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

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Alvaro de SOTO (Peru)

1. The items entitled "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" and "Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" were included in the provisional agenda of the twenty-eighth session on the basis, respectively, of General Assembly resolutions 2914 (XXVII), 2915 (XXVII), 2916 (XXVII) and 2917 (XXVII) of 9 November 1972.
2. At its 2123rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1973, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the two items in its agenda and to allocate them to the First Committee for consideration and report.
3. At its 1977th meeting, on 4 December 1973, the First Committee agreed to consider these two items jointly, on the understanding that delegations who wished to do so, could make separate statements on either of the two items.
4. The First Committee considered the two items at the 1977th to 1984th meetings, from 4 to 10 December.
5. At the 1977th meeting, the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space introduced the Committee's report. 1/

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

6. At the 1980th meeting, on 5 December, a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.669) was introduced by the representative of Austria on behalf of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, France, Iran, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Romania, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

7. The text of the draft resolution is as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 2914 (XXVII), 2915 (XXVII), 2916 (XXVII) and 2917 (XXVII) of 9 November 1972,

"Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 2/

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

"Recalling its resolution 1721 B (XVI) of 20 December 1961, in which it expressed the belief that the United Nations should provide a focal point for international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space,

"Reaffirming further its belief that the benefits deriving from space exploration can be extended to States at all stages of economic and scientific development on an expanding basis, if Member States conduct their space programmes increasingly with a view to promoting maximum international co-operation, including the widest possible exchange of information in this field,

"Convinced of the need for increased international efforts, particularly through the United Nations, to promote and expand practical applications of space technology and believing that wider participation by Member States in the activities of the United Nations relating to space matters may contribute to the objective of such increased international efforts,

"Noting that several suggestions were made during the last session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space regarding the question of the enlargement of its membership as set out in paragraph 67 of its report,

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

"1. Endorses the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

"2. Invites States which have not yet become parties to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of

Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, 3/ the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, 4/ and the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, 5/ to give early consideration to ratifying or acceding to those international agreements, so that they may have the broadest possible effect;

"3. Notes that the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites has discussed the question of elaborating principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting referred to in General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII) and endorses the decision of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as set out in paragraph 66 of its report, to reconvene the Working Group in 1974;

"4. Notes that, in responding to the request of the General Assembly, the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Committee itself have achieved further significant progress towards the completion of the draft treaty relating to the moon, and the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space:

"5. Recommends that the Legal Sub-Committee should, as a matter of highest priority, make its best efforts to complete the draft treaty relating to the moon and the draft convention on registration at its next session;

"6. Recommends further that the Legal Sub-Committee should consider at its next session, as a matter of high priority, 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 in accordance with resolution 2916 (XXVII), taking due account of the interdisciplinary character of the subject and of the work of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites;

"7. Recommends also that the Legal Sub-Committee at its next session should respond to the request of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites for its views on the legal implications of earth resources survey by remote sensing satellites, devoting part of that session to this purpose;

"8. Agrees that the Legal Sub-Committee at its next session, as time permits, should consider matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities;

"9. Welcomes the comments of the Committee contained in paragraph 57 of its report regarding the role and functions of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and agrees that, with regard to its future work, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should proceed on the lines indicated in section V of its report;

3/ General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI).

4/ General Assembly resolution 2345 (XXII).

5/ General Assembly resolution 2777 (XXVI).

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"10. Notes with satisfaction that, in promoting international co-operation in the application of space technology, considerable attention has been given to the potential of remote sensing of the earth by satellites to development programmes of all countries, especially of developing countries.

