



General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Fifty-third session
Vienna, 9-18 June 2010

Draft report

Chapter I

Introduction

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its fifty-third session in Vienna from 9 to 18 June 2010. The officers of the Committee were as follows:

<i>Chair:</i>	Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu (Romania)
<i>First Vice-Chair:</i>	Nomfuneko Majaja (South Africa)
<i>Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur:</i>	Raimundo González Aninat (Chile)

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-seventh session in Vienna from 8 to 19 February 2010, under the chairmanship of Ulrich Huth (Germany). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/958).

3. The Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had held its forty-ninth session in Vienna from 22 March to 1 April 2010, under the chairmanship of Ahmad Talebzadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/942). The unedited verbatim transcripts of the meetings of the Subcommittee are contained in documents COPUOS/Legal/T.803-819.



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

C. Election of officers

5. At the 613th meeting, on 9 June, Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu (Romania) was elected Chair of the Committee, Nomfuneko Majaja (South Africa) was elected First Vice-Chair and Raimundo González Aninat (Chile) was elected Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur, each for a two-year term of office.
6. Also at the 613th meeting, the Committee endorsed the election of Ulrich Huth (Germany) as Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-seventh session and Ahmad Talebzadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran) as Chair of the Legal Subcommittee for a two-year term of office, starting with the forty-ninth session.

D. Membership

7. 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.

E. Attendance

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

9. At its 613th meeting, the Committee decided to invite, at their request, observers for Azerbaijan, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe, as well as the Holy See, to attend its fifty-third 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.

10. Observers for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) attended the session.

11. The session was attended by observers for the following intergovernmental organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee: the African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing (AOCRS), the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), the European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO), the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Telecommunications Satellite Organization (EUTELSAT-IGO) and the Regional Centre for Remote Sensing of North African States (CRTEAN).

12. The session was also attended by observers for the following non-governmental organizations with permanent observer status with the

Committee: the Association of Space Explorers (ASE), EURISY, the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), the International Space University (ISU), the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), the International Astronomical Union (IAU), the International Institute of Space Law (IISL), the Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water (PSIPW), the Secure World Foundation (SWF) and the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC).

13. At its 613th meeting, the Committee decided to invite, at their request, the observers for the International Association for the Advancement of the Space Safety (IAASS) and the Association of Remote Sensing Centre in the Arab World (ARSCAW) to attend its fifty-third 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.

14. 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 A/AC.105/2010/INF/[...].

F. General statements

15. Statements were made by representatives of the following States members of the Committee during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). The representative of Algeria made a statement on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China. The representative of Zimbabwe made a statement on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States. The representative of Costa Rica 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 Spain made a statement on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union. The representative of Egypt made a statement on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. The observers for Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates also made statements. Statements were also made by the observers for APSCO, CRTEAN, ESPI, IAF, SGAC and SWF.

16. The Committee welcomed the election of Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu (Romania) as its Chair, Nomfuneko Majaja (South Africa) as its First Vice-Chair and Raimundo González Aninat (Chile) as its Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur.

17. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Ciro Arévalo Yepes (Colombia), its former Chair, to Suvit Vibulsresth (Thailand), its former First Vice-Chair, and to

Filipe Duarte Santos (Portugal), its former Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur, for their excellent work and achievements during their tenure.

18. The outgoing Chair of the Committee made a statement, noting achievements made by the Committee in the previous period, and acknowledged that the Committee had made concrete efforts to promote regional and interregional cooperation and coordination in space activities for the benefit of all countries.

19. At the 613th meeting, on 9 June, the Chair delivered a statement highlighting the role played by the Committee in promoting efforts to further space exploration and bring the benefits of space technology to Earth to ensure sustainable development for all countries. He stressed the fundamental importance of addressing the major challenges to global development by means of developing space science and technology applications.

20. At the 615th meeting, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat briefed the Committee on the work carried out by the Office during the past year and stressed the importance of the availability of financial and other resources for the successful implementation of the Office's programme of work.

21. The Committee congratulated Japan on the success of its unmanned Hayabusa space mission to return a sample of material from a near-Earth asteroid. It was noted that the mission marked the first time that an asteroid sample had been returned to Earth for analysis.

