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**Committee on the Peaceful
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Draft report

Chapter II

Recommendations and decisions

D. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-first session

1. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-first session (A/AC.105/1003), which contained the results of its deliberations on the items considered by the Subcommittee in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/71.

2. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Tare Charles Brisibe (Nigeria) for his able leadership during the fifty-first session of the Subcommittee.

3. The representatives of Algeria, Austria, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Saudi Arabia, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under the item. A statement was also made under the item by the representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by other member States and the representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of African States.

1. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space

4. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under the item on the status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1003, paras. 34-55).

5. The Committee endorsed the decisions and recommendations of the Subcommittee and its Working Group on the Status and Application of the



Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, which had been reconvened under the chairmanship of Jean-François Mayence (Belgium) (A/AC.105/1003, para. 36 and annex I, paras. 10 and 11).

6. Some delegations expressed the view that the Committee should review, update and modify the five United Nations treaties on outer space for the purpose of strengthening the guiding principles of outer space activities and the responsibility of governmental and non-governmental actors in carrying out space activities.

7. Some delegations expressed the view that the existing legal framework should be continuously developed, including through non-binding agreements.

8. Some delegations expressed the view that the United Nations treaties on outer space constituted a solid legal structure that was crucial for supporting the increasing scale of space activities and for strengthening international cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space. Those delegations welcomed further adherence to the treaties and hoped that those States that had not yet ratified or acceded to the treaties would consider becoming parties to them.

9. Some delegations expressed the view that given the rapid increase in space activities and the emergence of new space actors, more coordination and synergy between the two Subcommittees were needed in order to promote the understanding, acceptance and application of the existing United Nations treaties and to strengthen the responsibility of States in carrying out space activities.

10. The view was expressed that it was necessary to identify shortcomings in the implementation of the existing treaties and to remedy obstacles through cooperation and, if necessary, the provision of technical assistance.

11. Some delegations expressed the view that issues related to the transfer of ownership of objects in outer space, the relevance of soft law in the interpretation of responsibilities, the conceptual discussion of the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,¹ and the considerations of the notion of fault, as contained in the questionnaire prepared by the Chair of the Working Group, deserved particular attention by States.

12. The view was expressed that the Moon Agreement clearly established the interest of all States in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, based on the concepts of equality and cooperation, and that discussions on the Moon Agreement should not be conducted from the viewpoint of commercial interests.

13. The view was expressed that international law regulating the conduct of space activities should not restrict access to space technologies for States, especially developing countries, wishing to develop their own space capacities in a sustainable manner.

2. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law

14. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under the item on information on the activities of international intergovernmental and

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1363, No. 23002.

non-governmental organizations relating to space law, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1003, paras. 56-64).

15. The Committee noted the important role of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and their contribution to its endeavours to promote the development of space law and endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee that such organizations should again be invited to report to the Subcommittee at its fifty-second session on their activities relating to space law.

16. The Committee noted that the Optional Rules for Arbitration of Disputes Relating to Outer Space Activities had been adopted by the Administrative Council of the Permanent Court of Arbitration on 6 December 2011, and welcomed the agreement of the Subcommittee to invite the Court to provide information to the Subcommittee at its future sessions on the Optional Rules.

3. Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and 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

17. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under the item on matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and 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, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1003, paras. 65-87).

18. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Subcommittee and its Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, reconvened under the chairmanship of José Monserrat Filho (Brazil) (A/AC.105/1003, para. 68 and annex II, paras. 10-11).

19. Some delegations expressed the view that the definition and delimitation of outer space would prevent and reduce possible disputes related to space activities among States and should be considered in an intergovernmental framework, in particular within the Legal Subcommittee, taking into consideration the scientific and technological progress.

20. Some delegations expressed the view that the geostationary orbit — a limited natural resource clearly in danger of saturation — must be used rationally and should be made available to all States, irrespective of their current technical capacities. That would give States the possibility of access to the orbit under equitable conditions, bearing in mind, in particular, the needs and interests of developing countries, as well as the geographical position of certain countries, and taking into account the processes of ITU and relevant norms and decisions of the United Nations.

21. Some delegations expressed the view that the use of the geostationary orbit should be streamlined, giving priority to long-term activities and contributing to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals while taking into account the conditions of equality of all States, irrespective of their current space capacities.

