UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/43/562
30 August 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-third session
Item 75 of the provisional agenda*

# INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

## Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

## Report of the Secretary-General

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 42/68 of 2 December 1987, requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-third session on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. 1/

2. In response to that request, the present report provides information on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference.

3. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space considered the question of the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference during their 1988 sessions. Accordingly, the information contained in the present report reflects primarily the result of the work of the Committee, whose report is also before the General Assembly. 2/

## II. WORKING GROUP OF THE WHOLE TO EVALUATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

4. The Working Group of the Whole was reconvened by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its 1988 session in accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/68, with a view to improving the execution of activities relating to international co-operation, particularly those included in the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, and to proposing concrete steps to increase such co-operation and make it more efficient.

5. At its 1988 session, the Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole as contained in its report (A/AC.105/409 and Corr.1, annex II). The Committee recommended that the Working Group of the Whole should be reconvened the following year to continue its work.

## III. INTER-AGENCY CO-OPERATION

6. In paragraph 22 of its resolution 42/68, the General Assembly requested all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations working in the field of outer space or on space-related matters to co-operate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference. In that connection, the Committee noted with appreciation the participation in all stages of its work and that of its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee by representatives of United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other international organizations.

7. United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, particularly the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), have extensive space-related programmes that are contributing to the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Details of these programmes can be found in the yearly reports of the Secretary-General on co-ordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system. The latest report (A/AC.105/389) contains an overview of the agencies' work programmes for 1988 and 1989.

8. The tenth session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities is scheduled to be held in October 1988 at the headquarters of WMO to discuss, *inter alia*, the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference and the report of a special *ad hoc* group that had undertaken, as a first step, an in-depth review of remote-sensing applications within the United Nations system.

9. At its 1988 session, the Committee endorsed the view of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee that the United Nations should continue to seek the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other international funding institutions and that the secretariat should take note of, and operate within, the UNDP funding procedures.

## IV. STUDIES

10. At its 1988 session, the Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole made at its second session, held in 1988, and noted that they included certain studies and reports of relevance to the recommendations of the Conference. The Committee also noted that the final report of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) on space debris, as requested by the Working Group of the Whole at its first session, held in 1987 (see A/AC.105/383 and Corr.1, annex II, para. 13 (d)), would be submitted to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its twenty-sixth session, to be held in 1989.

## V. UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON SPACE APPLICATIONS

11. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 37/90 of 10 December 1982, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Conference that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should be directed towards seven specific objectives. The plans of action for carrying out those activities are contained in the report of the United Nations Expert on Space Applications on the translation of space-applications-related recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space into operational programmes (A/AC.105/313).

12. Activities carried out or planned under the Programme in 1988, in co-operation with other United Nations bodies, include two short-term training courses on remote-sensing applications. The first, which focused on the applications of remote sensing and agrometeorological data to drought assessment and vegetation monitoring, was organized by the United Nations, FAO, WMO and the European Space Agency (ESA) in co-operation with the Government of France and the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing at Nairobi; the second, which will focus on remote-sensing applications to water resources, is being organized by the United Nations, FAO and UNESCO in co-operation with the Government of Italy. In addition, two workshops are being organized: the first, which will focus on microwave remote-sensing technology, is being organized by the United Nations and ESA in co-operation with the Government of Thailand; the second, which will focus on regional space information systems, is being organized by the United Nations in co-operation with the Government of Peru. Finally, an international seminar on developments and applications of communications systems will be organized in co-operation with the Government of China.

13. In promoting the development of indigenous capability, the Programme awarded 38 long-range fellowships (2 by Austria, 10 by Brazil, 3 by the German Democratic Republic, 20 (1986 and 1987 combined offers) by the USSR and 3 by ESA) in 1987 for in-depth training of participants from developing countries in the areas of microwave technology, satellite communications engineering, satellite meteorology, basic space sciences, satellite geodesy, cartography, aerial photography and remote sensing. All of those fellowships have been renewed for the period 1988/89 in the same disciplines as those offered in 1987, and in the case of the fellowships offered by the German Democratic Republic and the USSR, for 1989/90 as well. In addition, in the case of the fellowships offered by the USSR, their number has now been increased to 15 new fellowships being awarded annually.

14. The United Nations Programme on Space Applications issued a guidebook entitled Fellowship and Training Opportunities Offered Within the Framework of the United Nations Space Applications Programme (SAP/88/001), along with the corresponding instructions and application booklets (SAP/88/002 and SAP/88/003) for the use of potential applicants for the long-term fellowship programme and the short-term training courses, respectively.

