



# General Assembly

Distr.: Limited  
5 June 2009

Original: English

---

**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space  
Fifty-second session  
Vienna, 3-12 June 2009**

## Draft report

## Chapter I

## Introduction

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its fifty-second session in Vienna from 3 to 12 June 2009. The officers of the Committee were as follows:

<i>Chairman:</i>	Ciro Arévalo Yepes (Colombia)
<i>First Vice-Chairman:</i>	Suvit Vibulsresth (Thailand)
<i>Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur:</i>	Filipe Duarte Santos (Portugal)

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

### A. Meetings of subsidiary bodies

2. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had held its forty-sixth session in Vienna from 9 to 20 February 2009, under the chairmanship of Aboubekr Seddik Kedjar (Algeria). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/933).

3. The Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had held its forty-eighth session in Vienna from 23 March to 3 April 2009, under the chairmanship of Vladimír Kopal (Czech Republic). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/935). The unedited verbatim transcripts of the meetings of the Subcommittee are contained in documents COPUOS/Legal/T.783-802.



## **B. Adoption of the agenda**

4. At its opening meeting, the Committee adopted the following agenda:
  1. Opening of the session.
  2. Adoption of the agenda.
  3. Statement by the Chairman.
  4. General exchange of views.
  5. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
  6. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
  7. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-sixth session.
  8. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-eighth session.
  9. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
  10. Space and society.
  11. Space and water.
  12. Space and climate change.
  13. Use of space technology in the United Nations system.
  14. International cooperation in promoting the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development.
  15. Other matters.
  16. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

## **C. Membership**

5. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1472 A (XIV), 1721 E (XVI), 3182 (XXVIII), 32/196 B, 35/16, 49/33, 56/51, 57/116, 59/116 and 62/217 and decision 45/315, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was composed of the following 69 States: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

## D. Attendance

6. Representatives of the following [...] States members of the Committee attended the session: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

7. At its 597th, 598th and 602nd meetings, the Committee decided to invite, at their request, observers for Azerbaijan, Belarus, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Maldives, Norway, Panama, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia and Yemen, as well as the Holy See, to attend its fifty-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.

8. At its 597th meeting, the Committee decided to invite, at its request, the observer for Palestine, to attend its fifty-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.

9. Observers for the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) attended the session.

10. The session was also attended by observers for the Association of Space Explorers (ASE), the European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO), the European Space Agency (ESA), the Regional Centre for Remote Sensing of North African States (CRTEAN), the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), the European Telecommunications Satellite Organization (EUTELSAT-IGO), EURISY, the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), the International Institute of Space Law (IISL), the Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water, the Secure World Foundation (SWF) and the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC).

11. At its 597th and 598th meetings, the Committee decided to invite, at their request, the observers for the European Commission, the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety (IAASS) to attend its fifty-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.

12. A list of representatives of States members of the Committee, States not members of the Committee, United Nations entities and other organizations attending the session is contained in document A/AC.105/2009/INF/1.

## **E. General statements**

13. Statements were made by representatives of the following States members of the Committee during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Ukraine, United States, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam. The representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia made a statement on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. The representative of the Czech Republic made a statement on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union. The observer for Maldives made a statement. Statements were also made by the observers for ESA, ESPI, IAF, SGAC and SWF.

14. At the 597th meeting, on 3 June, the Chairman made a statement outlining the work of the Committee at its current session. The Chairman highlighted the major role played by the Committee in shaping international standards for space activities and promoting international cooperation at the global, regional and interregional levels. The Chairman stressed the importance of further strengthening the strategic role of the Committee. Clear objectives were needed to achieve long-term goals for ensuring that the benefits of space science and technology would be available to the whole of humanity. To adapt to emerging and future challenges to the global community, the United Nations system, in close coordination with its Member States, needed to find holistic solutions to current and emerging global problems. The Chairman presented a paper entitled "Towards a United Nations Space Policy" (A/AC.105/2009/CRP.12).

15. The Committee welcomed with appreciation the initiative of the Chairman to seek a holistic approach for enhancing coordination between Member States and the United Nations system in applying space science and technology to meet the challenges to development of all countries and noted that that initiative could serve as a basis for future discussions.

16. Some delegations expressed the view that the long-term sustainability of space exploration activities was a matter of concern not only for spacefaring countries, regional space organizations and commercial satellite operators but also for the international community as a whole.

17. The view was expressed that the peaceful uses of outer space needed a stronger platform within the United Nations system and that a mechanism should be established to advise the Secretary-General on matters related to space and development.