22. The view was expressed that the utilization by States of the geostationary orbit on the basis of “first come, first served” was unacceptable and that the

Subcommittee should therefore develop a legal regime ensuring that States had equitable access to orbital positions, in accordance with the principles of peaceful use and non-appropriation of outer space.

4. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space

23. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under the item on the review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1003, paras. 88-104).

24. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee on the item (A/AC.105/1003, para. 104).

25. Some delegations expressed the view that it was exclusively States, irrespective of their level of social, economic, scientific or technical development, that had an obligation to engage in regulatory activity associated with the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and that the matter concerned all of humanity. Those delegations were also of the view that Governments bore international responsibility for national activities involving the use of nuclear power sources in outer space conducted by governmental and non-governmental organizations and that such activities must be beneficial and not detrimental to humanity.

26. Some delegations stressed that more attention should be paid to the legal issues associated with the use of satellite platforms with nuclear power sources in Earth orbits, in the light of reported failures and collisions that posed a high risk to humanity.

27. Some delegations expressed the view that there should be greater coordination and interaction between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee in order to promote greater understanding, acceptance and implementation of the legal instruments and the development of new legal instruments related to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

28. The view was expressed that international legal instruments related to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space should be updated in view of the increasing number of actors involved in outer space activities.

29. Some delegations called on the Legal Subcommittee to undertake a review of the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space and to promote binding standards with a view to ensuring that any activity conducted in outer space was governed by the principles of preservation of life and maintenance of peace.

5. Examination and review of the developments concerning the draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment

30. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under the item on the examination and review of the developments concerning the draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1003, paras. 105-116).

31. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the draft Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters specific to Space Assets, held in Berlin from 27 February to 9 March 2012, had adopted the Protocol and opened it for signature on 9 March. The Committee took note of the information on the Conference and the Protocol provided in para. 107 (b)-(e) of the report of the Subcommittee.

32. The Committee expressed its congratulations to the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Unidroit) for the successful conclusion of its multi-year work with respect to the development, negotiation and adoption of the Protocol. The Subcommittee commended the Government of Germany for its organization of the Conference and facilitation of the adoption of the Protocol.

33. The Committee noted that the observer for ITU at the Conference had communicated the interest of the Secretary-General of ITU in that organization considering becoming the supervisory authority and that that interest was subject to the matter being considered by the governing bodies of ITU, namely, the ITU Council and the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, and was without prejudice to the decision to be taken by them in that regard. The Subcommittee also noted that the ITU Council would hold its next session in July 2012 and that the next ITU Plenipotentiary Conference would be held in 2014.

34. Some delegations expressed the view that the Protocol on Matters specific to Space Assets, being the first space law treaty adopted in more than three decades and the first international private law agreement in the field of commercial space activities, was important for the completeness of the international regulation of space activities and would establish an optional international regime for commercial space activities.

6. Capacity-building in space law

35. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under the item on capacity-building in space law, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1003, paras. 117-135).

36. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Subcommittee on the agenda item (A/AC.105/1003, paras. 134 and 135).

37. The Committee agreed that research, training and education in space law were of paramount importance to national, regional and international efforts to further develop space activities and to increase knowledge of the legal framework within which space activities were carried out.

38. The Committee noted with appreciation that the Government of Argentina and the National Commission on Space Activities (CONAE) of Argentina, together with the Office for Outer Space Affairs, planned to hold the eighth United Nations workshop on space law in November 2012. The Committee further noted with appreciation that the European Space Agency (ESA) was a co-sponsor of the workshop.

39. The Committee noted that the exchange of views on national and international efforts to promote a wider appreciation of space law and endeavours such as the annual workshops on space law and the development of the curriculum on space law played a vital role in building capacity in that area.

7. General exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures

40. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under the item on the general exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1003, paras. 136-158).

41. The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee on this item (A/AC.105/1003, para. 158).

42. The Committee expressed concern over the increasing amount of space debris and noted with satisfaction that the endorsement by the General Assembly, in its resolution 62/217, of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was a key step in providing all spacefaring nations with guidance on how to mitigate the problem of space debris, and encouraged Member States to consider voluntary implementation of the Guidelines.

43. The Committee noted with satisfaction that some States had taken measures to enforce the implementation of internationally recognized guidelines and standards related to space debris through relevant provisions in their national legislation.

44. Some delegations expressed the view that extending the scope of the agenda item to include the general exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, would be conducive to more in-depth discussion on legal issues related to space debris.

