



Sixteenth session
Agenda item 21

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ralph ENCKELL (Finland)

1. The General Assembly, at its 995th plenary meeting on 21 April 1961, took note of the report of the First Committee (A/4749) which had recommended that the consideration of the item "Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space", be deferred until the sixteenth session of the General Assembly. Accordingly, the item was included in the provisional agenda of the sixteenth session of the General Assembly.
2. On 25 September 1961, the General Assembly, at its 1014th meeting, decided, on the recommendation of the General Committee, to include the above-mentioned item in the agenda, and on 27 September 1961, at its 1018th meeting, referred the item to the First Committee for consideration and report.
3. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its first organizational meeting on 27 November 1961, and submitted its report (A/4987) to the General Assembly.
4. At its 1209th meeting on 30 November 1961, the First Committee decided that the "Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" should be the fifth item on its agenda.
5. The First Committee considered the item at its 1210th to 1214th meetings between 4 December and 11 December 1961.

6. At the 1210th meeting on 4 December 1961, the representative of the United States introduced a joint draft resolution (A/C.1/L.301) sponsored by Australia, Canada, Italy and the United States of America. A revision of this draft resolution (A/C.1/L.301/Rev.1 and Corr.1) was submitted to the Committee on 11 December at its 1214th meeting, with the following sponsors: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.
7. The revised draft resolution (A/C.1/L.301/Rev.1 and Corr.1) took into consideration a number of points made in the course of the general debate on this item, and added four countries to the existing membership of the Committee on Outer Space.
8. At its 1214th meeting, the First Committee unanimously adopted the revised text, without any further change.

Recommendation of the First Committee

9. The First Committee, therefore, recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

A

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the common interest of mankind in furthering the peaceful uses of outer space and the urgent need to strengthen international co-operation in this important field,

Believing that the exploration and use of outer space should be only for the betterment of mankind and to the benefit of States irrespective of the stage of their economic or scientific development,

1. Commends to States for their guidance in the exploration and use of outer space the following principles:

(a) International law, including the United Nations Charter, applies to outer space and celestial bodies;

(b) Outer space and celestial bodies are free for exploration and use by all States in conformity with international law, and are not subject to national appropriation;

2. Invites the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to study and report on the legal problems which may arise from the exploration and use of outer space.

B

The General Assembly,

Believing that the United Nations should provide a focal point for international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space,

1. Calls upon States launching objects into orbit or beyond to furnish information promptly to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space through the Secretary-General for purposes of registration of launchings;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to maintain a public registry of the information furnished in accordance with paragraph 1 above;

3. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, and making full use of the functions and resources of the Secretariat:

(a) To maintain close contact with governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with outer space matters;

(b) To provide for the exchange of such information relating to outer space activities as Governments may supply on a voluntary basis, supplementing but not duplicating existing technical and scientific exchanges;

(c) To assist in the study of measures for the promotion of international co-operation in outer space activities;

4. Further requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to report to the General Assembly on the arrangements undertaken for the performance of these functions and on such developments relating to the peaceful uses of outer space as it considers significant.

C

The General Assembly,

Noting with gratification the marked progress opened up for meteorological science and technology by the advances in outer space,

Convinced of the world-wide benefits to be derived from international co-operation in weather research and analysis,

1. Recommends to all Member States and to the World Meteorological Organization and other appropriate specialized agencies the early and comprehensive study, in the light of developments in outer space, of measures:

(a) To advance the state of atmospheric science and technology so as to provide greater knowledge of basic physical forces affecting climate and the possibility of large-scale weather modification;

(b) To develop existing weather forecasting capabilities and help Member States make effective use of such capabilities through regional meteorological centres;

2. Requests the World Meteorological Organization, consulting as appropriate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other specialized agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations, such as the International Council of Scientific Unions, to submit a report to its member Governments and to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-fourth session regarding appropriate organizational and financial arrangements to achieve these ends, with a view to their further consideration by the General Assembly at its seventeenth session;

3. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as it deems appropriate, to review this report and submit its comments and recommendations to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly.

D

The General Assembly,

Believing that communication by means of satellites should be available to the nations of the world as soon as practicable on a global and non-discriminatory basis,

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Convinced of the need to prepare the way for the establishment of effective operational satellite communication,

1. Notes with satisfaction that the International Telecommunication Union plans to call a special conference in 1963 to make allocations of radio frequency bands for outer space activities;

2. Recommends that the International Telecommunication Union consider at this conference those aspects of space communication in which international co-operation will be required;

3. Notes the potential importance of communication satellites for use by the United Nations and its principal organs and specialized agencies for both operational and informational requirements;

4. Invites the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the United Nations Special Fund, in consultation with the International Telecommunication Union, to give sympathetic consideration to requests from Member States for technical and other assistance for the survey of their communication needs and for the development of their domestic communication facilities so that they may make effective use of space communication;

5. Requests the International Telecommunication Union, consulting as appropriate with Member States, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other specialized agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations, such as the Committee on Space Research of the International Council of Scientific Unions, to submit a report on the implementation of these proposals to the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-fourth session and to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session;

6. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as it deems appropriate, to review this report and submit its comments and recommendations to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

E

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1472 (XIV) of 12 December 1959,

Noting that the membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space expires at the end of 1961,

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Noting the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/4987),

1. Decides to continue the membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as contained in resolution 1472 (XIV) and to add Chad, Mongolia, Morocco and Sierra Leone to its membership in recognition of the increased membership of the United Nations since the Committee was established;

2. Requests the Committee to meet not later than 31 March 1962 to carry out its mandate as contained in resolution 1472 (XIV) and to review the activities provided for in this resolution and to make such reports as it may consider appropriate.