22. The Committee also congratulated the Russian Federation on the successful launch from the Baikonur cosmodrome of the manned spacecraft Soyuz TMA-19. It was the twenty-fourth mission of international crew to the International Space Station (ISS), marking the hundredth launch under the ISS programme.

23. The Committee noted with appreciation the establishment of a national space agency by the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

24. The Committee also noted the establishment of the UK Space Agency by the United Kingdom to replace the British National Space Centre.

25. The Committee heard the following presentations:

(a) "Satellite activities of Tunisia relating to telecommunication networks", by the representative of Tunisia;

(b) "Space activities of the National Cartography and Remote Sensing Centre", by the representative of Tunisia;

(c) "Recent development in the field of space in Turkey, and the UN/Turkey/ESA Workshop on Space Technology Applications for Socio-Economic Benefits", by the representative of Turkey;

(d) "Global Lunar Conference", by the representative of China.

26. The Committee noted with appreciation the successful completion of the 60th International Astronautical Congress, held in the Republic of Korea in October 2009 and attended by over 4,000 participants from 72 countries. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the International Astronautical Congress would be hosted by the Government of the Czech Republic in 2010 and by the Government of South Africa in 2011.

G. Adoption of the report of the Committee

27. 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

28. In accordance with paragraph 42 of General Assembly resolution 64/86 of 10 December 2009, the Committee continued its consideration, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

29. The representatives of 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.

30. The Committee heard the following presentations:

(a) “Space Security Index 2010”, by the representative of Canada;

(b) “The Shared Space Situational Awareness Program of the United States”, by the representative of the United States.

31. 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.

32. 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 and 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.¹

33. The Committee noted with appreciation that representatives of Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico, as well as of the pro tempore secretariat of the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas, established by the Government of Ecuador, and the International Group of Experts, had met in Quito on 16 and 17 December 2009 and in Cuenca, Ecuador, on 27 and 28 May 2010. The Committee also noted that the meetings had resulted in detailed plans for the remaining preparations for the Sixth Space Conference of the Americas, to be hosted by the Government of Mexico in November 2010. The Committee noted that a seminar on promoting regional

¹ *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).

cooperation in matters relating to space law and policy had been held in conjunction with the meeting in May 2010.

34. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Third African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development had been held in Algiers from 30 November to 2 December 2009, under the patronage of the President of Algeria. In that regard, the Committee noted that, on the occasion of the Conference, Algeria, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa had signed a cooperation agreement on the African Resource Management satellite constellation. The Committee also noted with appreciation that the Government of Kenya would host the Fourth African Leadership Conference in 2011.

35. The Committee also noted with satisfaction that APSCO had held its second Council Meeting in Beijing on 17 and 18 December 2009 and had commenced the implementation of the long-term development plan and five-year project plan. An APSCO symposium on space technology and applications would be held in Pakistan in September 2010, on the subject of agriculture and food security.

36. The Committee noted with appreciation the holding of the sixteenth session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) in Bangkok from 26 to 29 January 2010, with the theme "Space applications: contributions towards human safety and security". The seventeenth session of APRSAF, to be jointly organized by the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan, would be hosted by Australia in November 2010.

37. 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.²

38. 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 other States were under way, with a view to reaching consensus on a text that would be acceptable to the greatest possible number of States.

39. [...] reiterated their commitment to the peaceful use and exploration of outer space and emphasized the following principles: equal and non-discriminatory access to outer space and equal conditions for all States, irrespective of their level of scientific, technical and economic development; non-appropriation of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, by claim of sovereignty, use, occupation or any other means; non-militarization of outer space and its strict exploitation for the improvement of living conditions and peace on the planet; and regional cooperation to promote space activities as established by the General Assembly and other international forums.

² A/56/326, annex.

40. Some delegations were of the view that the Committee provided a unique opportunity for fostering international and interregional dialogue and cooperation to maintain peaceful uses of outer space, and that it served as a valuable forum for encouraging research and information-sharing, exchanging good practices and defining confidence-building measures in the framework of international space law.

41. Some delegations were of the view that all activities in outer space should bring benefits to humankind and that all countries, irrespective of size and capacity, should have the right to use outer space for peaceful purposes.

42. The view was expressed 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.

43. The view was expressed that the existing legal regime of outer space was not adequate to prevent the weaponization of outer space and address the issues of the space environment and that the further development of international space law would be important for maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. The delegation that expressed that view also expressed its support for a comprehensive legal instrument to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes, without prejudice to the existing legal framework.