45. Some delegations expressed the view that the issue of mitigation of space debris and limitation of its proliferation should continue to be treated as a priority in the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

46. Some delegations expressed the view that there should be greater coordination and interaction between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee in order to promote greater understanding, acceptance and implementation of the legal instruments — and the development of new legal instruments — related to the issue of space debris.

47. Some delegations expressed the view that the Subcommittee should include on its agenda an item for the review of the legal aspects of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee, with a view to transforming the Guidelines into a set of principles to be adopted by the General Assembly.

48. The view was expressed that developing the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee into a legally binding instrument was not warranted in view of the absence of legal definitions of fundamental concepts related to outer space and the fact that the Guidelines neither contained any technical norms or specifications related to space debris nor covered activities such as space debris removal. That delegation noted that it was expected that such technical norms and standards on space debris removal would be developed by the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Space Debris and the Scientific and by Technical Subcommittee under its item on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

49. The view was expressed that, in order to address the challenge of mitigating space debris resulting from the intensification of space activities, the Legal Subcommittee should explore the possibility of developing appropriate new rules, including principles, guidelines and other non-binding frameworks.

50. The view was expressed that there was a need to develop better mechanisms for sharing information on national and regional best practices to reduce the creation and proliferation of space debris.

8. General exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space

51. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under the item on the general exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1003, paras. 159-172).

52. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Subcommittee and its Working Group on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space, reconvened under the chairmanship of Irmgard Marboe (Austria) (A/AC.105/1003, paras. 163-165 and 170 and annex III, para. 6).

53. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the discussions of the Working Group had enabled States to gain an understanding of existing national regulatory frameworks, share experiences on national practices and exchange information on national legal frameworks, for the benefit of States in the process of enacting legislation on national space activities.

54. The Committee expressed its deep appreciation to the Chair of the Working Group for her dedication and professionalism in leading the Working Group. The Subcommittee agreed that the report of the Working Group on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space on the work conducted under its multi-year workplan (A/AC.105/C.2/101) constituted an important source of information for States developing national space-related regulatory frameworks.

55. The Committee agreed that the recommendations developed by the Working Group and endorsed by the Legal Subcommittee on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space (A/AC.105/1003, annex III, appendix) constituted a sound basis for a separate draft General Assembly resolution or an annex to the draft resolution to be submitted to the Assembly on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

56. The Committee took note of the revised text of the recommendations on national space legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space reflecting revisions by member States during its present session, contained in document A/AC.105/2012/CRP.21, and noted that Irmgard Marboe (Austria) would continue to consult with member States on the text of the recommendations in the intersessional period.

57. The Committee agreed that the text, as revised on the basis of those consultations, should be submitted, in the six official languages of the United Nations, to the Subcommittee at its fifty-second session under the regular item entitled "National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space", for agreement, and that the Subcommittee should also consider form in

which the agreed text was to be submitted to the General Assembly for adoption at its sixty-eighth session.

9. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee

58. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under the item on the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1003, paras. 175-194).

59. On the basis of the deliberations of the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-first session, the Committee agreed that the following substantive items should be considered by the Subcommittee at its fifty-second session:

1. General exchange of views.
2. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.
3. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law.
4. Matters relating to:
 - (a) The definition and delimitation of outer space;
 - (b) 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.
5. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.
6. Single issues/items for discussion:
 - (a) Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.
 - (b) Examination and review of the developments concerning the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters specific to Space Assets.
 - (c) Capacity-building in space law.
 - (d) General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
7. Items considered under workplans: review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

(Work for 2013 as reflected in the multi-year workplan in paragraph 179 of the report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-first session (A/AC.105/1003))
8. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-third session.

60. The Committee agreed that the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space and the Working Group on Matters Relating to the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space should be reconvened at the fifty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee.
61. The Committee also agreed that the Subcommittee should review, at its fifty-second session, the need to extend beyond that session the mandate of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space.
62. The Committee further agreed that a working group should be established for the period 2014-2017 in accordance with the workplan under the item on the review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.
63. The Committee agreed that the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law should be invited to organize a symposium on space law at the fifty-second session of the Subcommittee.
64. The view was expressed that the proposal made by the Czech Republic for an item entitled “Review of the legal aspects of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with a view to transforming the Guidelines into a set of principles to be adopted by the General Assembly”, for inclusion on the agenda of the Subcommittee, would provide an opportunity for the elaboration of an international instrument on space debris in a satisfactory form for the present and near future, and that such work would require close cooperation with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
65. The view was expressed that an item on the regulation of the dissemination of Earth observation satellite images through the World Wide Web should be included on the agenda of the Subcommittee.

