

**Committee on the Peaceful****Uses of Outer Space****Sixty-fourth session**

Vienna, 25 August–3 September 2021

Draft report**Addendum****Chapter II****Recommendations and decisions****F. Space and water**

1. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “Space and water”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [75/92](#).
2. The representatives of Argentina, Canada, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, South Africa and the United States made statements under the item. During the general exchange of views, other member States also made statements relating to the item.
3. The Committee heard a presentation entitled “The use of satellite information in solving problems of ensuring water security”, by the representative of the Russian Federation.
4. In the course of the discussion, delegations reviewed water-related cooperation activities, giving examples of national programmes and bilateral, regional and international cooperation that demonstrated the beneficial effect of international cooperation and policies on the sharing of remote sensing data.
5. The Committee noted that water and related issues had become one of the most critical environmental problems of the twenty-first century. The Committee also noted that in order to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals it was important to make use of space technologies, applications, practices and initiatives for space-borne observations of water.
6. The Committee noted that a large number of space-borne platforms 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 many water-related issues, including the observation and study of oceans and changing coastal features; global water cycles and unusual climate patterns; the mapping of surface water bodies, watercourses and transboundary basins; water volume levels in dam reservoirs; the estimated values for water quality parameters; the estimation of



snowmelt run-offs; the monitoring of ground water resources; the planning and management of reservoirs and irrigation projects; the monitoring and mitigation of the effects of floods, droughts, cyclones and lake outbursts; the monitoring of soil moisture; the reuse of agricultural drainage water; the harvesting of rain; the improvement of the timeliness and accuracy of forecasts; and the identification of emergency situations such as fires, pollution, salinization, water blooms, pipeline accidents and oil spills.

7. Some delegations expressed the view that climate change had become a crucial issue for a stable water management because it had caused serious droughts and water-related disasters at a global level.

8. The Committee took note of the holding of the United Nations/Islamic Republic of Iran Workshop on the Space Technology Applications for Drought, Flood and Water Resources Management, which was hosted by the Iranian Space Agency from 9 to 11 August 2021.

9. Some delegations expressed the view that there was a need for policy development, capacity-building, knowledge exchange, transfer of technology, access to space-based data and in situ data, and interdisciplinary thinking on the Sustainable Development Goals in order to build capacity among stakeholders to use space-based information and promote innovation to empower communities to deal with emerging risks related to water resources.

I. Future role and method of work of the Committee

10. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “Future role and method of work of the Committee”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [75/92](#).

11. The representatives of Canada, Chile, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under the item. The observer for the European Union made a statement. The observer for IAU also made a statement. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

12. The Committee had before it a note by the Secretariat on the governance and method of work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.384](#)).

13. The Committee recalled the deliberations on the item as reflected in the report of the Committee on its sixty-second session ([A/74/20](#), paras. 312–323), the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fifty-eighth session ([A/AC.105/1240](#), paras. 212–233) and the report of the Legal Subcommittee on its sixtieth session ([A/AC.105/1243](#), paras. 119–141).

14. Some delegations expressed the view that decision-making based on consensus and the “Vienna spirit” should be maintained.

15. The view was expressed that the development and implementation of future procedures that allow debate on topics of interest and decision-making would make it possible to achieve greater efficiency and dynamics in the work of the Committee.

16. The view was expressed that it was necessary for the Committee to improve and enrich its working methods, strengthen its own leading role and adopt more effective means to interact with non-governmental processes within the framework of the rules of procedure and existing practices in order to adapt to changing realities and needs.

17. The view was expressed that attempts to transfer the discussion of important topics on the space agenda to parallel platforms with limited membership would undermine the international authority of the Committee.

18. The view was expressed that the Committee should increase its interaction with the main committees of the United Nations system to allow for greater advice and cooperation on issues such as nuclear energy sources, disarmament and law.
19. Some delegations expressed the view that issues associated with both the prevention of an arms race in outer space and the use of outer space for national security activities were more appropriately discussed in forums with mandates specifically focused on those issues, such as the Conference on Disarmament, the Disarmament Commission and the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) of the General Assembly.
20. The view was expressed that consideration of the legal aspects of the practical implementation of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee should be included in the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee to ensure the involvement of legal experts of States.
21. The view was expressed that the intergovernmental status of the Committee should be preserved and that any interference by non-governmental entities in the work of the Committee should be avoided.
22. The view was expressed that expert inputs through organized symposiums and technical presentations would provide a valuable contribution to the work of the Committee.
23. The view was expressed that it was necessary to support the work of the regional centres for space science and technology education affiliated to the United Nations and to strengthen exchanges and collaboration between different regional centres to build the capacity of developing countries, giving special consideration to emerging spacefaring countries and developing countries.
24. The view was expressed that informal meetings of working groups should be conducted in an online or hybrid format more often to facilitate intersessional progress.
25. Some delegations expressed the view that the hybrid format of the current session, which had included live webcasting of plenary meetings with interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations, had allowed the greater participation of countries in the work of the Subcommittees and that such a hybrid format could be maintained for the future sessions of the Committee and its Subcommittees.
26. Some delegations expressed the view that a single issue/item for discussion entitled “General exchange of views regarding satellite system effects upon terrestrial-based astronomy” should be included on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fifty-ninth session, in 2022.
27. The view was expressed that the inclusion of such item on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should be evaluated by the Subcommittee at its fifty-ninth session, in 2022, with a view to determining the best way forward for the consideration of the issue.
28. The Committee noted that an agreement on how to procedurally address the above-mentioned matter could possibly be reached in the intersessional period before the fifty-ninth session of the Subcommittee.
29. The view was expressed that a procedure to follow in cases of force majeure should be established to ensure the continuity of the work of the Committee in crisis situations, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

