was able to approve the entire text of a draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space on 27 May 1974. In the course of these informal consultations, the desire was also expressed to entrust the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the function of depositary of the registration convention. Agreement to change the final clauses of the draft convention accordingly was reached and the revised final clauses were endorsed by the Working Group. A drafting group set up by Working Group II made the necessary final adjustments of all the authentic texts of the draft convention. One matter, however, was left undecided, as you have already mentioned in your statement, Mr. Chairman, and that is the reference to the draft treaty relating to the Moon in the fifth preambular paragraph; the feeling was expressed in Working Group II that a decision on this matter should be left to the parent Committee. As Chairman of Working Group II, I then had the privilege of submitting the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space to the Legal Sub-Committee - which approved the draft convention at its 222nd meeting on 28 May 1974. g/

At this juncture I should like to emphasize the fact that the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space before this Committee today is a tribute to all the members of the Legal Sub-Committee, to their tireless and unending endeavours to find solutions to complex issues, to their strenuous efforts to reconcile divergent points of view and different legal traditions, and to their spirit of compromise and co-operation displayed at the most difficult moments of our negotiations. It is, therefore, with profound admiration for the hard work of this group of eminent jurists that I am now presenting the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space to this Committee. In this connexion I should also like to pay tribute to the significant role played by the members of the Secretariat in assisting the work of the Legal Sub-Committee; their competence and devotion has greatly facilitated the work of the Sub-Committee.

Permit me now, Mr. Chairman, to give a brief outline of the text of the draft convention itself, as contained in the report of the Legal Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/133) and to which you have already referred in your introductory statement.

The preamble refers to the so far existing international legal instruments relating to outer space. These are: the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies, h/ of 1966; the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer

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g/ See A/AC.105/133.

h/ See General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.



Space, i/ of 1967; and the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, j/ of 1971.

The preamble, furthermore, sets out the purposes of the Convention: namely, to make provision for the national registration by launching States of space objects launched into outer space; for a central registry of objects launched into outer space to be established and maintained on a mandatory basis by the Secretary-General of the United Nations; and to provide additional means and procedures for States Parties to assist them in the identification of space objects. In this connexion the States Parties express their belief that a mandatory system of registering objects launched into outer space would, in particular, assist in their identification and would contribute to the application and development of international law governing the exploration and use of outer space.

Article I contains the definitions of "launching State" and "space object"; both terms correspond to article I (c) and (d) of the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects. Furthermore, the term "State of registry" is defined as a launching State on whose registry a space object is carried in accordance with article II. In this context I should like to refer to article VIII of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, which refers, inter alia, to a State Party on whose registry an object launched into outer space is carried.

Article II concerns national registration: its paragraph 1 provides for registration by the launching State of a space object launched into earth orbit or beyond in an appropriate registry; the Secretary-General of the United Nations is to be informed of the establishment of such a registry. This article does not, however, lay down any stipulations as to the contents and the conditions for establishing and maintaining this registry; these are, according to paragraph 3 of article II, left to the discretion of the State of registry concerned. Paragraph 2 of article II deals with the question of registering a space object which has been launched by two or more States; in such case these States shall jointly determine which one is to enter the space object on its registry, whereby the provisions of article VIII of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space - which provides for jurisdiction and control of a space object being in outer space or on a celestial body by the State on whose registry the object is carried - have to be borne in mind; specific agreements which the launching States have concluded or might conclude on jurisdiction and control over the space object and over any personnel thereof remain, however, unaffected by the fact that a particular launching State agrees to register the space object in accordance with this article.

Articles III, IV and V deal with the Register which the Secretary-General of the United Nations is to maintain, and the provision by States of information concerning space objects to be included in that Register. Article III, which provides for the establishment of this Register, also stipulates that there shall be full and open access to the information contained therein, a provision which is, inter alia, of considerable importance to the international scientific community.

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i/ See General Assembly resolution 2345 (XXII), annex.

j/ See foot-note c above.



Article IV, paragraph 1, sets forth the various types of information each State of registry is required to transmit to the Secretary-General; the information required largely follows the reporting practice employed by various countries engaged in space activities already for a number of years. Accordingly, a State of registry has to transmit the name of the launching State or States, an appropriate designator of the space object or its registration number, the date and territory or location of launch, basic orbital parameters, including nodal period, inclination, apogee and perigee, as well as an indication of the general function of the space object. This information is to be forwarded as soon as practicable - which means that the Convention does not lay down any specific requirement as to the time for providing this information; this is left to the State of registry to determine.