15. In 1989, the following three short-term training courses are planned:

(a) A United Nations/FAO international training course with emphasis on remote-sensing image analysis and geographical information systems, in co-operation with the Government of Italy;

(b) A United Nations international training course on remote-sensing applications to forestry and geographical information systems, in co-operation with the Government of the USSR;

(c) A United Nations/FAO/WMO/ESA training course on the use of infra-red and radar sensor systems in hydrological and agrometeorological applications, in co-operation with the Government of Australia;

(d) A United Nations training course on remote-sensing applications to geology, in co-operation with the Government of the German Democratic Republic.

In addition, the following workshops are planned for 1989:

(a) A United Nations workshop on space communications for development with special emphasis on current and future developments, rural communication, search and rescue missions, and disaster relief, to be organized for the benefit of Member States in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean region;

(b) A United Nations workshop on oceanographic/marine space information systems for the Indian Ocean region, being organized for the benefit of Member States in the Indian Ocean region;

(c) A United Nations/ESA workshop on remote-sensing technology and meteorological applications to marine resources and coastal management, to be held at Maspalomas, Spain;

(d) A United Nations workshop on long-term development of remote-sensing skills and knowledge to be hosted by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and organized at the University of Dundee, Dundee, United Kingdom.

16. With reference to the mandate on technical advisory services, the General Assembly has requested Member States to provide information on their needs and requests in specific areas of space applications. In that connection, the Programme on Space Applications is conducting consultations with UNDP on assisting and collaborating with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) regarding the establishment of a remote-sensing information system programme (see A/AC.105/396 and Corr.1, para. 4 (a)). In addition, the Programme will continue to collaborate with the Government of China in setting up a satellite communications and television education programme for China (ibid., para. 4 (c)). Finally, a number of activities have been proposed by the Programme to contribute to activities in space technology applications in the Indian Ocean region (ibid., para. 4 (d)).

## VI. TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES

17. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 37/90, the General Assembly decided that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should, upon request by Member States or any of the specialized agencies, be directed towards the provision or arrangements for provision of technical advisory services on space applications projects. With regard to this mandate, the Programme offered assistance in four regional areas:

(a) To ECA, by developing a project document on the "Remote sensing information programme for Africa". This activity was financed by UNDP;

(b) To the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), by developing a project proposal on "Educating the educators, with special emphasis on the development of indigenous capability in remote sensing technology". ESCWA has since developed this proposal into a project document for which it is currently seeking funding;

(c) To China, by developing a project proposal for the establishment of a national telecommunications development centre. China has since developed this proposal into a project document;

(d) To the Interministerial Committee of the Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Co-operation (IOMAC), by proposing three pilot projects on the use of remote-sensing technology to enhance the efficiency of fishing yield, including the management of coastal environment and pollution monitoring.

Details of those activities are contained in document A/AC.105/396, paragrahs 4 (a) and 4 (b).

## VII. INTERNATIONAL SPACE INFORMATION SERVICE

18. In paragraph 8 of its resolution 37/90, the General Assembly decided to establish an International Space Information Service, initially consisting of a directory of sources of information and data services to provide direction upon request to accessible data banks and information sources. The activities planned for the implementation of the Service are outlined in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the report of the United Nations Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/313). With regard to this mandate, a second addendum to the publication entitled Education, Training, Research and Fellowship Opportunities in Space Science and Technology and its Applications: A Directory (A/AC.105/366/Add.2) and a publication entitled Information Systems on Space Science and Technology: A Directory (A/AC.105/397/Rev.1) have been published. The Committee noted that both directories would be updated as may be necessary and possible within existing resources.

## VIII. VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

19. In paragraph 10 of its resolution 37/90, the General Assembly appealed to all Governments to make voluntary contributions, either in money or in kind, towards carrying out the recommendations of the Conference. In his note verbale dated 11 March 1983, the Secretary-General brought that paragraph to the attention of Member States, particularly with respect to the newly mandated and expanded activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. Member States and intergovernmental organizations that responded to the appeal since the forty-second session of the Assembly have been mentioned under appropriate headings in the report of the Committee. The Committee took note of the disappointment expressed by the developing countries at the lack of financial resources to implement the recommendations of the Conference.

## IX. REGIONAL MECHANISMS OF CO-OPERATION

20. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 42/68, the Secretariat continued its efforts to strengthen the regional mechanisms of co-operation in carrying out various activities in the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference, in particular those relating to the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

### Notes

1/ See Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 9-21 August 1982 (A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1 and 2).

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/43/20).

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