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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

1. The General Assembly by its resolution 38/80 of 15 December 1983, requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82). 1/
2. The present report, in response to that request, 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 and its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee considered the question of the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference during their 1984 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/

I. INTER-AGENCY CO-OPERATION

4. In paragraph 21 of its resolution 38/80, the General Assembly requested all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other inter-governmental 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 sixth session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities is planned for October 1984 at Geneva to discuss, inter alia, the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference.

II. STUDIES

5. The General Assembly, in paragraph 17 of its resolution 38/80, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that, of the study projects proposed by the Conference, the following three studies should be carried out on a priority basis:

(a) Assistance to countries in studying their remote sensing needs and assessing appropriate systems for meeting such needs (United Nations, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO));

(b) The feasibility of using direct broadcasting satellites for educational purposes and of internationally or regionally owned space segments (United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and International Telecommunication Union (ITU));

(c) The feasibility of obtaining closer spacing of satellites in the geostationary orbit and their satisfactory coexistence, including a closer examination of techno-economic implications, particularly for developing countries, in order to ensure the most effective utilization of this orbit in the interest of all countries (United Nations, ITU and other organizations).

6. In accordance with the procedures approved by the General Assembly, a group of experts was organized for each of the studies. States members of the Committee, selected to ensure equitable geographic distribution for each group, were invited to nominate experts. The experts were appointed by the Secretary-General and their travel expenses were paid by the United Nations. Representatives from interested specialized agencies also participated in the groups.

7. Each group held six meetings over a period of four days and reviewed a preliminary draft study prepared by the Secretariat. The Group of Experts on Remote Sensing met in New York from 21 to 24 February 1984, during the twenty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee; the Group of Experts on the Geostationary Orbit met at Geneva from 20 to 23 March, during the twenty-third session of the Legal Sub-Committee; and the Group of Experts on Direct Broadcasting Satellites for Education met at Vienna from 12 to 15 June, during the twenty-seventh session of the Committee.

8. The final draft studies, as revised and approved by the three groups of experts, will be submitted to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its twenty-second session for consideration and evaluation and, through it, to the Committee for recommendation for appropriate action.

III. UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON SPACE APPLICATIONS

9. In 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 (para. 7 (a) through 7 (g)). The plans of action for carrying out these activities are contained

in document A/AC.105/313, entitled "Translation of space-applications-related recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space into operational programmes".

10. In 1984, the Programme conducted two short-term training courses on remote sensing applications. The first, on forestry, was organized in collaboration with the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; the second, on aquaculture, was organized in collaboration with the Government of Italy and FAO. Two workshops were also conducted in collaboration with the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR): (i) remote sensing of interest to developing countries; and (ii) promotion of space research in developing countries. Planned for 1985 are two short-term training courses on remote sensing (on operational agrometeorology and forestry); one workshop (on remote sensing instrumentation and its utilization in data acquisition and analysis); and a meeting (on advances in space science and technology).

11. In promoting the development of indigenous capability, the Programme awarded 14 long-range fellowships in 1984 for in-depth training of participants from developing countries in the areas of telecommunications, satellite meteorology and remote sensing (information systems and aerial photogeodesy). The fellowships were provided by Member States (two by Austria and nine by the USSR, which offered 10 fellowships) and by the European Space Agency (ESA). It is anticipated that these offers will be renewed in 1985. The Government of Brazil also has offered, for 1985, 10 similar, long-range fellowships for in-depth training in remote sensing for candidates from developing countries.

12. Other approaches to the development of indigenous capability at the local level will be extensively explored during the planned series of United Nations Inter-National Workshops on Space Technology Applications within the Framework of Educational Systems. The first of these workshops is scheduled for 1985 and is being organized in co-operation with the Government of India, for the benefit of Member States in the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) region. Participants will include educators from technical institutions and universities and those within the government administration responsible for the planning and development of national educational programmes. During these workshops, participants will be exposed to the role of space technology in national development and to the process of introducing aspects of this technology into national educational curricula. The workshops will also address, inter alia, current and future trends of space technology and the availability of potential resources that can be used as educational materials in the areas of space science and technology.