Paragraph 2 of article IV provides that a State of registry may transmit, from time to time, additional information to the aforementioned Register. Paragraph 3 of this article stipulates that the Secretary-General shall be notified by the State of registry to the greatest extent feasible and as soon as practicable of space objects concerning which it has previously transmitted information and which have been, but no longer are in earth orbit. This provision is meant to ensure that the Secretary-General's Register is kept up to date as far as possible.

Article V contains the provision on marking of space objects which had, as I have already mentioned, given rise to considerable difficulties during the negotiations. The present provision embodies a compromise between those delegations which had insisted on the compulsory marking of space objects and those which held the view that marking was not economically feasible or technologically practicable - that is to say, it would not survive re-entry into the atmosphere. Article V accordingly states that whenever a space object launched into earth orbit or beyond is marked with an appropriate designator or registration number referred to in article IV (1) (b), or both, the State of registry shall notify the Secretary-General of this fact when submitting information regarding the space object in accordance with article IV. This notification is also to be recorded in the Secretary-General's Register. Article V thus provides for voluntary marking while stipulating mandatory reporting to the Secretary-General.

Article VI provides that States parties, in particular those possessing space monitoring and tracking facilities, shall respond, to the greatest extent feasible, to requests by a State party for identification of a space object which has caused damage to it or which may be of a hazardous or deleterious nature in cases where the application of the provisions of this Convention has not yet enabled that State party to identify such a space object. Such assistance shall be granted under equitable and reasonable conditions whereby the requesting State shall submit information as to the time, nature and circumstances of the events giving rise to the request; the precise arrangements in this connexion shall be the object of agreement between the parties concerned. In a way, this provision complements the provision on marking, as the basic reason for the attempt to introduce compulsory marking has been apprehensions of not being able to identify a space object which has caused damage or which is regarded as potentially harmful. In that context, I should also like to recall that Working Group II has reached agreement that the term "damage" as used in this article is used in the same sense as in the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space - see article VII of that Treaty.

Article VII of the Registration Convention lays down the conditions under which the Convention shall be deemed to apply to any international intergovernmental organization which conducts space activities and is identical to article XII, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects.

Articles VIII through XII contain the final clauses. Article VIII deals with signature, ratification and accession, and entrusts the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the function of depositary. In this connexion, it was understood by the Legal Sub-Committee that the precedent established by the General Assembly, in resolution 3166 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, in relation to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents would be followed. The Convention shall enter into force after the deposit of the fifth instrument of ratification.

Article IX concerns the amendment procedure, whereby any State Party to the Convention may propose amendments, and is identical to article XXV of the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects.

Article X contains the review clause and provides that the question of the review of the Convention shall be included in the provisional agenda of the United Nations General Assembly 10 years after its entry into force in order to consider, in the light of past applications of the Convention, whether it requires revision. However, at any time after the Convention has been in force for five years, and at the request of one third of the States Parties to the Convention and with the concurrence of the majority of the States Parties, a conference of the States Parties shall be convened to review the Convention. This wording corresponds to article XXVI of the Convention on International Liability. In order to meet the demands of those delegations which had favoured mandatory marking, this review clause furthermore expressly states that "such review shall take into account in particular any relevant technological developments, including those relating to the identification of space objects". Thus an eventual review of the Convention will have to take into account progress of space technology whereby the provisions of the Convention enabling States Parties to identify space objects might be adapted accordingly.

Article XI concerns the withdrawal of States Parties from the Convention. Notice of withdrawal is permitted one year after entry into force of the Convention and such withdrawal shall take effect one year thereafter. This article corresponds to article XXVII of the Convention on International Liability.

Finally, article XII refers to the authentic texts of the Convention, Arabic having been included.

The draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space thus represents a new and important step forward in the development of space law - the corpus juris spatialis - and will, I am sure, very usefully complement the existing international agreements in this field, in particular the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects. The draft convention may not seem to be perfect to all delegations in all its aspects, but its provisions certainly reflect the common ground the Legal Sub-Committee was able to obtain after intense and protracted negotiations whereby concessions had to be made on all sides - but concessions constitute the very essence of consensus. The members of

the Legal Sub-Committee, after long efforts and after overcoming quite a number of obstacles, earnestly hope that this convention, which they submit to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for approval, will meet the expectations of their parent Committee and will, furthermore, in due course gain world-wide acceptance..

In conclusion, I now warmly wish to commend to this Committee the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space.

