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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
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Vienna, 1–10 June 2022

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 [76/76](#).
2. The representatives of Austria, China, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kenya, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the United Arab Emirates, 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) “Space observatory for climate change and response in China”, by the representative of China;
 - (b) “Geostationary Environment Monitoring Sensor (GEMS) application plan for climate change research”, by the representative of the Republic of Korea;
 - (c) “New methods of the evolution of atmospheric and climate system analysis and prediction based on satellite observations”, by the representative of the Russian Federation;
 - (d) “Copernicus contribution to global efforts on monitoring CO₂ emissions”, by the observer for the European Union;
 - (e) “Benefits of space solar power”, by the observer for the National Space Society.
4. The Committee noted that climate change was one of the most pressing global challenges of our time and underscored 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, underscoring as well the importance of space-based observations for understanding climate change. The Committee also



noted the importance of space-based observations for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 13 on climate action.

5. The Committee noted the efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels in developing and operating satellites for observing atmospheric conditions, as well as the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and actions to tackle climate change by utilizing space-based observations and technologies. In that regard, the Committee noted the Working Group III contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, released in April 2022, in which the Working Group called for urgent action to limit global warming to 1.5°C degrees, and the essential role of space technologies and applications on the path to climate-friendly transformation. It also noted that more than half of the 54 variables used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change could be measured only with the central contribution of space-based technology.

6. The Committee noted the interest expressed by international partner agencies and organizations, including the Office for Outer Space Affairs, to join and contribute to the efforts of the Space Climate Observatory, which was created upon the initiative of the National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) of France, which had been 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, giving the Observatory the main objective of producing and distributing adequate, timely and reliable data and 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.

7. The Committee further noted that the Space Climate Observatory had developed its Charter, which was presented to the 36 space agencies that were currently signatories to the declaration of interest. In that regard, the Committee noted that the Charter of the Space Climate Observatory, which would enter into force on 1 September 2022, would enable the Observatory to take its place among the multilateral networks working to fight climate change, giving the Observatory the task of facilitating the mobilization of space tools for climate action and supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

8. The Committee noted that as part of the “Space4ClimateAction” initiative of Austria, the annual United Nations/Austria symposium would be held from 12 to 15 September 2022 on the topic of “Space for climate action: experiences and best practices in mitigating and adapting to climate change and supporting sustainability on Earth”. The Committee also noted that a dedicated web page on the “Space4ClimateAction” initiative, hosted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, would be created as part of the Office’s efforts to support Member States in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 13 on climate action.

9. The Committee noted the successful holding, in Glasgow, United Kingdom, in 2021, of 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, at which the importance of space-based climate action was highlighted. In that regard, the Committee also noted that the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would be held under the presidency of Egypt from 7 to 18 November 2023.

10. 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.

11. The Committee noted the usefulness of satellite observations and Earth observation applications for monitoring essential climate variables and related challenges such as increased desertification and extreme weather events, tracking changes in sea level, carbon dioxide concentrations, sea ice depletion and terrestrial snow mass and gathering data on remote areas such as deserts, oceans, the polar caps and glaciers.

12. The Committee also noted that it was important to support international cooperation for Earth observation, including through long-established organizations such as the World Meteorological Organization, CEOS, the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites, the Global Climate Observing System, the Group on Earth Observations and APSCO. In that regard, the Committee noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs was currently finalizing the report on the strategic mapping exercise aimed at providing a more complete understanding of the range of technical and policy coordination capabilities of existing intergovernmental entities in using space technologies to support climate change mitigation, adaptation, resilience and monitoring.

H. Use of space technology in the United Nations system

13. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “Use of space technology in the United Nations system”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [76/76](#).

14. The representatives of Austria, India, Indonesia and Mexico 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.

15. The Committee had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on its fortieth session ([A/AC.105/1263](#));

(b) Conference room paper containing an advance version of the special report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system for climate action ([A/AC.105/2022/CRP.15](#)).

16. The Committee heard the following presentations under the item:

(a) “Russian–Cuban Observatory: objectives, instruments and tasks”, by the representative of the Russian Federation;

(b) “Assessment of the consequences of cosmic bodies falling to Earth”, by the representatives of the Russian Federation.

17. The Committee noted that the fortieth session of Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space) had been held on 14 December 2021 in an online format. The Committee also noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs was working with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to jointly organize the forty-first session of UN-Space.

18. The Committee further noted that UN-Space had agreed to issue in 2022 a publication highlighting space-related activities within the United Nations system.

19. The Committee welcomed the forthcoming special report of UN-Space on coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system for climate action (to be issued under the symbol [A/AC.105/1264](#)) and expressed its appreciation to UN-Space and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in its capacity as the secretariat of UN-Space, for preparing that report.

20. The Committee encouraged entities of the United Nations system to participate, as appropriate, in the coordination efforts of UN-Space.

I. Future role and method of work of the Committee

21. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “Future role and method of work of the Committee”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [76/76](#).
22. The representatives of Chile, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, 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.
23. The Committee had before it the following:
 - (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](#));
 - (b) Paper submitted by Canada, Japan and the United States entitled “Preparations for a multi-stakeholder dialogue on outer space as part of a United Nations Summit of the Future” ([A/AC.105/2022/CRP.17](#)).
24. The Committee recalled the deliberations on the item as reflected in the report of the Committee on its sixty-fourth session ([A/76/20](#), paras. 281–300), the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fifty-ninth session ([A/AC.105/1258](#), paras. 210–223) and the report of the Legal Subcommittee at its sixty-first session ([A/AC.105/1260](#), paras. 103–121).
25. The Committee agreed to consider matters relating to the United Nations Summit of the Future under the agenda item entitled “Other matters”.
26. The view was expressed that the Committee should focus exclusively on promoting the peaceful uses of outer space, while matters of preventing escalation of conflict that could arise from the use of weapons against space systems, or the use of outer space for military and other national security activities, should be dealt with in the forums for disarmament of the United Nations.
27. 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 and disarmament.
28. Some delegations expressed the view that it was important to increase coordination, interaction and synergies between the two subcommittees on cross-cutting issues, in particular long-term sustainability and space resources.
29. The view was expressed that the development and implementation of future procedures that allowed for debate on topics of interest and decision-making would make it possible to achieve greater efficiency and dynamics in the work of the Committee.
30. Some delegations expressed the view that new items should be added to the agenda of the Committee and its subcommittees only when other items were removed.
31. Some delegations expressed the view that agenda items should be considered in sequential order while not precluding the holding of working group meetings.
32. The view was expressed that all member States should first be given the opportunity to speak under an agenda item, and only then should the floor be given to observer organizations.
33. The view was expressed that the Committee should consider new and innovative ways to best engage relevant stakeholders, such as those from industry, academia and civil society, in its activities.
34. 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 its rules of procedure and existing practices, in order to adapt to changing realities and needs.

35. The view was expressed that the work of other United Nations entities with regard to space-related issues should be closely coordinated with the work of the Committee and that the Committee should receive regular updates from United Nations entities participating in UN-Space.

36. 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.

37. The view was expressed that it was important to promote the development of human capacities in emerging countries to allow them to harness the benefits of space technology for development.

38. The view was expressed that it was important to maintain at future sessions the hybrid format of the current session, which included live webcasting of plenary meetings with interpretation into the six official languages of the United Nations, and in that regard the importance of the availability of a smooth webcast and comprehensive digital recordings was stressed.

39. The view was expressed that a procedure to be followed 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.