"11. Welcomes the various efforts envisaged by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites with a view to bringing the benefit of this new technology to all countries, especially developing countries, including the preparation of a second survey of potential users of remote sensing, in regard to which a questionnaire on remote sensing of the environment and natural resources from satellites, covering technical, legal and organizational aspects, has been sent to Member States;

"12. Commends this questionnaire to the attention of Member States and requests them to respond to it as soon as possible, with a view to making progress in identifying, studying and analysing the best means of disseminating remote sensing data;

"13. Requests the Committee to include in its report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session its views on further measures to promote international co-operation in the field of remote sensing of the earth by satellites;

"14. Considers that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its appropriate subsidiary organs will have to give further in-depth consideration to the legal, organizational and other related aspects of remote sensing of the earth by satellites;

"15. Welcomes the continuing progress achieved in developing the United Nations programme on space applications into a significant means of promoting international co-operation in this field, commends this programme to the attention of Member States, the specialized agencies and interested United Nations bodies and draws attention in this respect to the request contained in paragraph 43 of the Committee's report;

"16. Endorses the United Nations programme on space applications as contained in paragraph 36 of the report of the Committee and recommends the continuing development of the programme, taking especially into account the needs of the developing countries;

"17. Notes with appreciation that several Member States have offered educational and training facilities, under United Nations sponsorship, in the practical application of space technology and draws the attention of Member States, particularly the developing countries, to those opportunities as outlined in paragraphs 45 to 50 and 52 of the report of the Committee;

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"18. Further notes the value of United Nations panels and training seminars in various fields of space application and hopes that Member States will continue to offer to host these panels and training seminars, with a view to the widest possible spread of information and sharing of cost in this new area of development, especially that of the developing countries;

"19. Welcomes the efforts of a number of Member States to share with other interested Member States the practical benefits that may be derived from programmes in space technology;

"20. Welcomes further efforts of Member States to keep the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space fully informed of their space activities and invites all Member States to do so;

"21. Approves continuing sponsorship by the United Nations of the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in India and the CELPA Mar del Plata Station in Argentina, expresses its satisfaction at the work being carried out at those ranges in relation to the use of sounding rocket facilities for international co-operation and training in the peaceful and scientific exploration of outer space and recommends that Member States continue to give consideration to the use of those facilities for space research activities;

"22. Notes that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1721 B (XVI) of 20 December 1961, the Secretary-General continues to maintain a public registry of objects launched into orbit or beyond on the basis of information furnished by Member States and welcomes the co-operation of Member States in providing relevant information to the Secretary-General;

"23. Notes with appreciation that a number of the specialized agencies, in particular, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, have continued to take an active part in the United Nations programme for the promotion of international co-operation in the practical application of space technology, including the organization of technical panels;

"24. Agrees with the Committee that proper co-ordination is necessary for activities within the United Nations system relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

"25. Requests, therefore, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency to continue, as appropriate, to provide the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space and to examine and report to the Committee on the particular problems that may arise from the use of outer space in the fields within their competence and that should, in their opinion, be brought to the attention of the Committee;

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"26. Reiterates its request to the World Meteorological Organization to pursue actively the implementation of its tropical cyclone project, continuing and intensifying its other related action programmes, including the World Weather Watch and, especially, the efforts being undertaken towards obtaining basic meteorological data and discovering ways and means to mitigate the harmful effects of tropical storms and to remove or minimize their destructive potential, and looks forward to its report thereon in accordance with resolution 2914 (XXVII);

"27. Notes that the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization has been involved in discussions on the use of maritime satellites and expresses its interest in receiving information concerning activities in this field and other related work;

"28. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to undertake a study and formulate concrete proposals concerning the enlargement of the membership of the Committee, taking into account the results of appropriate consultations to be held by its Chairman, and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session;

"29. Endorses the view expressed by the Committee in paragraph 68 of its report regarding measures for enhancing the effectiveness of the Outer Space Affairs Division in order to enable it to meet its expanding responsibilities in carrying out the United Nations programme on space applications and in assisting the Committee to discharge its co-ordinating functions as the "focal point" in promoting international co-operation in this field, as envisaged by the General Assembly;

"30. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its work, as set out in the present resolution and in previous resolutions of the General Assembly, and to report to the Assembly at its twenty-ninth session."

8. At the 1984th meeting, on 10 December, a revised text of the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.669/Rev.1) was introduced by the representative of Austria on behalf of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The revised text incorporates two new preambular paragraphs (inserted as the third and eighth, respectively) and a revised operative paragraph 28, as follows:

"The General Assembly,

...