18. The Committee noted that space-based information could play an important role in supporting the unique sustainable development challenges faced by small island developing States.
19. At the 601st meeting, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat made a statement in which she reviewed the work carried out by the Office during the past year. The Director also outlined the operational priorities of the Office.
20. The Committee welcomed with appreciation the address made by the astronauts Yang Liwei and Jing Haipeng on the success of China's manned space flights Shenzhou-5 and Shenzhou-7.
21. The Committee noted with appreciation the video address made by Jean-Jacques Dordain, Director General of ESA.
22. The Committee heard the following presentations:
  - (a) "Japanese space policy: the basic plan for space policy", by the representative of Japan;
  - (b) "International Astronautical Congress 2009", by the representative of the Republic of Korea;
  - (c) "International activities of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics", by the representative of the United States;
  - (d) "Report on the activities of the Space Policy Institute", by the representative of the United States.
23. The Committee noted with appreciation the preparations by the Government of the Republic of Korea for the 60th International Astronautical Congress, to be held in Daejeon, Republic of Korea, from 12 to 16 October 2009, with the theme "Space for sustainable development".

## **F. Adoption of the report of the Committee**

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

## **Chapter II**

### **Recommendations and decisions**

#### **A. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes**

25. In accordance with paragraph 41 of General Assembly resolution 63/90, the Committee continued its consideration, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
26. The representatives of Ecuador, the Republic of Korea, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under the item. During the

general exchange of views, statements were also made on the item by representatives of other member States.

27. The Committee heard the following presentations:

- (a) “Third African Leadership Conference”, by the representative of Algeria;
- (b) “IAA third African Regional Conference in Abuja”, by the representative of Nigeria.

28. The Committee noted with satisfaction the agreement of the General Assembly that, during its consideration of the matter, the Committee could continue to consider ways to promote regional and interregional cooperation based on experiences stemming from the Space Conferences of the Americas, the African Leadership Conferences on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development and the role that space technology could play in the implementation of the recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.<sup>1</sup>

29. The Committee agreed that, through its work in the scientific, technical and legal fields, the Committee had a fundamental role to play in ensuring that outer space was maintained for peaceful purposes.

30. The Committee noted with satisfaction the work done by the pro tempore secretariat of the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas, established by the Government of Ecuador, to carry out the plan of action of the Fifth Conference (A/AC.105/2009/CRP.14). In that regard, the Committee noted with appreciation the ongoing preparations for the Sixth Conference, and that the Government of Ecuador had organized a meeting with the pro tempore secretariat, the International Group of Experts of the Space Conferences of the Americas and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, held in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, on 28 and 29 August 2008, following a regional seminar on space law held in Quito on 26 and 27 August 2008.

31. The Committee welcomed with satisfaction the preparations for the third African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, to be held in Algeria in November and December 2009.

32. The Committee also noted with satisfaction that the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, with headquarters in Beijing, had formally started operating in December 2008.

33. The Committee noted with appreciation the holding of the fifteenth session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum in Hanoi and Ha Long Bay, Viet Nam, in December 2008 in cooperation with the Sentinel Asia project.

34. The Committee noted the important role played by those conferences and other initiatives in promoting regional and international partnerships among States, such as the preparations for the 2010 International Air and Space Fair, to be held in Santiago in March 2010; and the third IAA African Regional Conference, to be held in Abuja from 24 to 26 November 2009.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum).

35. The Committee emphasized that regional and interregional cooperation and coordination in the field of space activities were essential to strengthen the peaceful uses of outer space, to assist States in the development of their space capabilities and to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (A/56/326, annex).
36. Some delegations were of the view that the Committee played a notable role in advancing space cooperation and provided a unique forum for the exchange of information among States and that there were tangible opportunities to enhance international cooperation, in keeping with the Committee's mandate.
37. Some delegations were of the view that in order to further the objective of promoting peaceful uses of outer space, it was important to preserve the principle embodied in article I 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<sup>2</sup> and that outer space should be used in a rational manner.
38. Some delegations were of the view that provisions of international space law had to be improved in order to effectively respond to challenges posed by a number of problems of contemporary space activities, such as the absence of a definition and delimitation of outer space, the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and the threat posed by space debris. Those delegations were of the view that the improvement of international space law would also ensure that outer space was used exclusively for peaceful purposes.
39. Some delegations expressed their support for the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and the threat of or use of force against outer space objects, which had been presented by China and the Russian Federation to the Conference on Disarmament in 2008.
40. Some delegations were of the view that in order to maintain the peaceful nature of space activities, it was essential for the Committee to enhance its cooperation and coordination with other bodies and mechanisms of the United Nations system, such as the General Assembly, in particular its First and Fourth Committees; ITU; the World Meteorological Organization (WMO); and the Conference on Disarmament.
41. The view was expressed that although some dialogue and communication on outer space matters had already been established among a number of bodies of the United Nations system, it was important to establish formal links in some cases.
42. The view was expressed that the Committee had been created exclusively to promote international cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space and that disarmament issues were more appropriately dealt with in other forums, such as the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament.
43. The view was expressed that peace in outer space could be maintained through the implementation of actions such as the promotion of greater transparency in space activities, encouraging information-sharing among members of the international community and compliance with provisions of international space law in carrying out space activities.

---

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

44. The view was expressed that space activities could contribute to the broad concept of security by maintaining the peaceful aspect of space technology development and fostering peaceful uses of outer space.