G. Space and water

66. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “Space and water”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/71.
67. The representatives of India, Indonesia, Japan, Saudi Arabia and the United States made statements under the item. A statement was also made by the representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by other member States. The observer for the Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water (PSIPW) also made a statement under the item.
68. The Committee heard the following presentations:
- (a) “GCOM-W1 ‘SHIZUKU’ Global Change Observation Mission 1st — Water”, by the representative of Japan;
 - (b) “Safe and reliable navigation of vessels in ocean, coastal and harbour areas based on GNSS and its augmentation systems”, by the representative of Germany.

69. In the course of the discussions, delegations reviewed national and cooperative water-related activities, giving examples of national programmes and bilateral, regional and international cooperation.

70. The Committee noted that water-related issues were becoming some of the most critical environmental problems facing humankind, often entailing political implications, and that conservation and proper utilization of existing water resources were of paramount importance for sustaining life on Earth. In that connection, space-derived data could support policymakers in making informed decisions on water resources management.

71. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the General Assembly, in its resolution 58/217, had proclaimed the period 2005-2015 the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", which reflected the growing awareness of and concern regarding water-related issues.

72. The Committee noted the large number of space-borne platforms that addressed water-related issues, and that space-derived data were used extensively in water management. The Committee also noted that space technology and applications, combined with non-space technologies, played an important role in addressing most water-related issues, including the understanding and observation of global water cycles and unusual climate patterns, the mapping of water courses, the monitoring and mitigation of the effects of floods, droughts and earthquakes and the improvement of the timeliness and accuracy of forecasts.

73. Some delegations expressed the view that many countries, in particular developing countries, faced difficulties in deriving the necessary data for managing their water resources efficiently and thus reacting to developments in a timely manner, and that the sharing of data on water-related issues and access to space technology should be enhanced through international cooperation.

74. In relation to the special theme of "Space and ecosystem management", which had been included for consideration at its fifty-fifth session, the Committee took note of the efforts to use satellite data to generate coastal zone maps and coastal ecosystem habitat maps, as well as the studies on the ecological condition of world coral reefs and the impact of the rising sea level on the coastal environment.

75. The Committee noted the launch of the International Water Portal, an interactive database for water organizations, companies and professionals aimed at enhancing international cooperation, communication and access to information on water-related issues. The portal had been created as a follow-up to recommendations of two United Nations International Conferences on the Use of Space Technology for Water Management, organized in cooperation with PSIPW and held in Saudi Arabia and Argentina in 2008 and 2011, respectively.

76. The Committee also noted that the Third International Conference on the Use of Space Technology for Water Management was scheduled to take place in 2013, to be organized by the United Nations Programme on Space Applications in cooperation with PSIPW.

H. Space and climate change

77. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “Space and climate change”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/71.

78. The representatives of Australia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, Switzerland and the United States made statements under the item. The representatives of France and Germany made joint statements. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States and by the representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

79. The Committee heard the following presentations under the item:

(a) “Japanese satellite challenge to the global issues”, by the representative of Japan;

(b) “Space-based data for climate change and Earth observation in Indonesia”, by the representative of Indonesia.

80. The Committee noted that climate change had been adversely affecting all regions of the world through a variety of processes such as global warming, reduction in the sea ice coverage and ice masses, sea-level rise, changes in large-scale current systems in oceans, unstable weather conditions and more intense or extreme weather events such as storms, tropical cyclones, floods and droughts.

81. The Committee also noted that comprehensive, coordinated and sustained systematic observations were necessary for monitoring the different manifestations of climate change and the factors contributing to it, and that space-based observations, complemented by ground-based observations, demonstrated immense potential for observing and developing fundamental knowledge on the changing global climate.

82. The Committee noted the efforts made in various countries regarding the deployment of satellites carrying a variety of instruments to monitor dynamics of the atmosphere, ocean, land surface, biosphere and other components of the climate system. Related observations included, but were not limited to, measurements of and changes in greenhouse gases, aerosols, and air quality parameters; land cover and land use, deforestation, including from forest fires, land degradation and desertification; changes in forest biomass and loss of biodiversity; glacial retreat and surges; and sea surface altimetry, precipitation, clouds and global water circulation changes.