"Noting with appreciation the way in which the 500th anniversary of the birth of Nicolaus Copernicus, the great Polish astronomer, had found its reflection in space activities,"

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"Bearing in mind that since the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was established in 1961, the membership of the United Nations has been considerably increased and a corresponding enlargement of the Committee is therefore desirable,"

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"28. Decides to enlarge the membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and requests the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with the regional groups and with the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to designate, at an early date and not later than 15 May 1974, not more than nine additional members, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution,"

9. A statement (A/C.1/L.671) of the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution (A/C.1/L.669) was submitted by the Secretary-General on 6 December.

10. At its 1984th meeting, the Committee voted on the revised draft resolution (A/C.1/L.669/Rev.1).

11. Upon request, the Committee voted separately on operative paragraph 28 of the revised draft resolution, which it adopted by 77 votes to 9, with 2 abstentions.

12. The revised draft resolution as a whole was adopted by a vote of 83 to none, with 10 abstentions (see paragraph 13 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

13. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution.

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2914 (XXVII), 2915 (XXVII), 2916 (XXVII) and 2917 (XXVII) of 9 November 1972,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 6/

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

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Noting with appreciation the way in which the 500th anniversary of the birth of Nicolaus Copernicus, the great Polish astronomer, had found its reflection in space activities,

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

Recalling its resolution 1721 B (XVI) of 20 December 1961, in which it expressed the belief that the United Nations should provide a focal point for international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space,

Reaffirming further its belief that the benefits deriving from space exploration can be extended to States at all stages of economic and scientific development on an expanding basis, if Member States conduct their space programmes increasingly with a view to promoting maximum international co-operation, including the widest possible exchange of information in this field,

Convinced of the need for increased international efforts, particularly through the United Nations, to promote and expand practical applications of space technology and believing that wider participation by Member States in the activities of the United Nations relating to space matters may contribute to the objective of such increased international efforts,

Bearing in mind that, since the establishment of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1961, the membership of the United Nations has been considerably increased and a corresponding enlargement of the Committee is therefore desirable,

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

1. Endorses the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; 6/

2. Invites States which have not yet become parties 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, 7/ the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, 8/ and the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, 9/ to give early consideration to ratifying or acceding to those international agreements, so that they may have the broadest possible effect;

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth session, Supplement No. 20 (A/9020)

7/ General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI) of 19 December 1966.

8/ General Assembly resolution 2345 (XXII) of 19 December 1967.

9/ General Assembly resolution 2777 (XXVI) of 29 November 1971.

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3. Notes that the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites has discussed the question of elaborating principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting referred to in General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII) and endorses the decision of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as set out in paragraph 66 of its report, to reconvene the Working Group in 1974;

4. Notes that, in responding to the request of the General Assembly, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Sub-Committee have achieved further significant progress towards the completion of the draft treaty relating to the Moon and the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space;

5. Recommends that the Legal Sub-Committee should, as a matter of highest priority, make its best efforts to complete the draft treaty relating to the Moon and the draft convention on registration at its next session;

6. Recommends further that the Legal Sub-Committee should consider at its next session, as a matter of high priority, 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 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII), taking due account of the interdisciplinary character of the subject and of the work of the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites;

7. Recommends also that the Legal Sub-Committee, at its next session, should respond to the request for its views, by the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites, on the legal implications of the earth resources survey by remote sensing satellites, devoting part of that session to this purpose:

8. Agrees that the Legal Sub-Committee at its next session, as time permits, should consider matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities;

9. Welcomes the comments of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, contained in paragraph 57 of its report, regarding the role and functions of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and agrees that, with regard to its future work, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should proceed on the lines indicated in section V of its report; 10/

10. Notes with satisfaction that, in promoting international co-operation in the application of space technology, considerable attention has been given to the potential of remote sensing of the earth by satellites to development programmes of all countries, especially of developing countries;

11. Welcomes the various efforts envisaged by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites with a view to bringing the

benefit of this new technology to all countries, especially developing countries, including the preparation of a second survey of potential users of remote sensing, in regard to which a questionnaire on remote sensing of the environment and natural resources from satellites, covering technical, legal and organizational aspects, has been sent to Member States;