### ANNEX III

#### Draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space

The States Parties to this Convention,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in furthering the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Recalling that the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, a/ affirms that States shall bear international responsibility for their national activities in outer space and refers to the State on whose registry an object launched into outer space is carried,

Recalling also that the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space b/ provides that a launching authority shall, upon request, furnish identifying data prior to the return of an object it has launched into outer space found beyond the territorial limits of the launching authority,

Recalling further that the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects c/ establishes international rules and procedures concerning the liability of launching States for damage caused by their space objects,

Desiring, in the light 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 to make provision for the national registration by launching States of space objects launched into outer space,

Desiring further that a central register of objects launched into outer space be established and maintained on a mandatory basis, by the Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Desiring also to provide for States Parties additional means and procedures to assist in the identification of space objects,

Believing that a mandatory system of registering objects launched into outer space would, in particular, assist in their identification and would contribute to the application and development of international law governing the exploration and use of outer space,

Have agreed as follows:

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a/ See General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

b/ See General Assembly resolution 2345 (XXII), annex.

c/ See General Assembly resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex.

## Article I

For the purpose of this Convention:

(a) The term "launching State" means:

- (i) A State which launches or procures the launching of a space object;
- (ii) A State from whose territory or facility a space object is launched;

(b) The term "space object" includes component parts of a space object as well as its launch vehicle and parts thereof;

(c) The term "State of registry" means a launching State on whose registry a space object is carried in accordance with article II.

## Article II

1. When a space object is launched into earth orbit or beyond, the launching State shall register the space object by means of an entry in an appropriate registry which it shall maintain. Each launching State shall inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the establishment of such a registry.

2. Where there are two or more launching States in respect of any such space object, they shall jointly determine which one of them shall register the object in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article, bearing in mind the provisions of article VIII 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, a/ and without prejudice to appropriate agreements concluded or to be concluded among the launching States on jurisdiction and control over the space object and over any personnel thereof.

3. The contents of each registry and the conditions under which it is maintained shall be determined by the State of registry concerned.

## Article III

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall maintain a Register in which the information furnished in accordance with article IV shall be recorded.

2. There shall be full and open access to the information in this Register.

## Article IV

1. Each State of registry shall furnish to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as soon as practicable, the following information concerning each space object carried on its registry:

- (a) Name of launching State or States;
- (b) An appropriate designator of the space object or its registration number;
- (c) Date and territory or location of launch;

- (d) Basic orbital parameters, including:
  - (i) Nodal period,
  - (ii) Inclination,
  - (iii) Apogee, and
  - (iv) Perigee;
- (e) General function of the space object.

2. Each State of registry may, from time to time, provide the Secretary-General of the United Nations with additional information concerning a space object carried on its registry.

3. Each State of registry shall notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the greatest extent feasible and as soon as practicable, of space objects concerning which it has previously transmitted information, and which have been but no longer are in earth orbit.

#### Article V

Whenever a space object launched into earth orbit or beyond is marked with the designator or registration number referred to in article IV (1) (b), or both, the State of registry shall notify the Secretary-General of this fact when submitting the information regarding the space object in accordance with article IV. In such case, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall record this notification in the Register.

#### Article VI

Where the application of the provisions of this Convention has not enabled a State Party to identify a space object which has caused damage to it or to any of its natural or juridical persons, or which may be of a hazardous or deleterious nature, other States Parties, including in particular States possessing space monitoring and tracking facilities, shall respond to the greatest extent feasible to a request by that State Party, or transmitted through the Secretary-General on its behalf, for assistance under equitable and reasonable conditions in the identification of the object. A State Party making such a request shall, to the greatest extent feasible, submit information as to the time, nature and circumstances of the events giving rise to the request. Arrangements under which such assistance shall be rendered shall be the object of agreement between the parties concerned.

#### Article VII

1. In this Convention, with the exception of articles VIII to XII inclusive, references to States shall be deemed to apply to any international intergovernmental organization which conducts space activities if the organization declares its acceptance of the rights and obligations provided

for in this Convention and if a majority of the States members of the organization are States Parties to this Convention and to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. a/

2. States members of any such organization which are States Parties to this Convention shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that the organization makes a declaration in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

#### Article VIII

1. This Convention shall be open for signature by all States at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Any State which does not sign this Convention before its entry into force in accordance with paragraph 3 of this article may accede to it at any time.

2. This Convention shall be subject to ratification by signatory States. Instruments of ratification and instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. This Convention shall enter into force among the States which have deposited instruments of ratification on the deposit of the fifth such instrument with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

4. For States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited subsequent to the entry into force of this Convention, it shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of their instruments of ratification or accession.

5. The Secretary-General shall promptly inform all signatory and acceding States of the date of each signature, the date of deposit of each instrument of ratification of and accession to this Convention, the date of its entry into force and other notices.

#### Article IX

Any State Party to this Convention may propose amendments to this Convention. Amendments shall enter into force for each State Party to the Convention accepting the amendments upon their acceptance by a majority of the States Parties to the Convention and thereafter for each remaining State Party to the Convention on the date of acceptance by it.

