



General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.105/L.216/Add.4
11 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE

Forty-first session
Vienna, 3-12 June 1998

DRAFT REPORT OF THE FORTY-FIRST SESSION

B. Preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) by the Preparatory Committee for UNISPACE III

Background

1. The Committee, in its role as Preparatory Committee for UNISPACE III, noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 52/56, paragraph 23, had agreed that the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) should be convened at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999 as a special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, open to all States Members of the United Nations. In paragraph 24 of the same resolution, the Assembly had requested the Preparatory and Advisory Committees and the executive Secretariat to carry out their tasks in accordance with the recommendations made by the Preparatory Committee at its 1997 session, as contained in the report of the Committee on that session¹ and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

2. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/56, paragraph 17, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had reconvened the Working Group of the Whole, under the chairmanship of Muhammad Nasim Shah (Pakistan), to assist the Advisory Committee in giving full consideration to the tasks entrusted to it by the General Assembly.

3. The Working Group of the Whole had had before it a document prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.105/C.1/L.218) containing elements to be considered for inclusion in the full draft report of UNISPACE III and a report by the Secretariat on organizational matters relating to the holding of UNISPACE III (A/AC.105/685 and Corr.1). The Working Group had also had before it a note by the Secretariat concerning the participation of observers in the Conference (A/AC.105/C.1/1998/CRP.6).

4. Concerning the preparation of the draft report of UNISPACE III, the Working Group of the Whole had conducted section-by-section consideration of the text contained in document A/AC.105/C.1/L.218, and provided detailed comments concerning the structure and content of the text. The Working Group had noted that the Secretariat would prepare the first full draft report of the Conference for consideration by the Preparatory Committee at its 1998 session. The Working Group had also made recommendations concerning the organization of UNISPACE III, including the establishment of main committees and the composition of the bureau, consideration of agenda items, participation of international organizations and industry, rules of procedure, space exhibition, public evening lectures and regional preparatory meetings, which were reflected in the report of the Working Group to the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, annex II).

5. The Advisory Committee had noted that the report of the Working Group of the Whole provided the basis for the Preparatory Committee to carry out the task entrusted to it by the General Assembly (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, para. 54). The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee recommended that the Working Group of the Whole should be reconvened in 1999 in order to continue to assist the Advisory Committee in its preparatory work for UNISPACE III.

Decisions by the Preparatory Committee

6. The Preparatory Committee, having considered the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee, endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee as contained in its report to the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, annex II, paras. 13 to 43). The Committee agreed that the report of the Working Group provided the basis for the Preparatory Committee to carry out the task entrusted to it by the General Assembly in paragraph 24 of its resolution 52/56.

7. The Committee decided to establish a Working Group of the Whole, under the chairmanship of Ulrike Butschek (Austria), to assist the Committee in carrying out the tasks entrusted to it by the General Assembly. The Committee requested the Working Group to give full consideration to those tasks relating to the preparation of the draft report of UNISPACE III and the draft rules of procedure.

8. The Working Group of the Whole held ___ meetings. At the ___th meeting, the Chairman of the Working Group of the Whole reported to the Committee on the work conducted by the Working Group. The Committee agreed with the recommendations made by the Working Group as contained in paragraphs ___ to ___ below.

Preparation of the draft report of UNISPACE III

9. The Working Group of the Whole had before it a note by the Secretariat (A/CONF.184/PC/L.1) containing the text of the first full draft report. The Committee also had before it a working paper entitled “European position paper on the draft report of UNISPACE III” (A/CONF.184/PC/L.2), which had been submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on its own behalf and on that of the following other ESA member States: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

10. At its first meeting, the Working Group of the Whole decided to prepare an executive summary of the report and to revise the text of The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development, which was contained in section V of document A/CONF.184/PC/L.1. In that connection, the Working Group agreed to establish a drafting group to prepare texts of the executive summary and the Vienna Declaration. The drafting group was chaired by Iffat Imran Gardezi (Pakistan), with the assistance of Stéphane Lessard (Canada) to coordinate the work of the group.

11. The Working Group of the Whole conducted detailed consideration of the text contained in document A/CONF.184/PC/L.1 and provided a number of comments concerning the structure of the report and the content of the text. The Working Group agreed that on the basis of those comments, the Secretariat should revise the text and prepare the second full draft report in time for the 1999 session of the Advisory Committee, in order to finalize the text of the draft report.

12. At the ___th meeting of the Working Group of the Whole, the Chairman of the drafting group introduced the texts of the executive summary and Vienna Declaration, as contained in A/CONF.184/PC/CRP.4 and 7, respectively. The Working Group considered the texts and provided detailed comments. The text of the Vienna Declaration as revised by the Working Group is contained in annex ___ to the present report.

13. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that the Advisory Committee, at its 1999 session, should give further consideration to the revised text of the Vienna Declaration. The Working Group also agreed that on the basis of

comments made by the Working Group, the Secretariat should provide the Advisory Committee, at its 1999 session, with a revised text of the executive summary.

Rules of procedure

14. The Working Group of the Whole had before it draft provisional rules of procedures for UNISPACE III, contained in document A/CONF.184/PC/L.3. The Working Group also had before it a proposal by Greece, contained in document A/CONF.184/PC/CRP.6, concerning those draft provisional rules of procedure. The Working Group of the Whole considered those documents and made detailed comments.

15. The Working Group of the Whole agreed on the text of the draft provisional rules of procedures for UNISPACE III, as amended by the Working Group, which is contained in annex __ to the present report. The Working Group recommended that the draft provisional rules of procedure should be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session for its endorsement.

Organization of UNISPACE III

16. The Preparatory Committee had before it conference room papers prepared by the Secretariat concerning the organizations and industries to be invited to UNISPACE III (A/CONF.184/PC/CRP.1) and the organization of the Technical Forum (A/CONF.184/PC/CRP.2).

17. The Committee noted that the Secretariat would send invitations and information relating to UNISPACE III to Member States, including information on the space exhibition.

18. The Committee agreed that

Other matters

19. The Preparatory Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Legal Subcommittee concerning its contribution to UNISPACE III (see paragraph __ below).

20. The Preparatory Committee noted with satisfaction that within the framework of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and with the co-sponsorship of ESA, the regional preparatory conference for UNISPACE III for Asia and the Pacific had been successfully held at Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 22 May 1998.

21. The Preparatory Committee also noted with satisfaction that the Office for Outer Space Affairs had prepared background papers, contained in documents A/CONF.184/BP/1 to 12, covering the topics included in the provisional agenda for UNISPACE III, and expressed its appreciation to those space agencies, international organizations, space-related institutions and experts who had contributed information or reviewed those papers.

Notes

¹See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/52/20)*, sect. II.E.