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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
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Draft report

Addendum

XII. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 78/72, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 15, entitled “Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union”, as a single issue/item for discussion.
2. The representatives of China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and South Africa made statements under agenda item 15. The observer for ITU also made a statement. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were made by representatives of other member States.
3. The Subcommittee heard a technical presentation entitled “The Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-23) and the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23): results and future agenda”, by the observer for ITU.
4. In accordance with the invitation extended by the Subcommittee at its sixtieth session, in 2023 ([A/AC.105/1279](#), para. 267), the observer for ITU presented a report concerning the contribution of ITU to the peaceful uses of outer space, including the use of the geostationary satellite orbit and other orbits. In that connection, the Subcommittee took note with appreciation of the information provided in the annual report for 2024 of the Radiocommunication Bureau of ITU on the use of the geostationary satellite orbit and other orbits, as well as other documents



referred to in conference room paper A/AC.105/C.1/2024/CRP.19. The Subcommittee invited ITU to continue to submit reports to it.

5. Some delegations expressed the view that the geostationary orbit was a limited natural resource that played an indispensable and important role in supporting commercial and socioeconomic development, and that it should be made available on an equitable basis to all States, irrespective of their technical or socioeconomic development, and governed by the relevant provisions of the ITU Constitution, the ITU Radio Regulations and the Outer Space Treaty.

6. The view was expressed that the role of ITU in seeking to make rational use of geostationary orbit resources, and its efforts to improve the equitable availability of those scarce resources for all States, were commendable.

7. The view was expressed that use of the geostationary orbit provided crucial socioeconomic support by enabling the use of applications and technologies that supported programmes such as telemedicine, tele-education, disaster management and risk mitigation, as well as the provision of maritime weather alerts and public transportation information, all of which services addressed specific needs of the various sectors of society through the provision of communications services wherever terrestrial communication systems had not yet adequately penetrated.

8. The view was expressed that the geostationary orbit was a limited natural resource with strategic and economic value and, owing to its specific characteristics and conditions and its unique place in outer space, it required a specific technical and governance mechanism to effectively and adequately allocate its rational use between States.

9. Some delegations expressed the view that the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee (A/74/20, annex II) played a role in ensuring the equitable and effective use of the radio frequency spectrum and orbital zones used by satellites, although more efforts were needed. The delegations expressing that view also urged States to continue working towards the effective implementation of the Guidelines.

10. The view was expressed that, while the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee protected the geostationary orbit region, more efforts were required in order to ensure that the geostationary orbit, as a scarce resource, continued to be adequately and equitably managed. In addition, there was a call for greater coordination between the Committee and ITU to streamline discussions on issues related to the utilization of the geostationary orbit, in order to ensure that all States members of the Committee agreed on geostationary usage practices and to thus ensure its rational, balance, efficient and equitable allocation and use.

11. The view was expressed that the framework of ITU at present posed regulatory challenges for use of the geostationary orbit and that some specific regulations created difficulties for the unbiased distribution of that limited resource. As such, obtaining equitable access to frequency and orbital resources presented a significant challenge for new entrants in the commercial space industry. The delegation expressing those views also highlighted that procedures within the framework of ITU for attaining allotments, use of the “first-come, first-served” principle, and the practice of conducting operations to temporarily fill slots in order to comply with the rules but then manoeuvre geostationary satellites to more permanent locations, thus blocking orbital slots from others, and the harmful interference caused by large constellations in low Earth orbit, all served to unreasonably restrict the equitable and rational use of the geostationary orbit for all States.

12. The view was expressed that it should be determined whether there was a need to create specialized working groups and intergovernmental panels tasked with finding joint solutions to the challenges associated with the shared use of geostationary orbits.