



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
16 July 1999

Original: English

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

Addendum

Chapter II

A. 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

1. Background

1. The Preparatory Committee for UNISPACE III noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 53/45 of 3 December 1998, had noted with satisfaction that the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) would 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. The Preparatory Committee also noted that the Assembly, in paragraph 22 of the same resolution, had endorsed the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee at its 1998 session, contained in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its forty-first session,¹ and had requested the Preparatory Committee, the Advisory Committee and the executive secretariat for UNISPACE III to carry out their tasks in accordance with those recommendations.

2. The Preparatory Committee noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/45, paragraph 18, the Advisory Committee had reconvened the Working Group of the Whole, under the chairmanship of Ulrike Butschek (Austria), to assist the Advisory Committee in finalizing its preparatory work for UNISPACE III. The Preparatory Committee also noted that the chairperson had been assisted by Latha Reddy (India) in coordinating the work on organizational matters concerning UNISPACE III.

3. The Preparatory Committee also noted that, at its 1999 session, the Working Group of the Whole had had before it a note by the Secretariat (A/CONF.184/PC/1) containing the revised text of the full draft report, prepared on the basis of detailed comments made by the Preparatory Committee at its 1998 session, and the revised draft texts of the Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development and the executive summary of the draft report. The Working Group had also had before it documents containing the recommendations of the regional preparatory conferences for UNISPACE III for Asia and the Pacific and for Africa and the Middle East (A/CONF.184/PC/L.5) and for Latin America and the Caribbean and for Eastern Europe (A/CONF.184/PC/L.5/Add.1). The Working Group had also had before it a report prepared by the Secretariat on organizational matters relating to the holding of UNISPACE III (A/CONF.184/PC/L.4) and conference room papers (A/CONF.184/PC/CRP.12 and Add.1) prepared by the Secretariat containing additional and updated information for that report.
4. Concerning the preparation of the draft report of UNISPACE III, the Working Group of the Whole had considered, section by section, the revised text of the draft report. On the basis of comments and proposals made in the Working Group, it had prepared a revised draft of the Vienna Declaration (A/CONF.184/PC/CRP.18/Rev.1), to which all the recommendations of the regional preparatory conferences for UNISPACE III would be annexed. The Working Group had agreed that, on the basis of the comments made, the executive secretariat should revise the draft of the Vienna Declaration and finish preparing the draft report well ahead of the 1999 session of the Preparatory Committee, for distribution to all Member States.
5. The Preparatory Committee noted that the Working Group of the Whole had made recommendations on issues related to the organization of UNISPACE III, including the distribution of offices of the General Committee, the establishment of a drafting group, the allocation of agenda items and the schedule of work of the Plenary, Committee I and Committee II and arrangements for the activities of the Technical Forum (A/AC.105/719, annex II, paras. 12-17).
6. The Preparatory Committee also noted that the Advisory Committee, at its 1999 session, had adopted the report of the Working Group of the Whole and had noted that the report would provide the basis for the Preparatory Committee to finalize its preparations for UNISPACE III (A/AC.105/719, para. 17).
7. The Preparatory Committee also noted that the Legal Subcommittee, at its thirty-eighth session, in 1999, had reviewed the text of the subsection entitled "International space law" of the revised text of the draft report of UNISPACE III (A/CONF.184/PC/1) and had provided comments on the text. The Legal Subcommittee had agreed that those comments should be reflected in the final full draft report to be prepared by the Secretariat. The Legal Subcommittee had also agreed that comments made on paragraph 323 of the revised text of the draft report during its thirty-eighth session should be brought to the attention of the Preparatory Committee (A/AC.105/721, paras. 69-71).
8. The Preparatory Committee noted that the General Assembly, in paragraph 27 of its resolution 53/45, had agreed that pre-Conference consultations by all States Members of the United Nations should be convened on 18 July 1999 at the site of UNISPACE III, within existing resources, and had requested the Preparatory Committee to report during the consultations on the work that it had conducted. The Preparatory Committee noted that its recommendations concerning the organizational and procedural matters relating to UNISPACE III would be reflected in a document to be prepared by the Secretariat for consideration in the pre-Conference consultations.

2. Action taken by the Preparatory Committee

9. The Preparatory Committee, having considered the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee, endorsed the report of the Working Group of the Whole (A/AC.105/719, annex II). The Preparatory 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 22 of its resolution 53/45.

Preparations of the draft report

10. The Preparatory Committee had before it a note by the Secretariat (A/CONF.184/3 and Corr.1) containing the text of the draft report of UNISPACE III, which had been revised by the Secretariat on the basis of comments made by the Advisory Committee at its 1999 session. The text also reflected the comments made by the Legal Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session, in 1999, on the subsection entitled "International space law" in an earlier version of the draft report (A/CONF.184/PC/1). The Preparatory Committee also had before it a conference room paper (A/CONF.184/PC/CRP.22) containing comments made by the Legal Subcommittee on text not included in that subsection, as well as technical corrections made by the European Association for the International Space Year (EURISY).

