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

**Report of the Special Political Committee**

**Rapporteur: Mr. Jean-Michel VERANNEMAN de WATERVLIET (Belgium)**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The item entitled "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-third session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 42/68 of 2 December 1987.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1988, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee.
3. The Special Political Committee considered the item at its 6th to 10th meetings, on 18 to 21 and 24 October 1988 (see A/SPC/43/SR.6-10).
4. The Committee had before it the following documents:
  - (a) Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; 1/
  - (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/43/562).

\* Reissued for technical reasons.

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

5. The Committee also had before it a note verbale dated 13 January 1988 from the Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/43/97) and a letter dated 6 October 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/43/709).

6. At the 6th meeting, on 18 October, Mr. Petre Tanasie, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and Permanent Representative of Romania, introduced the report of the Committee on behalf of its Chairman, Mr. Peter Jankowitsch.

## II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/SPC/43/L.5

7. At the 10th meeting on 24 October, the representative of Austria introduced a draft resolution entitled "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space" (A/SPC/43/L.5), on behalf of the Working Group on International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space of the Special Political Committee, which, in accordance with the decision of the Special Political Committee at its 2nd meeting, on 6 October, was established under the chairmanship of the representative of Austria to work out a draft resolution on this item. He expressed the hope that the resolution would be adopted without a vote.

8. The draft resolution was sponsored by Austria on behalf of the Working Group on International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space of the Special Political Committee.

9. At its 10th meeting, on 24 October, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 11).

10. The representative of Mexico explained her country's position on the draft resolution.

## III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

11. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

### International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 42/68 of 2 December 1987,

Deeply convinced of the common interest of mankind in promoting the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, and of the

importance of international co-operation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

Reaffirming the importance of international co-operation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and their important role in international co-operation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Gravely concerned at the extension of an arms race into outer space,

Recognizing that all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, should contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Aware of the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to the socio-economic advancement of mankind, in particular the peoples of developing countries,

Taking note of the progress achieved in the further development of peaceful space exploration and application as well as in various national and co-operative space projects, which contribute to international co-operation in this field,

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General 2/ on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 3/

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its thirty-first session, 4/

1. Endorses the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

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2/ A/43/562.

3/ 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).

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

2. Invites States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space <sup>5/</sup> to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties;

3. Notes that the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its twenty-seventh session, in its working groups, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/68; <sup>6/</sup>

4. Endorses the recommendations of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Legal Sub-Committee at its twenty-eighth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries, should:

(a) Continue the elaboration of draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space through its working group;

(b) Continue, through its working group, its consideration of matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union;

(c) Consider the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries;

5. Urges the Legal Sub-Committee at its twenty-eighth session, in the context of paragraph 4 (c) above, to pursue, with a view to finalizing, its consideration of the question of the establishment of a working group under this agenda item in order to ensure a satisfactory outcome of the substantive deliberations under this item;

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<sup>5/</sup> Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 2222 (XXI), annex); Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 2345 (XXII), annex); Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex); Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex); Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 34/68, annex).

<sup>6/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/43/20), sect. C.

6. Notes that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its twenty-fifth session continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/68; 7/

7. Endorses the recommendations of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its twenty-sixth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries, should:

(a) Consider the following items on a priority basis:

- (i) United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the co-ordination of space activities within the United Nations system;
- (ii) Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;
- (iii) Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites including, inter alia, applications for developing countries;
- (iv) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space;

(b) Consider the following items:

- (i) Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space;
- (ii) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries;
- (iii) Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine;
- (iv) Progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme; the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation should be invited to present reports and arrange a special presentation on this subject;
- (v) Matters relating to planetary exploration;
- (vi) Matters relating to astronomy;

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7/ Ibid., sect. B.

- (vii) The theme fixed for special attention of the 1989 session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee: "Space technology as an instrument for combating environmental problems, particularly those of developing countries" (the theme relates to problems such as desertification, deforestation, floods, erosion and pest infestation that are of particular interest to developing countries); the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation should be invited to arrange a symposium, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the Sub-Committee's session, after the adjournment of its meetings, to complement discussions within the Sub-Committee;

8. Considers, in the context of paragraph 7 (a) (ii) above, that it is particularly urgent to implement the following recommendations:

(a) All countries should have the opportunity to use the techniques resulting from medical studies in space;

(b) Data banks at the national and regional levels should be strengthened and expanded and an international space information service should be established to function as a centre of co-ordination;

(c) The United Nations should support the creation of adequate training centres at the regional level, linked, whenever possible, to institutions implementing space programmes; necessary funding for the development of such centres should be made available through financial institutions;

(d) The United Nations should organize a fellowship programme through which selected graduates or post-graduates from developing countries should get in-depth, long-term exposure to space technology or applications; it is also desirable to encourage the availability of opportunities for such exposures on other bilateral and multilateral bases outside the United Nations system;

9. Endorses the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should reconvene, at its twenty-sixth session, 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, with a view to improving the execution of activities relating to international co-operation, particularly those included within the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, and to proposing concrete steps to increase such co-operation as well as to make it more efficient;

10. Endorses the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, as endorsed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and as contained in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report of the Working Group of the Whole; g/

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g/ A/AC.105/409 and Corr.1, annex II.

11. Endorses the decision of the Committee to consider at its next session the advisability of the General Assembly declaring 1992 as international space year, as well as its request that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee consider recommendations regarding possible activities that might be undertaken during an international space year, including those of interest for developing countries, taking note of the major contributions of the relevant international organizations planning an international space year;

12. Decides that, during the twenty-sixth session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space shall be reconvened to conduct additional work on the basis of its previous reports and of subsequent reports of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee;

13. Endorses the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 1989, as proposed to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space by the Expert on Space Applications; 2/

14. Emphasizes the urgency and importance of implementing fully the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as early as possible;

15. Reaffirms its approval of the recommendation of the Conference regarding the establishment and strengthening of regional mechanisms of co-operation and their promotion and creation through the United Nations system;

16. Expresses its appreciation to all Governments that have made or expressed their intention to make contributions towards carrying out the recommendations of the Conference;

17. Invites all Governments to take effective action for the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;

18. Urges all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international co-operation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

19. Takes note of the views expressed and documents circulated during the thirty-first session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and during the forty-third session of the General Assembly concerning ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes;

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2/ See A/AC.105/396 and Corr.1, sect. III.

20. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

21. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to consider at its thirty-second session a new agenda item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status";

22. Affirms that the interference that satellite systems to be newly established may cause to systems already registered with the International Telecommunication Union shall not exceed the limits specified in the relevant provision of the Radio Regulations of the Union applicable to space services;

23. Requests 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;

24. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;

25. Requests the specialized agencies and other international organizations to continue and, where appropriate, enhance their co-operation with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and to provide it with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

26. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its work, in accordance with the present resolution, to consider, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future.

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