#### Article X

Ten years after the entry into force of this Convention, the question of the review of this Convention shall be included in the provisional agenda of the United Nations General Assembly in order to consider, in the light of past application of the Convention, whether it requires revision. However, at any time after the Convention has been in force for five years, at the request of one third of the States Parties to the Convention, and with the concurrence of the majority of the States Parties, a conference of the States Parties shall be

convened to review this Convention. Such review shall take into account in particular any relevant technological developments, including those relating to the identification of space objects.

Article XI

Any State Party to this Convention may give notice of its withdrawal from the Convention one year after its entry into force by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Such withdrawal shall take effect one year from the date of receipt of this notification.

Article XII

The original of this Convention, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations who shall send certified copies thereof to all signatory and acceding States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Convention, opened for signature at New York on ,.....



## ANNEX IV

### Questionnaire on the needs of developing countries for assistance in the practical applications of space technology

#### A. General

1. To what extent did your Government have, prior to receiving this questionnaire, information on the current and potential practical benefits of the applications of space technology?
  - (a) Has the information attached to this questionnaire helped in obtaining a clearer picture of this area of space activities?
  - (b) If the attached documentation does not allow you to answer the following questions, specify what additional information is needed.
2. The major areas of space applications are:
  - (1) Satellite broadcasting and space communications;
  - (2) Application of remote sensing techniques for earth resources and environmental surveys;
  - (3) Satellite meteorology.

In which area/areas of space applications cited above (or in which other area of space applications) is your Government specifically interested? Please state the order of priority.

3. Is there any information which your Government wishes to provide about its present or future activities related to space application in addition to the information already furnished in the national report\* of your country? If so, please provide details thereof.

#### B. Assistance provided by the United Nations system

1. Assistance provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the specialized agencies
4. Have you benefited in any way from assistance extended by the United Nations system, a detailed account of which is contained in documents A/AC.105/124 and Add.1 and Corr.1?

If so, please give details.

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\* The latest national reports submitted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space are contained in documents A/AC.105/L.68 and Add.1-5.

If not, what are the reasons for your not taking advantage of the assistance so provided? Please indicate if those are:

- (1) Lack of information regarding either the types of assistance or the steps to be taken for requesting assistance;
- (2) Non-availability of counterpart funds;
- (3) Lack of readiness at the present time to embark upon activities in the area of space applications in terms of national priorities;
- (4) Any other reasons.

2. Assistance provided under the United Nations programme on space applications

5. If you have participated in the United Nations programme on space applications covering technical panels, symposia, seminars and training workshops during the past three years:

- (1) Please give details of your participation;
- (2) Please give your considered opinion on the usefulness of such activities to developing countries and especially to your country;
- (3) Please indicate in what practical ways your country's participation in these activities has benefited your country. In particular, please indicate whether and, if so, how the participants have put to practical use the experience they have gained through participation in such activities.

6. If the answer to question 5 is negative, please indicate whether your non-participation in the above-mentioned programme was due to any of the following reasons:

- (1) Lack of adequate information concerning such activities;
- (2) Non-receipt of the required information in time;
- (3) Non-availability of funds to finance participation in the activities;
- (4) Lack of readiness at the present time to embark upon activities in the area of space applications in terms of national priorities;
- (5) Any other reasons.

C. Assistance extended by Member States

1. Assistance extended by Member States

7. Please give details of assistance extended by your country in the area of space applications (e.g. dissemination of information, facilities for advanced education and training, fellowship opportunities,

hosting of panels, seminars and workshops, participation in flight programmes and so forth). Will your Government be able to provide any additional assistance in the foreseeable future?

2. Response to assistance extended by Member States

8. Information concerning fellowships offered by some Member States was sent to your Government by the United Nations Expert on space applications. Have you taken advantage of these offers?
9. If the answer to question 8 is affirmative, please give details.
10. If the answer to question 8 is negative, please state the reasons therefor. Have there been any instances where applications forwarded by you were not accepted?

D. Assistance sought by Member States

11. What kind of assistance and for what specific reasons would your Government like to see made available to you through the United Nations and the specialized agencies at the present time and in the foreseeable future in the area of space applications? Specify as clearly as possible the nature and extent of assistance (e.g. education, training, specialist advice, survey missions, equipment and experts, etc.) needed in the major areas of space applications listed in question 2.
12. Would your Government wish to suggest any measures at regional, international, and global levels to promote the understanding of the practical benefits of space applications and the extension of such benefits to all interested States?

E. Financing of the United Nations space applications programme

13. Would your Government wish to express any views and/or make any suggestions regarding the financing of the United Nations programme on space applications?

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