13. With reference to the mandate on technical advisory services, the General Assembly requested Member States to provide information on their needs and requests in specific areas of space applications. The responses of Member States on this subject have been analysed and published in documents A/AC.105/L.141 to A/AC.105/L.144. These documents are being used as background information for the intergovernmental meetings of experts on space science and technology and its applications, being convened under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications in the various regions. These intergovernmental meetings are focusing

on appropriate space applications projects at regional levels, including the assignment of priorities to these projects, and the establishment of funding procedures for their implementation. The first of these meetings of experts was held at Jakarta from 23 to 25 May 1984 for the benefit of Member States in the ESCAP region. Technical advisory missions were undertaken in 1984 to Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ecuador and Mexico at the request of the Governments concerned. Additional consultative missions are planned to the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) and ESCAP regions for the latter part of 1984 and for 1985.

IV. INTERNATIONAL SPACE INFORMATION SERVICE

14. 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 designed for the implementation of the Service are contained in paragraphs 17 and 18 of document A/AC.105/313. In implementing this mandate, the United Nations organized an International Meeting of Experts on Remote Sensing Information Systems at Feldafing and Oberpfaffenhofen from 7 to 11 May 1984 that was hosted and co-sponsored by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. The mechanisms to establish a viable clearing-house, initially on remote sensing information systems, were reviewed at this meeting, and action programmes to achieve this goal were recommended. As a direct follow-up action, and through voluntary contributions from Member States and interested international space agencies, the United Nations is planning to establish an on-line terminal at the Secretariat so that it could gain access to existing data sources and information centres on different aspects of space science and technology in order to be able to provide information, on request, to Member States.

V. STRENGTHENING OF THE OUTER SPACE AFFAIRS DIVISION OF THE SECRETARIAT

15. In paragraph 9 of its resolution 37/90, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Secretariat with an appropriate augmentation of technical personnel. On the basis of that resolution, a temporary P-5 post was established for 1983 for a technical specialist on space science and technology in relation to the three studies referred to in paragraph 5 above. For the biennium 1984-1985, this temporary post has been maintained for the follow-up activities of the Conference, including the studies.

VI. VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

16. 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 of

11 March 1983, the Secretary-General brought this paragraph to the attention of Member States particularly with respect to the newly mandated and expanded activities of the United Nations Programme of Space Applications. The Member States and one intergovernmental organization which responded to it up to 31 August 1983 were listed in the Secretary-General's last report on this sub-item (A/38/412). Additional contributions were subsequently received from Austria, Cameroon and Pakistan.

17. The General Assembly, in paragraph 10 of its resolution 38/80, emphasized the urgency and importance of implementing fully the recommendations of the Conference as early as possible. The Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in response to that resolution, requested the Secretariat to invite Member States to submit their views on future projects in order further to implement the recommendations of the Conference, and to report thereon to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its twenty-seventh session. At the same time, the Sub-Committee urged Member States to consider providing additional voluntary contributions to that end.

18. In pursuance of the Sub-Committee's request, the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 2 March 1984, asked Member States to communicate their views on the above subjects. As at 10 August 1984, replies had been received from Belgium, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Hungary, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Uganda (see document A/AC.105/L.147 and Add.1 and 2). Following an appeal to Member States by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its twenty-seventh session in June 1984, the Secretary-General, in his note verbale dated 24 August 1984, requested them to communicate their views on the subjects.

VII. REGIONAL MECHANISM OF CO-OPERATION

19. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 38/80, 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 of Space Applications.

20. As indicated in paragraph 13 above, the United Nations organized a Regional Meeting of Experts on Space Science and Technology and its Applications at Jakarta in 1984 for the benefit of Member States in the ESCAP region. A similar meeting of experts in the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) region, to be hosted by the Government of Argentina, originally scheduled for March 1984, will be organized in 1985.

21. The Government of Poland has offered to act as host to an interregional centre for remote sensing, which it is seeking to establish in co-operation with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the Secretariat and UNDP.

Notes

1/ 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, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/39/20).