12. Commends this questionnaire to the attention of Member States and requests them to respond to it as soon as possible with a view to making progress in identifying, studying and analysing the best means of disseminating remote sensing data;

13. Requests the Committee to include in its report to the General Assembly, at its twenty-ninth session, its views on further measures to promote international co-operation in the field of remote sensing of the earth by satellites;

14. Considers that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its appropriate subsidiary organs will have to give further in-depth consideration to the legal, organizational and other related aspects of remote sensing of the earth by satellites;

15. Welcomes the continuing progress achieved in developing the United Nations programme on space applications into a significant means of promoting international co-operation in this field, commends this programme to the attention of Member States, the specialized agencies and interested United Nations bodies, and draws attention in this respect to the request contained in paragraph 43 of the Committee's report;

16. Endorses the United Nations programme on space applications as contained in paragraph 36 of the report of the Committee and recommends the continuing development of the programme, taking especially into account the needs of the developing countries;

17. Notes with appreciation that several Member States have offered educational and training facilities, under United Nations sponsorship, in the practical application of space technology and draws the attention of Member States, particularly the developing countries, to those opportunities as outlined in paragraphs 45 to 50 and 52 of the report of the Committee;

18. Further notes the value of United Nations panels and training seminars in various fields of space application and hopes that Member States will continue to offer to serve as host to these panels and training seminars, with a view to the widest possible spread of information and sharing of cost in this new area of development, especially that of the developing countries;

19. Welcomes the efforts of a number of Member States to share with other interested Member States the practical benefits that may be derived from programmes in space technology;

20. Welcomes further efforts of Member States to keep the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space fully informed of their space activities and invites all Member States to do so;

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21. Approves continuing sponsorship by the United Nations of the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in India and the CELPA Mar del Plata Station in Argentina, expresses its satisfaction at the work being carried out at those ranges in relation to the use of sounding rocket facilities for international co-operation and training in the peaceful and scientific exploration of outer space and recommends that Member States continue to give consideration to the use of those facilities for space research activities;

22. Notes that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1721 B (XVI), the Secretary-General continues to maintain a public registry of objects launched into orbit or beyond on the basis of information furnished by Member States and welcomes the co-operation of Member States in providing relevant information to the Secretary-General;

23. Notes with appreciation that a number of the specialized agencies, in particular, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, have continued to take an active part in the United Nations programme for the promotion of international co-operation in the practical application of space technology, including the organization of technical panels;

24. Agrees with the Committee that proper co-ordination is necessary for activities within the United Nations system relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

25. Requests, therefore, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency to continue, as appropriate, to provide the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space and to examine and report to the Committee on the particular problems that may arise from the use of outer space in the fields within their competence and that should, in their opinion, be brought to the attention of the Committee;

26. Reiterates its request to the World Meteorological Organization to pursue actively the implementation of its tropical cyclone project, continuing and intensifying its other related action programmes, including the World Weather Watch and, especially, the efforts being undertaken towards obtaining basic meteorological data and discovering ways and means to mitigate the harmful effects of tropical storms and to remove or minimize their destructive potential, and looks forward to its report thereon in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2914 (XXVII);

27. Notes that the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization has been involved in discussions on the use of maritime satellites and expresses its interest in receiving information concerning activities in this field and other related work;

28. Decides to enlarge the membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and requests the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with the regional groups and with the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses

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of Outer Space, to designate, at an early date and not later than 15 May 1974, not more than nine additional members, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution;

29. Endorses the view expressed by the Committee in paragraph 68 of its report regarding measures for enhancing the effectiveness of the Outer Space Affairs Division in order to enable it to meet its expanding responsibilities in carrying out the United Nations programme on space applications and in assisting the Committee to discharge its co-ordinating functions as the "focal point" in promoting international co-operation in this field, as envisaged by the General Assembly;

30. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its work, as set out in the present resolution and in previous resolutions of the General Assembly, and to report to the Assembly at its twenty-ninth session.
