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## **THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE**

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Vienna  
19-30 July 1999  
**Committee I**  
Agenda item 9  
**Benefits of basic space science and capacity-building**

### **Technical Forum**

#### **Conclusions and proposals of the Workshop on Space Debris**

1. The objective of the Workshop on Space Debris was to inform participants of the current status of the knowledge and the extent of the space debris problem, applied space debris mitigation measures and activities related to space debris by professional societies, the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.
2. Presentations were given on the following aspects of the space debris problem:
  - (a) The complete technical spectrum of the space debris issue, including measurements, modelling, mitigation (active and passive protective measures and debris preventative and reduction measures), the effects of the particulate environment on space systems, hazards in space and on the ground, and risk analysis;
  - (b) Space debris mitigation measures currently in use by space agencies and space operators;
  - (c) Activities related to space debris involving space agencies and IADC, including the definition of space debris mitigation guidelines and standards;
  - (d) Activities related to space debris involving professional organizations (the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation) and their recommendations;
  - (e) Deliberations of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on space debris.
3. The Workshop participants strongly supported the work being done by the United Nations, IADC, IAA and others to develop guidelines designed to minimize the creation of new debris objects.
4. In particular, it was recommended that:
  - (a) The United Nations should continue its work on space debris;
  - (b) Debris minimization measures should be applied uniformly and consistently by the entire international space-faring community;

(c) Studies should be continued on future possible solutions to reduce the population of on-orbit debris.

5. The Workshop concluded with a round-table discussion on the theme “Future directions of space debris research”. In the discussion, the issue of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space considering space debris was addressed.

6. It was noted that the current technical knowledge on space debris had been summarized in the technical report on space debris (A/AC.105/720) of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, which was fully supported by IAA.

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