44. The view was expressed that provisions of international space law had to be improved to effectively respond to challenges posed by a number of problems involved in space activities, such as the absence of the definition and delimitation of outer space, the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and the threat of space debris. The delegation that expressed that view considered that the improvement of international space law would ensure that outer space was used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that it was necessary to enhance coordination within the United Nations system to promote the creation of international rules and mechanisms that would address effectively the current challenges to outer space activities.

45. The view was expressed that the conclusion of the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat 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, would prevent an arms race in outer space.

46. The view was expressed that, in order to maintain the peaceful nature of space activities and prevent the weaponization of outer space, 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 First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament.

47. The view was expressed that it was impossible to ensure the safety and sustainability of activities in outer space without having security in outer space and that it was important to have a constructive engagement within the Conference on Disarmament on space security.

48. 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.

49. The view was expressed that 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,³ ensured the free exploration and use of outer space by all States, including the right to uninterrupted operation of the global telecommunication network.

50. The view was expressed that, in order to ensure that developing countries enjoy the benefits of space science and technology, developed countries should share experiences and know-how, as well as provide affordable and timely access to data on a non-discriminatory basis.

51. The view was expressed that activities in outer space, which were making a substantial contribution to the well-being and socio-economic development of humankind, should be carried out in a manner compatible with the sovereign rights of States, including the principle of non-intervention, as enshrined in the relevant United Nations instruments.

52. The Committee recommended that, at its fifty-fourth session, in 2011, 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

53. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space considered the agenda item “Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)” in accordance with General Assembly resolution 64/86.

54. The representatives of Canada, Japan, Nigeria, Portugal and the Russian Federation made statements under the item. Representatives of other member States also made statements relating to the item during the general exchange of views and the discussion on the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-seventh session.

55. The Committee heard a presentation entitled “Space initiatives at the Center for Strategic and International Studies”, by the representative of the United States.

56. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, submitted to the Subcommittee at its forty-seventh session by its Working Group of the Whole, which had been reconvened under the chairmanship of S. K. Shivakumar (India) to consider, inter alia, the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III (A/AC.105/958, para. 55 and annex I, sect. III).

57. The Committee noted with satisfaction that Member States continued to contribute to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III through

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

national and regional activities and by supporting and participating in the programmes established in response to those recommendations, and that some States had established policies aimed at maximizing and harmonizing the use of various types of space-based services, such as navigation, meteorology and remote sensing, to respond to societal needs.

58. The Committee noted with appreciation that the Action Team on Public Health, co-chaired by Canada and India, had included in its workplan the use of telecommunications in the context of tele-health and Earth observation applications in the context of tele-epidemiology, with an emphasis on improving public health and infectious disease management. The Committee noted that the action team was pursuing the objectives contained in its workplan for the period 2010-2011 and would present a report at the forty-eighth session of the Subcommittee. The Committee also noted that the action team encouraged Member States to contribute to its report by sharing experiences and views on the way forward.

59. 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 to address the current major challenges of sustainable development.

60. The Committee had before it the report on the contribution of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the thematic cluster 2010-2011 (A/AC.105/944).

61. The Committee agreed that, in the preparation of its forthcoming contribution to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, it should contribute to the thematic clusters in which space technology and its applications played a particularly important role; pay attention to the cross-cutting issues identified by the Commission; identify areas where space-based systems could complement terrestrial systems to promote integrated solutions; and include, as appropriate and in addition to examples of regional and international cooperation, national success stories that might provide useful examples for the overall contribution of the Committee.

62. The Committee requested the Secretariat to provide, for consideration by the Working Group of the Whole at the forty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, a draft of the contribution of the Committee to the work of the Commission for the next thematic cluster, bearing in mind the overall review of the implementation of Agenda 21, together with contributions of member States.

63. The Committee 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 Committee, in its contributions to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, should focus on the following interrelated main areas: poverty and development; sustainability of energy systems; food security, water resources and biodiversity; and climate change.

65. The Committee noted with appreciation the publication of the report on the events of World Space Week 2009 (ST/SPACE/48), prepared by the World Space Week Association in cooperation with the Office for Outer Space Affairs.