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**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

G. Space and climate change

1. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “Space and climate change”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/92.
2. The representatives of Argentina, Austria, Canada, China, Egypt, Finland, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States 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.
3. The Committee heard the following presentations:
 - (a) “The role of space in understanding climate change and informing decisions”, by the representative of the United States;
 - (b) “The Philippine Space Agency: using space technology in response to the changing climate”, by the representative of the Philippines;
 - (c) “United Arab Emirates climate change international efforts”, by the representative of the United Arab Emirates;
 - (d) “African development satellite: an initiative of climate change detection in Africa”, by the representative of Egypt.
4. The Committee underscored the importance of continued commitment by the global community to tackling climate change, which was one of the most pressing global challenges. In that regard, the Committee noted the growing value of space-based technology in providing critical climate data to better understand and mitigate climate change and monitor implementation of the Paris Agreement, as well as the importance of space-based observations for understanding climate change. The Committee also noted the importance of space-based observations to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 13, on climate action.



5. The Committee noted the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and actions to tackle climate change taken at the national, international and multilateral levels, as well as the importance of international and regional organizations working together to understand their comparative advantages and avoid duplication. In that regard, the Committee also noted the 2019 Climate Action Summit, convened by the Secretary-General, at which Member States were expected to present specific and realistic plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the following decade with the goal of reaching zero emissions by 2050. The Committee further noted the United Nations/Austria symposium on the theme “Space applications for Sustainable Development Goal 13: climate action”, held in Graz, Austria, from 1 to 3 September 2020, as well as the upcoming United Nations/Austria World Space Forum on the theme “Space 4 climate action”, to be held from 6 to 9 December 2021 in Vienna, hosted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs.
6. The Committee also noted that the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, under the presidency of the United Kingdom and in partnership with Italy, would be held from 31 October to 12 November 2021 in Glasgow, United Kingdom, with the presidency working with partner organizations and specialized bodies, such as the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Group on Earth Observations and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, to ensure that the importance of space-based climate action was underscored at the session.
7. The Committee further noted the establishment of the Space Climate Observatory – the creation of which had been proposed by the National Centre for Space Studies of France (CNES) and approved by more than 20 space agencies in the Paris Declaration adopted at the One Planet Summit on 11 December 2017, and for which a joint declaration of interest had been signed at Le Bourget, France, on 17 June 2019 – to facilitate the mobilization of space tools for climate action and support the implementation of Paris Agreement. In that regard, the Committee noted that the main objective of the Space Climate Observatory was to produce and distribute adequate, timely and reliable data, as well as information on the impacts of climate change at the national and regional levels using space technologies, targeted measures and relevant models cross-referenced with socioeconomic indicators, in order to define and implement climate change mitigation and adaptation.
8. The Committee noted that international partner agencies and organizations, including the Office for Outer Space Affairs, planned to sign the Space Climate Observatory international charter at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
9. The Committee also noted the proposal by Austria for the “Space 4 climate action” initiative, focused on space-based approaches to climate change and aimed at promoting, strengthening and delivering targeted capacity-building and technical advisory activities, facilitating multi-stakeholder collaboration and cooperation and promoting efforts to encourage the use of space for climate action from the local to the national and international levels. In that regard, the Committee welcomed the proposal and further noted that the initiative would bring together Member States, space agencies, United Nations entities and private sector and academic institutions to tackle climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience. It was proposed that the initiative be implemented by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in supporting Member States in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 13, on climate action.
10. The Committee further noted the usefulness of satellite observations and Earth observation applications for monitoring essential climate variables and noted the benefits of using Earth observations to track changes in sea level, carbon dioxide concentrations, sea ice depletion and terrestrial snow mass and to gather data on remote areas such as deserts, oceans, the polar caps and glaciers.
11. The Committee noted a number of bilateral partnerships in climate change-related activities in the area of Earth observation, as well as space programmes at the

national level that made it a high priority to build, launch and operate Earth-observation satellite systems to track the manifestations and effects of climate change.

12. The Committee also noted that it was important to support international cooperation for Earth observation, including through long-established organizations such as WMO, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites, the Global Climate Observing System, the Group on Earth Observations and APSCO.

B. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fifty-eighth session

9. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities

13. [*Continuation of section from A/AC.105/L.322/Add.1.*] The Committee noted that the Working Group had agreed that a list of Working Group points of contact should be established to facilitate faster and more effective dissemination of information, to be used in addition to formal means of communication, and requested the Secretariat to send a formal request, following the present session, to States members of the Committee to nominate points of contact, preferably before the end of September 2021.

14. The Committee also noted that the Working Group had agreed that it would hold online informal consultations from 22 to 24 November 2021 to advance discussions on its terms of reference, methods of work and workplan and requested the Chair and the Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements for such informal consultations.

15. The Committee further noted that the Working Group had agreed that it would hold an intersessional meeting on 3 and 4 February 2022 to further advance agreement on its terms of reference, methods of work and workplan and requested the Chair and the Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements for such a meeting.

16. The Committee noted that the Working Group had agreed that any comments on the proposal contained in conference room paper A/AC.105/2021/CRP.18 that were submitted to the Chair and the Secretariat by 18 October 2021 would be consolidated into a draft document, which would form the basis of discussion at the informal consultations in November 2021. That document would be available in English only and would be shared with Working Group members by no later than 1 November 2021. The Chair, with the support of the Secretariat, was requested to have the document resulting from the informal consultations in November 2021 translated into all the official languages of the United Nations for further consideration at the intersessional meeting in February 2022.
