



General Assembly

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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Forty-second session

14-16 July 1999

Agenda item 9

Report of the Committee to the General Assembly

Draft report

Chapter I

Introduction

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its forty-second session at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 14 to 16 July 1999. The officers of the Committee were as follows:

<i>Chairman:</i>	U. R. Rao (India)
<i>Vice-Chairman:</i>	Raimundo González (Chile)
<i>Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur:</i>	Mohamed Aït Belaïd (Morocco)

The verbatim unedited transcripts of the meetings of the Committee are contained in documents COPUOS/T.456 [...].

Meetings of subsidiary bodies

2. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had held its thirty-sixth session at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 22 to 26 February 1999 under the chairmanship of Dietrich Rex (Germany). The report of the Subcommittee was issued as document A/AC.105/719.

3. The Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had held its thirty-eighth session at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 1 to 5 March 1999 under the chairmanship of Vladimír Kopal (Czech Republic). The report of the Subcommittee was issued as document A/AC.105/721. The verbatim unedited transcripts of the meetings of the Subcommittee are contained in documents COPUOS/Legal/T.613 to 621.

Adoption of the agenda

4. At its opening meeting, the Committee adopted the following agenda:
 1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Election of officers.
 3. Statement by the Chairman.
 4. General exchange of views.
 5. 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.
 6. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-sixth session.
 7. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-eighth session.
 8. Other matters.
 9. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

Membership and attendance

5. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1721 E (XVI) of 20 December 1961, 3182 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 32/196 B of 20 December 1977, 35/16 of 3 November 1980 and 49/33 of 9 December 1994 and decision 45/315 of 11 December 1990, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was composed of the following Member States: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba,¹ Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea,¹ Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia.

6. At its 456th, [...]th, and [...]th meetings, the Committee decided to invite, at their request, the representatives of Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Finland, Guatemala, the Holy See, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates to attend its forty-second session and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that it would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

7. Representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) also attended the session.

¹ Malaysia and Peru are also members of the Committee and have rotated every two years since 1 January 1995 with the Republic of Korea and Cuba, respectively.

8. Representatives of the European Space Agency (ESA), the International Mobile Satellite Organization (Inmarsat), the International Organization of Space Communications (INTERSPUTNIK), the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) also attended the session.

9. A list of delegations and representatives attending the session is contained in document A/AC.105/XLII/INF/1. The States members of the Committee attending the session were: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela and Viet Nam.

Proceedings

Bureau of the Committee

10. At its forty-first session, in 1998, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had been informed that Mouslim Kabbaj (Morocco) would be unable to complete his term of office as Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur of the Committee. The Committee had recalled the agreement that it had reached in 1997 on the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies,² which provided that when any officer could not complete a term, the regional group holding the office concerned should nominate a candidate to be elected at the beginning of the session that immediately followed the termination of that officer's tenure.

11. The Committee noted that its members had been informed in a note verbale dated 22 October 1998 that the Group of African States had nominated Mohamed Aït Belaïd (Morocco) as its candidate for the office of Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur of the Committee. In addition, the nomination had been brought to the attention of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-sixth session, in 1999 (A/AC.105/719, para. 91).

12. At its 456th meeting, the Committee elected Mohamed Aït Belaïd (Morocco) as Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur of the Committee for the remainder of the term of that office.

13. At its thirty-eighth session, in 1999, the Legal Subcommittee had been informed that Václav Mikulka (Czech Republic) would be unable to complete his term of office as Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee. The Committee recalled that, in accordance with the agreement that it had reached in 1997,³ any election taking place in a Subcommittee to replace an officer who was not able to complete a term should be approved retroactively by the Committee at its session held in the same year. The Committee noted that, in accordance with agreed procedure, the Legal Subcommittee, at its thirty-eighth session, had elected Vladimír Kopal (Czech Republic) as Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee for the remainder of the term of that office (A/AC.105/721, para. 2).

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/52/20), annex I.*

³ *Ibid.*, para. [...].

14. At its 456th meeting, the Committee approved retroactively the election of Vladimír Kopal (Czech Republic) as Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee for the remainder of the term of that office.

Statements

15. At its 456th and 457th meetings, the Committee held a general exchange of views, in the course of which statements were made by the representatives of Ecuador (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Colombia, France, Germany, Greece, the Republic of Korea, Romania, India, Indonesia and the United States of America.

16. At the 456th meeting, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat made a statement reviewing the work of the Office during the previous year, the situation regarding the preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) and the documentation before the Committee.

17. At its [...]th meeting, the Committee heard a statement by the Expert on Space Applications of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. At the 456th meeting, a special presentation was made by the representative of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) on the space exhibition for UNISPACE III.

18. After considering the various items before it, the Committee, at its [...]th meeting, on 16 July 1999, adopted its report to the General Assembly containing the recommendations and decisions set out below.