11. The Preparatory Committee considered, section by section, the text of the draft report contained in the note by the Secretariat (A/CONF.184/3 and Corr.1). The Preparatory Committee agreed that the revised text contained in that document, together with the comments made on the text at its 1999 session, should be forwarded to UNISPACE III for consideration.

Organization

12. With regard to the offices of the General Committee, the Preparatory Committee had before it a note verbale dated 12 July 1999 from the Russian Federation informing the Office for Outer Space Affairs that Yuri Koptev would not be able to fulfil his duties as Vice-Chairman of Committee I. The Preparatory Committee noted that Mr. Koptev had been recommended by the Advisory Committee as the candidate for that office. The Preparatory Committee agreed that Alexander V. Yakovenko (Russian Federation) should be the candidate for Vice-Chairman of Committee I and that the composition and distribution of the offices for UNISPACE III should be as follows: for the Plenary, U. R. Rao (India) as President, Raimundo González (Chile) as Vice-President, and Mohamed Aït Belaïd (Morocco) as Rapporteur-General; for Committee I, Dietrich Rex (Germany) as Chairman, Alexander V. Yakovenko (Russian Federation) as Vice-Chairman and R. A. Boroffice (Nigeria) as Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur; for Committee II, Shunji Murai (Japan) as Chairman, Vladimir Kopal (Czech Republic) as Vice-Chairman and Luiz Gylvan Meira Filho (Brazil) as Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur; and for the Technical Forum, Peter Jankowitsch (Austria) as Chairman.

13. Concerning the membership of the Drafting Group, to be chaired by the Rapporteur-General of the Plenary and to consist of two representatives from each of the five regional groups, chosen on the basis of the recommendations by the Advisory Committee (A/AC.105/719, annex II, para. 14), the Preparatory Committee agreed that the following individuals should be included in the Drafting Group: Dawlat Hassen (Egypt) and Mongezi Tshongweni (South Africa), for Africa; Sridhara Murthy (India) and Mazlan Othman (Malaysia), for Asia and the Pacific; Dumitru Dorin Prunariu (Romania) and Arif Mehdiyev (Azerbaijan), for Eastern Europe; Alejandra Bonilla (Colombia) and Raúl Pelaez (Argentina),

for Latin America and the Caribbean; and Gabriella Venturini (Italy) and Lynn F. H. Cline (United States of America), for Western Europe and other States.

14. The Preparatory Committee agreed that the Rapporteurs of Committee I and Committee II should also serve as the Vice-Chairmen of those bodies. The Preparatory Committee recommended that the text of rule 7, paragraph 1, of the provisional rules of procedure of UNISPACE III (A/CONF.184/2) should be modified to reflect that agreement. Having endorsed the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the participation of national organizations and on the statements to be made by space-related international organizations without observer status with the General Assembly or the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/AC.105/719, annex II, paras. 18 and 19), the Preparatory Committee agreed that the texts of rules 15 and 16 of the provisional rules of procedure should be modified to reflect those recommendations.

Voluntary contributions

15. The Preparatory Committee noted with appreciation that the Government of Austria, the province of Styria, the city of Graz and the city of Vienna had provided substantial financial assistance by renting space in the Austria Center Vienna, seconding a junior professional staff member, co-sponsoring the activities of the Technical Forum, in particular the Space Generation Forum, and organizing social activities for participants of UNISPACE III. The Preparatory Committee also noted with appreciation the contributions of the Government of France, the Indian Space Research Organization, the National Space Development Agency (NASDA) of Japan and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States of America for seconding experts to augment the capacity of the executive secretariat in preparing for and servicing UNISPACE III. The Preparatory Committee further noted with appreciation the cash and in-kind contributions by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Centre national d'études spatiales (CNES) of France, the British National Space Centre and ESA, as well as the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), Austrian Aerospace, Austrian Airlines, Austrospace, the Boeing Company, Imax Filmtheater, Lockheed Martin Space Operations, Mobilkom Austria, Optikhaus Binder and Saab Ericsson Aerospace, which enabled the executive secretariat to support the organization of the Space Generation Forum, publish the final programme, reproduce posters, rent conference facilities and provide financial assistance to participants from developing countries.

16. The Preparatory Committee noted that the question of the participation of least developed countries had been raised in the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly at its fifty-third session. The Preparatory Committee noted with satisfaction that, through voluntary contributions, the executive secretariat had been able to provide a limited amount of financial assistance to delegations of least developed countries and persons from developing countries who would be participating in activities of the Technical Forum.

Work to be conducted after UNISPACE III

17. The Preparatory Committee agreed that the executive secretariat should prepare a report, for submission to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, on the organizational matters relating to UNISPACE III, providing other entities in the United Nations system with guidelines on using existing resources to organize a conference on global issues.

18. The Preparatory Committee recommended that the Working Group of the Whole should be reconvened by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session, in 2000, to assist the Subcommittee in considering its future work in the light of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

Notes

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/53/20), paras. 23-44.*