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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-sixth session
Vienna, 27 March-7 April 2017
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
**Status and application of the five United Nations
treaties on outer space**

Draft General Assembly resolution on the fiftieth anniversary of the Outer Space Treaty

Note by the Secretariat

The annex to this document contains a revised version of the note by the Secretariat, entitled “Draft declaration on the fiftieth anniversary 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” (A/AC.105/C.2/L.300, annex), based on discussions in the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, including on a non-paper by the Secretariat of 3 April 2017.

* A/AC.105/C.2/L.299.



Annex

Draft resolution

Fiftieth anniversary 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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1962 (XVIII) of 13 December 1963, entitled “Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space”,

Recalling that the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,¹ was adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 1966 (resolution 2222 (XXI)), was opened for signature in London, Moscow and Washington, D.C., on 27 January 1967, and entered into force on 10 October 1967,

Noting that 105 States have become parties to the Treaty and an additional 25 States have signed it as of 1 January 2017,

Reaffirming the fundamental role played by the Treaty in maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes, and in furthering the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation and understanding,

Recognizing that the achievements made in space exploration efforts, in the development of space science and technology for the benefit of all humankind, and in international cooperation initiatives to those ends, have exceeded all expectations since the adoption of the Treaty,

Acknowledging that there has been a significant rise in the importance to States of space science and technology applications, which enable greater understanding of the universe and contribute to advances in, *inter alia*, education, health, environmental monitoring, the management of natural resources, disaster management, meteorological forecasting, climate modelling, protection of the cultural heritage, information technology, satellite navigation and communications, and generally to the well-being of humanity through economic, social and cultural development,

Deeply convinced that the challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer-space activities require joint efforts at the international, regional and interregional levels,

Emphasizing the constantly evolving and increasingly multifaceted nature of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, with fundamentally complex scientific and technological advancements in the space field and an increasing variety of actors in the space arena, and therefore encouraging the building of stronger partnerships, cooperation and coordination,

Firmly convinced that the exploration and use of outer space should continue to be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all humankind and that outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, is free for exploration and use by all States on the basis of equality and in accordance with international law,

Calling upon all States and international intergovernmental organizations conducting space activities to work under the principles of cooperation and mutual assistance, paying due regard to the corresponding interests of other States,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

Continuously inspired by the prospects that keep opening up before humankind as a result of human activities in outer space,

1. *Urges* States, in particular those that are members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, that have not yet become parties to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, to consider becoming party to it;

2. *Emphasizes*, in this regard, that the benefits arising from adherence to the Treaty, as part of the legal regime of outer space, are significant to all States, irrespective of the degree of their economic or scientific development, and that being party to the Treaty would enhance the ability of States to become part of international cooperation efforts in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

3. *Reiterates* the role of the Treaty as the cornerstone of the international legal regime governing outer space activities, and that the Treaty manifests the fundamental principles of international space law;

4. *Affirms* that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee and Scientific and Technical Subcommittee have a distinguished history in the establishment and further development of the international legal regime governing outer space activities, and that under this legal framework, space activities by States, international intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental entities, are flourishing, and as a result, space science and technology, and their applications and services, contribute immeasurably to economic growth and improvements in the quality of life around the world;

5. *Calls upon* the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee to continue, with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, to promote the widest adherence to the Treaty, to encourage its application by States, taking into account their rights and obligations under the Treaty, and to foster the progressive development of international space law;

6. *Requests* the Office for Outer Space Affairs to continue fostering capacity-building in space law and policy for the benefit of all countries and to continue providing assistance to developing countries, at their request, in the development of national space policy and legislation in conformity with international space law.