83. The Committee took note of cooperative efforts between the space agencies of several countries to launch satellites to monitor the impact of climate change and climate change-related parameters and to share data obtained from space-based platforms to advance understanding of the impact of climate change.

84. The Committee took note of developments under the APRSAF initiative Regional Readiness Review for Key Climate Missions (Climate R3), aimed at increasing national capabilities to use space-derived data for informed decision-making in the fields of the environment and climate change. At the 18th APRSAF meeting, held in Singapore in December 2011, the substantial

potential of the Climate R3 initiative to enhance connections between space data suppliers and climate information users and its role in supporting the development of well-informed climate policies in the Asia-Pacific region were recognized.

85. Some delegations described their efforts to support climate change-related activities conducted by the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), CEOS, the Global Earth Observation System of Systems, the Global Climate Observing System and the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS), and to contribute to monitoring the achievement of the aims of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the global climate change mitigation and adaptation actions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

86. Some delegations described their efforts to share climate change data that could be useful for the analysis of climate change and understanding of natural hazards and mitigation of and adaptation to their effects.

87. Some delegations expressed the view that international cooperation in space-based observations of oceans, the atmosphere, land and solar-terrestrial interactions made a fundamental contribution to addressing the challenges posed by climate change.

88. The view was expressed that timely, full and open access to data from civil satellites as well as the dissemination of tools and knowledge to use that data were necessary for the development of Earth observation systems for the benefit of humankind.

89. The view was expressed that spacefaring nations should provide all developing nations with open access to reliable space-based Earth observation data, which would strengthen global efforts to combat and mitigate the impacts of climate change and adapt to its effects.

I. Use of space technology in the United Nations system

90. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “Use of space technology in the United Nations system”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/71.

91. The representative of Japan made a statement under the item. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

92. The Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs made a statement informing the Committee about the outcomes of the thirty-second session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, held in Rome from 7 to 9 March 2012. The Committee had before it the report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on that session (A/AC.105/1015).

93. The Committee welcomed with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system: directions and anticipated results for the period 2012-2013 — the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development (A/AC.105/1014). The Committee noted the recommendations for increasing the use of

space-derived geospatial data within the United Nations system, contained in paragraph 86 (a)-(f) of that report.

94. The Committee recalled the note by the Secretariat, prepared in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa and in consultation with members of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, entitled “Space benefits for Africa: contribution of the United Nations system” (A/AC.105/941), and the special report of the Inter-Agency Meeting entitled “Use of space technology within the United Nations system to address climate change issues” (A/AC.105/991). The Committee noted that the next special report of the Inter-Agency Meeting, to be issued in 2013, will address the use of space technology for agriculture and food security.

95. The Committee welcomed with appreciation the publication *Space and Climate Change*, which had been jointly produced by the World Meteorological Organization and the Office of Outer Space Affairs on the basis of the above-mentioned report on the use of space technology within the United Nations system to address climate change issues. The Committee noted that the publication had been distributed widely at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Durban, South Africa, in November and December 2011 and that it had been made available to delegations at the present session of the Committee.

96. The Committee noted that the open informal session for member States and observers of the Committee on the theme “Space for agriculture and food security” had been held immediately following the thirty-second session of the Inter-Agency Meeting, in Rome on 9 March 2012. The Committee agreed that those informal sessions provided an opportunity to increase awareness and share views on topics related to the use of space technology in the United Nations system and encouraged member States to continue to actively participate in those sessions.

97. The Committee noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in its function as the secretariat of the Inter-Agency Meeting, would coordinate with Geneva-based United Nations entities with regard to the hosting of the thirty-third session of the Inter-Agency Meeting, to be held in 2013.

98. The Committee took note of the cooperative efforts between member States and United Nations entities to promoting the use of space technology to resolve global issues faced by humanity. In that connection, the Committee noted the resolution entitled “Asia-Pacific Years of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017”, adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its sixty-eighth session, held in Bangkok in May 2012.

99. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Secretariat continued to maintain a website on the coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system (www.uncosa.unvienna.org). The presentations made at the thirty-second session of the Inter-Agency Meeting and the subsequent open informal session, as well as other information on the current space-related activities of United Nations entities, were available on that website.