45. The Committee noted the project of the European Union to adopt a code of conduct for outer space activities. The draft text, which had been approved by the Council of the European Union in December 2008, included transparency and confidence-building measures and reflected a comprehensive approach to safety and security in outer space guided by the following principles: freedom of access to space for all for peaceful purposes, preservation of the security and integrity of space objects in orbit and due consideration for the legitimate defence interests of States. The Committee also noted that consultations with spacefaring countries were under way, with a view to reaching consensus on a text that would be acceptable to the greatest possible number of States. The Committee further noted that, following the conclusion of those consultations, an ad hoc conference would be organized for States to subscribe the code.

46. The Committee recommended that, at its fifty-third session, in 2010, it should continue its consideration, on a priority basis, of the item on ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

## **B. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

47. In its resolution 59/2, the General Assembly had agreed that the Committee should continue to consider the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III until the Committee considered that concrete results had been achieved.

48. The representatives of Chile, China, Colombia, France, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Nigeria, Pakistan and the United States made statements under the item. Representatives of other member States also made statements relating to the item during the general exchange of views and during the discussion on the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-sixth session.

49. The Committee heard the following presentations:

(a) “Sustainable development in and through space: governance, financing and education issues”, by the representative of the United States;

(b) “Space Generation at a glance – 10-year evaluation” and “Outcomes of the SGAC 10-year anniversary conference: UNISPACE III – How far have we come?” by the representatives of SGAC.

50. The Committee noted with appreciation the panel discussion on the theme “Tenth anniversary of UNISPACE III”, organized by the secretariat on 3 June 2009. The panel was moderated by the Chairman of the Committee and included the following presentations: “The path towards UNISPACE III”, by U. R. Rao (India), Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for UNISPACE III and President of UNISPACE III; “The unique organizational aspects of UNISPACE III”, by S. Camacho, former chief of the Committee Services and Research Section of the



Office for Outer Space Affairs, which had acted as the executive secretariat of UNISPACE III; and “UNISPACE III: 10 years on”, by M. Othman, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

51. The Committee recalled that UNISPACE III, the last major United Nations conference of the twentieth century, had been a success from an organizational and substantive standpoint, particularly since the Conference had been held with severe time and resource constraints.

52. The Committee noted the important contribution to UNISPACE III made by regional preparatory conferences and agreed that the programme of work of the Conference and the subsequent implementation of its recommendations were highly relevant to the needs of all countries.

53. The Committee noted that the creation of action teams under the voluntary leadership of Member States had provided a unique mechanism and innovative strategy in implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

54. The Committee recalled that the report of the secretariat on organizational matters relating to UNISPACE III (A/C.4/54/9) provided a concrete example for other United Nations entities with respect to convening a conference on global issues while keeping the costs within existing resources.

55. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, submitted to the Subcommittee at its forty-sixth session by its Working Group of the Whole, which had been reconvened under the chairmanship of K. Radhakrishnan (India) to consider, inter alia, the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (A/AC.105/933, para. 42 and annex I).

56. The Committee noted with appreciation that additional recommendations, as set out in the Plan of Action on the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (see A/59/174, sect. VI.B), had been implemented and that further progress had been made in implementing the remaining ones.

57. The Committee noted with appreciation that Member States continued to contribute to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III through national and regional activities and by supporting and participating in the programmes established in response to those recommendations.

58. The Committee also noted with appreciation that Member States were implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE III by, among other things, actively supporting and participating in the work related to the 10-Year Implementation Plan of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

59. The view was expressed that while a significant amount of work had been done, the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III should not be considered completed until the vast majority of people, especially those in developing countries, benefited from space technology and its applications.

60. The view was expressed that a comprehensive assessment by the Committee of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III and UNISPACE III + 5 would be timely.

61. The view was expressed that the Committee should give consideration to the possibility of holding a fourth United Nations conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space.
62. In accordance with the decision taken at its fifty-first session, the Committee reviewed and finalized its contribution to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the thematic cluster for the period 2010-2011, on the basis of the draft text contained in the note by the Secretariat (A/AC.105/2009/CRP.7). The Committee requested the Secretariat to make the note by the Secretariat available to the Commission in the six official languages of the United Nations.
63. The Committee agreed that the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat should continue to be invited to participate in the sessions of the Committee to advise on how it could best contribute to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and agreed that the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs should attend the sessions of the Commission with a view to raising awareness and promoting the benefits of space science and technology, in particular in the areas being addressed by the Commission.
64. The view was expressed that the Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development should be invited to participate in the sessions of the Committee and that the Chairman of the Committee should attend the sessions of the Commission.
65. The Committee agreed that the implementation and follow-up of recommendations of UNISPACE III relating to the use of space-based systems for areas such as agriculture and land use, water resource management, disaster management and overall resource management, would go a long way in helping Member States to support their sustainable development needs and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.
66. The Committee agreed that, as proposed by the representative of Chile, "Global health" should be the theme of the panel discussion to be organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs when the Fourth Committee considered the agenda item "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space", during the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.
67. The Committee noted with appreciation the publication of the report on the events of World Space Week 2008, prepared by the World Space Week Association in cooperation with the Office for Outer Space Affairs (ST/SPACE/44).
-