K. “Space2030” agenda

30. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “‘Space2030’ agenda”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [75/92](#), as an agenda item under a multi-year workplan.

31. The representatives of Chile, China, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Sri Lanka, the Republic of Korea, the United Arab Emirates, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under the item. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

32. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/92, the decision taken by written procedure by the Committee (A/75/20, paras. 30–32) and on the basis of the mandates derived from General Assembly resolution 73/6, the Committee at its 770th meeting, on 25 August, convened its Working Group on the “Space2030” Agenda under the chairmanship of the Bureau, comprising the Chair, Mu’ammarr Kamel Haddadin (Jordan), and the Vice-Chairs, Alessandro Cortese (Italy) and Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu (Romania).

33. The Committee had before it a working paper submitted by the Bureau of the Working Group on the “Space2030” Agenda (A/AC.105/L.321) containing a consolidated draft of the “Space2030” agenda and implementation plan, for further negotiations during the meetings of the Working Group at the sixty-fourth session of the Committee.

34. The Working Group held five meetings and met in informal consultations. At its 4th meeting, on 31 August 2021, the Working Group agreed on the final consolidated draft “Space2030” agenda and implementation plan and submitted it to the Committee for its endorsement.

35. At its 781st meeting, on 1 September, the Committee endorsed the “Space2030” Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development and the implementation plan, contained in annex II to the present report. At that same meeting, the Committee also endorsed the report of the Working Group, contained in annex I to the present report.

36. The Committee noted with appreciation the work by the Bureau of the Working Group, assisted by the Secretariat, in completing its work.

37. The Committee noted that the “Space2030” Agenda and implementation plan, as endorsed, would be submitted in a draft resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session, in 2021, for adoption by the Assembly under the agenda item entitled “Space as a driver of sustainable development”.

38. The Committee noted the significance of the “Space2030” Agenda and implementation plan as a forward-looking and comprehensive document for reaffirming and strengthening the contribution of space activities and space tools to the achievement of sustainable development, highlighting the role of space and the broad societal benefits that it brought and serving as an inspirational tool for the broader international community by promoting the use of space technologies and applications and space-derived data to further economic growth and prosperity.

39. The Committee also noted the emphasis of the “Space2030” Agenda on strengthened partnerships and cooperation among Member States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, industry and private sector entities to ensure that, through joint efforts and by taking advantage of the practical experiences and contributions of different stakeholders, the benefits of space would be brought to everyone, everywhere. In that regard, the Committee noted the important role of the “Space2030” Agenda in guiding the work of the Committee and its subcommittees, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as unique platforms for international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, for fostering dialogue among spacefaring and emerging space nations and for promoting the increased involvement of all countries in space activities, including through capacity-building initiatives.

40. Some delegations expressed the view that in the implementation of the “Space2030” Agenda, States should avoid any measures that could hamper its implementation, in particular for developing countries.

41. Some delegations expressed the view that in the implementation of the “Space2030” Agenda particular attention should be given to bridging the capacity gaps between countries in the use of space technology and applications and to enabling technology transfer to enable countries to develop local solutions to global problems.

42. The view was expressed that the “Space2030” Agenda and implementation plan provided a comprehensive and strategic vision for future cooperation in outer space and that all space actors were expected to implement the Agenda faithfully. The delegation that expressed that view voiced its concern on a revisionist approach to General Assembly resolution 73/6 that had emerged during the discussions in the Working Group on the “Space2030” Agenda and called upon States members of the Committee to refrain from adopting such an approach and to work constructively towards the full implementation of the “Space2030” Agenda.

43. The view was expressed that access to space-derived data was central to enabling developing countries to harness their potential and enabling them to better plan their infrastructure and address issues such as food security, natural resources and disaster management. That delegation was of the view that there was a need for partnerships and a concerted effort to bridge the gap in the use of space-derived data for planning and decision-making in developing countries.

44. The view was expressed that the utilization of the geostationary orbit was also crucial for the efforts to advance the contribution of space for sustainable development. That delegation was of the view that the “Space2030” agenda and implementation plan should identify ways to ensure equitable access to the geostationary orbit for all States, including by revitalizing partnerships with other international organizations, taking into account the needs and interests of developing countries, as well as the geographical position of certain countries.

45. The Committee agreed that the agenda item entitled ““Space2030’ agenda” was to be retained on the Committee’s agenda for each session through 2030 to allow for an exchange among States members of the Committee and its permanent observers on their experiences in implementing the “Space2030” Agenda.
