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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 II**  
Agenda item 11  
**Economic and societal benefits**

### **Technical Forum**

#### **Conclusions and proposals of the Forum on Industrial Utilization of the International Space Station**

1. The conclusions and proposals below concern paragraphs 30, 33 and 34 of background paper 6, entitled "Basic science and microgravity research and their benefits" (A/CONF.184/BP/6, sect. IX).
2. The purpose of the Forum on Industrial Utilization of the International Space Station was to provide countries currently not involved in the International Space Station programme, commercial users and any other interested parties with innovative solutions geared towards the commercial utilization of the International Space Station.
3. This very complex issue was approached by first examining all the common features that could make the commercial exploitation of the International Space Station viable. Those common features were then illustrated by examples of how research in the International Space Station could be applied in different fields that were also of interest in terms of the priorities of countries that had not participated in projects involving human space flight.
4. Some typical applications were medicine (development of new medicines by means of protein crystallization in space), technology (testing and demonstration of new space communication technology) and the examination of properties of high-precision materials.
5. It was noted that commercial users of the International Space Station would expect low cost, short deadlines and ensured access for the services that they would purchase. Utilization of the International Space Station must be transformed into routine business. There was a discussion on how the transition might be managed, how potential commercial users viewed space-based opportunities and what they expected to receive for their investment in space-based investigations. The discrepancies between what existed and what was needed were highlighted. An outline was presented of an approach to making the transition from the current system to a system that could mesh with the established mechanisms of industrial capitalism.
6. There was a discussion on mechanisms for sharing the use of the International Space Station with the general public and for encouraging the involvement of developing countries in its utilization.

7. The Forum on Industrial Utilization of the International Space Station agreed on the following conclusions and proposals:

(a) International partnerships and cooperation between countries and companies involved in the operation and utilization of the International Space Station and those countries not yet participating in that endeavour should determine how to utilize the Space Station for their benefit;

(b) Information about access to use of the International Space Station needed to be disseminated throughout the world in order to increase awareness of the matter in countries not yet participating in that endeavour;

(c) Mechanisms for improving accessibility from a technical and financial point of view (for example, loans from the World Bank) should be established to simplify utilization of the International Space Station, especially for developing countries.

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