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Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for 2026

(Item 3 (a))

Programme 5 Peaceful uses of outer space

1. At its 7th meeting, on 15 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 6\)](#)).

Discussion

2. Delegations expressed their appreciation and support for the work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs on the peaceful uses of outer space and welcomed the 2026 programme plan and the targets achieved in 2024. The Office's work on sustainable development, disaster mitigation, environmental risk management and the integration of gender perspectives and promotion of women's participation in space activities was welcomed.

3. Delegations noted the many advantages of cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space for developed and developing nations. The benefits of international cooperation with regard to climate change, environmental monitoring, natural resource management, precision farming and agriculture, and management of water resources was noted. The view was expressed that such cooperation empowered Member States to pursue national development goals, and the importance of preserving outer space for peaceful purposes was underscored. Several delegations emphasized the importance of advancing space exploration through innovation, cooperation and sustainable governance, and of harnessing peaceful uses of outer space for the benefit of all humanity.



4. The Office's mandate as the custodian for the United Nations treaties governing the rights and obligations of States in space was acknowledged, and the role of the Office as a key multilateral forum for fostering conducive environments that strengthened the safety, stability and sustainability of space activities and capacity-building in space law and policy was supported. Several delegations acknowledged the important role of the Office as the substantive secretariat of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. A delegation opined that technical advisory missions, visits by experts and legal support provided by the Office were highly relevant for the signing, ratification and global adoption of space treaties.

5. Delegations emphasized the critical role of the Office and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in ensuring that space was governed under the principles of the rule of law, equity and peaceful cooperation. A delegation expressed support for the consensus decision-making by the Committee and expressed the view that maintaining its effectiveness should be one of the Office's top priorities. Another delegation noted that the United Nations space treaties were the foundational framework for space activities and that the Committee and its Legal Subcommittee were the central platforms for developing the legal framework. The work of Committee in contributing to the agreement of guidelines, standards and norms for enabling the safe and sustainable exploration and use of space by future generations was recognized. The Office's role in implementing relevant aspects of the legal framework, including maintenance of the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space, was noted.

6. A delegation advocated for stronger global frameworks to address challenges such as space debris, cybersecurity threats and equitable access to outer space. The importance of using the allocated time for the annual session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space efficiently to ensure delivery on its core mandate, including the review and adoption of reports and the advancement of negotiations on the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE IV), was emphasized. Another delegation opined that resources intended for the activities of the Committee should not be used for other activities of the Office. The significant reduction in the number of intersessional consultations of the working groups of the Committee in 2025 and 2026 was noted with concern, given its negative impact on effectiveness in addressing a number of pressing issues.

7. Delegations commended the Office's focus on supporting the long-term sustainability of outer space activities to support capacity-building and the development of space law. A delegation emphasized that priority should be given to strengthening the capacity-building of countries that were developing their peaceful national space programmes and leveraging the benefits of space technologies. The Office was commended for its work in a rapidly growing sector and initiatives in space debris mitigation and management of space resources. Clarification was sought on how the Office's efforts on the sustainability of outer space activities and their outcomes could be further enhanced.

8. A delegation opined that space technologies were vital for economic growth, sustainability and global progress and required effective regulation to ensure long-term safety, and noted that the Pact for the Future recognized the role of space in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Several delegations observed that UNISPACE IV would provide a crucial opportunity to advance international cooperation in space governance.

9. Delegations recognized the increase in the work of the Office over the years and noted that space activities had seen growing relevance, with increasing space traffic and an increasing number of objects launched into space. A delegation enquired as to whether such a trend reflected an increase in demand by Member States for the

support of the Office, and whether the Office could fulfil its mandate adequately. The Office was commended for maintaining and expanding its programmatic activities despite difficult financial and staffing constraints, while a delegation enquired as to how Member States could help the Office to meet the increasing demand for services. A delegation opined that the Office's extrabudgetary activities should be based on the principle of maximum transparency and subsequent reporting to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Chair emphasized that matters related to the parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

10. With regard to paragraph 6.8, clarification was sought on the Office's role as an inter-agency hub for the procurement of space-based information and the potential efficiencies. A delegation encouraged the Office to use metrics and goals to track the peaceful uses of outer space, such as the number of conjunctions or collisions avoided as a result of communication between space actors, or progress towards the development of a space situational awareness platform enabling better communication and standards between regional systems. The delegation opined that better metrics would demonstrate end results or lack thereof, which was important. Clarification was also sought on the potential metrics that Member States could consider.

11. It was noted that while the rapid development of space science and technology had brought new types of space activities, including a significant increase in commercial space activities benefiting humanity, it had also led to emerging challenges for global governance of outer space. The Office's contribution to global governance and international cooperation in outer space was noted. A delegation opined that the Office should continue to uphold the international order in outer space on the basis of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, and enhance the inclusiveness of international cooperation in outer space to ensure the right of developing countries to use science and technology for peaceful purposes and participate in international cooperation. Outer space governance as a critical enabler for development, peace and security, and the protection of current and future generations was recognized, and its potential to support global equity, resilience, peace and development, particularly for the least developed countries, was emphasized.
