



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/41/560
5 September 1986

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-first session
Item 74 (b) of the provisional agenda*

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

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

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 40/162 of 16 December 1985, requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-first session on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. 1/
2. In response to that request, the present report provides information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference.
3. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee considered the question of the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference during their 1986 sessions. Accordingly, the information contained in the present report reflects primarily the result of the work of the Committee, whose report is also before the General Assembly. 2/

II. INTER-AGENCY CO-OPERATION

4. In paragraph 20 of its resolution 40/162, the General Assembly requested all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other

* A/41/150.

intergovernmental organizations working in the field of outer space or on space-related matters to co-operate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference. In that connection, the eighth session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities is scheduled to be held in October 1986 at the headquarters of United Nations Industrial Development Organization to discuss, inter alia, the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference.

5. The United Nations publication entitled Space Activities of the United Nations and International Organizations has been issued at the initiative of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities as a revised and expanded edition (A/AC.105/358).

6. At its 1986 session, the Committee endorsed the view of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee that the United Nations should continue to seek the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other international funding institutions and that the Secretariat should take note of, and operate within, the UNDP funding procedures.

III. STUDIES

7. In its resolution 40/162, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, when continuing its consideration of the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, including the implementation of the recommendations contained in the studies that had so far been conducted, should also consider the advisability of carrying out further studies, within existing resources, capable of giving rise to concrete projects of international space co-operation. In doing so, the Sub-Committee was to bear in mind in particular the needs of the developing countries.

8. At its 1986 session, the Committee requested the Secretariat to seek the views of Members States on how far the five studies that had already been carried out have benefited them in putting into practice the findings of these studies. It was considered that such information could enable the Committee to evaluate further the usefulness and desirability of conducting future studies.

IV. UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON SPACE APPLICATIONS

9. In its resolution 37/90 of 10 December 1982, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Conference that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should be directed towards seven specific objectives (para. 7 (a) to (g)). The plans of action for carrying out these activities are contained in document A/AC.105/313, entitled "Translation of space-applications-related recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space into operational programmes".

10. In 1986, the Programme, in co-operation with other United Nations organs, includes three short-term training courses on remote sensing applications. The

first, which focused on applications to agricultural statistics, was organized in collaboration with the Governments of France and Italy, and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the second, which will focus on applications to drought assessment and vegetation monitoring using meteorological satellites is being organized in collaboration with the Governments of France and Spain, and FAO and the European Space Agency (ESA); and the third, which will focus on applications to operational agro-meteorology and hydrology, is being organized in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), FAO and ESA as well as the Government of Ecuador. In addition, a meeting of experts on regional co-operation in space science and technology and its applications was organized in collaboration with the Government of Colombia and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Also planned for 1986 is a regional meeting of experts on space technology applications in the Indian Ocean region to be organized in collaboration with the Government of Sri Lanka.

11. In promoting the development of indigenous capability, the Programme awarded 22 long-range fellowships in 1985 for in-depth training of participants from developing countries in the areas of telecommunications, satellite meteorology and remote sensing. Nineteen fellowships were provided by Member States (2 by Austria, 7 by Brazil and 10 by the USSR) and 3 by ESA. Some of these offers have been renewed in 1986. The Government of the German Democratic Republic has also offered for 1986 five similar long-range fellowships for in-depth training in different aspects of space science and technology and its applications.

12. Other approaches to the development of indigenous capability at the local level will continue to be extensively explored during the ongoing series of United Nations international meetings on space technology applications within the framework of educational systems. The second of these meetings is scheduled for 1986 and is being organized in co-operation with the Government of Mexico for the benefit of member States in the ECLAC region. Participants will include educators from technical institutions and universities and those within the government administration responsible for the planning and development of national educational programmes.

13. In 1987, the following three short-term training courses on remote sensing applications are planned:

(a) Marine fisheries, in collaboration with the Government of Italy;

(b) Agriculture, in collaboration with the Government of the USSR;

(c) Geological sciences, in collaboration with the Government of the German Democratic Republic.

In addition, three United Nations meetings of experts are being planned for 1987:

(a) Space science and technology and its applications within the framework of educational systems, in collaboration with the Government of Nigeria; (b) Training of educators in space science and technology and related disciplines; (c) Future trends of remote sensing technology and its potential economic impact.

Furthermore, a fourth international training course on remote sensing applications to operational agro-meteorology and hydrology sponsored by the United Nations, WMO, FAO and ESA is also planned in 1987/1988 and should be implemented in collaboration with the Government of Indonesia.

14. With reference to the mandate on technical advisory services, the General Assembly requested Member States to provide information on their needs and requests in specific areas of space applications. At the request of the Government of Iraq, a technical advisory mission is currently being planned to assist Mosul University in the development of a training curriculum for a Masters degree programme in remote sensing technology.

V. INTERNATIONAL SPACE INFORMATION SERVICE

15. In paragraph 8 of its resolution 37/90, the General Assembly decided to establish an International Space Information Service, initially consisting of a directory of sources of information and data services to provide direction upon request to accessible data banks and information sources. The activities designed for the implementation of the service are outlined in paragraphs 17 and 18 of document A/AC.105/313. With regard to this mandate, the publication entitled Education, Training, Research, and Fellowship Opportunities in Space Science and Technology and its Applications: A Directory has been published as document A/AC.105/366. The Committee noted that the Directory will be updated periodically (approximately every three years) as appropriate. Efforts will be initiated to issue a United Nations directory of publications and literature on different aspects of space science and technology and its applications.

VI. STRENGTHENING OF THE OUTER SPACE AFFAIRS DIVISION OF THE SECRETARIAT

16. In paragraph 9 of its resolution 37/90, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Secretariat with an appropriate augmentation of technical personnel. On the basis of that resolution, a temporary P-5 post was established for 1983. This temporary post has been maintained for the biennium 1986-1987 for the follow-up activities of the Conference.

VII. VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

17. In paragraph 10 of its resolution 37/90, the General Assembly appealed to all Governments to make voluntary contributions, either in money or in kind, towards carrying out the recommendations of the Conference. In his note verbale dated 11 March 1983, the Secretary-General brought this paragraph to the attention of Member States, particularly with respect to the newly mandated and expanded activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. Member States and intergovernmental organizations that responded to the appeal since the fortieth session have been mentioned under appropriate headings in the report of the Committee. 2/

VIII. REGIONAL MECHANISMS OF CO-OPERATION

18. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 40/162, the Secretariat continued its efforts to strengthen the regional mechanisms of co-operation in carrying out various activities in the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference, in particular those relating to the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. 3/

IX. FUTURE WORK

19. Regarding the future implementation of the recommendations of the Conference, the Committee, at its 1986 session, endorsed the recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee to establish a Working Group of the Whole, beginning with its twenty-fourth session, to evaluate the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference, with a view to improving the execution of activities relating to international co-operation, particularly those included within the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, and to propose concrete steps to increase such co-operation as well as to make it more efficient.

Notes

1/ Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 9-21 August 1982 (A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1 and 2).

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, forty-first Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/41/20).

3/ Ibid., paras. 30 and 31.
