



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.1/L.608
17 October 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-seventh session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda items 28 and 29

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

PREPARATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY CONCERNING THE MOON

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Egypt,
France, Iran, Italy, Japan, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America:
draft resolution

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2776 (XXVI), 2777 (XXVI), 2778 (XXVI) and 2779 (XXVI) of 29 November 1971,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/8750),

Reaffirming the common interest of mankind in furthering the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Recalling its resolution 1721 B (XVI) of 20 December 1961, in which it expressed the belief that the United Nations should provide a focal point for international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space,

Believing that the benefits deriving from space exploration can be extended to States at all stages of economic and scientific development on an expanding basis if Member States conduct their space programmes increasingly with a view to promoting maximum international co-operation, including the widest possible exchange of information in this field,

Convinced of the need for increased international efforts, particularly through the United Nations, to promote and expand practical applications of space technology,

Reaffirming the importance of international co-operation in developing the rule of law in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space,

1. Endorses the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/8720);
2. Invites States which 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, and the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space to give early consideration to ratifying or acceding to these agreements so that they may have the broadest possible effect;
3. Expresses its satisfaction at the recent entry into force of the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects and invites States that have not yet become parties to it to give early consideration to ratifying or acceding to it so that it may have the broadest possible effect;
4. Notes that the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has achieved significant progress in approving a substantial part of the draft treaty relating to the moon, observing at the same time that some issues are still unresolved;
5. Notes further that the Legal Sub-Committee has made notable progress in preparing the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space, observing at the same time that some issues are still unresolved;
6. Agrees that the Legal Sub-Committee should pursue its work on the draft treaty relating to the moon and the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space as matters of priority at its next session;
7. Notes that, because of lack of time, the Legal Sub-Committee was not able to consider in any detail the remaining matters on its agenda, as mentioned in paragraph 19 of the Committee's report, and expresses the hope that early consideration will be given to those matters;
8. Welcomes efforts of Member States to keep the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space fully informed of their space activities and invites all Members to do so;
9. Welcomes also the continuing progress achieved by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Secretary-General, through the Expert on Space Applications, in their efforts to develop the United Nations programme on space applications into a significant means of promoting international co-operation in this field and commends to the attention of Member States, the specialized agencies and interested United Nations bodies the programme contained in the report of the Committee's Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/102);

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10. Endorses the United Nations programme on space applications for 1973 and the guidelines for the programme for 1974 and recommends the continuing development of the programme, taking especially into account the needs of the developing countries;

11. Notes with appreciation, that several Member States have offered educational and training facilities, under United Nations sponsorship, in the practical application of space technology and draws the attention of Member States, particularly the developing countries, to these opportunities as outlined in paragraphs 28 to 32 of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee;

12. Notes with appreciation, that data from experiments testing the feasibility of remote sensing of the earth from space platforms will soon be made available to the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth from Satellites;

13. Welcomes the planned initiation of the substantive work of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites in January 1973 and notes that the Working Group has requested the Secretary-General to prepare, in accordance with resolution 2778 (XXVI), a background paper assessing the documents and other data brought to its attention, including data referred to in paragraph 12 above, and that it has set up a task force to assist the Secretary-General in this respect;

14. Looks forward to a comprehensive progress report on remote sensing to be submitted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

15. Takes note with gratification of the consideration being devoted by the Committee to the potential of satellites and other space platforms in monitoring the human environment with a view to helping to achieve the objectives of the future environmental programmes of the United Nations;

16. Welcomes the efforts of a number of Member States to share with other interested Member States the practical benefits that may be derived from programmes in space technology;

17. Welcomes the further progress achieved in international co-operation among Member States in space research and exploration, including in particular the continuing exchange and analysis of lunar material on a broad international basis, experiments in earth resource surveying making use of the United States satellite ERTS-I and the agreement between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the development of compatible rendezvous and docking systems for manned spacecraft with a view to developing joint flight and improved rescue capabilities;

18. Notes that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has recommended that its Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites, in view of its interdisciplinary character and its co-ordinating functions, should be reconvened to study the substantive material concerning the subject-matter under its mandate that has become available since the Working Group's last session, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the Committee's report;

19. Reiterates the importance of the goal of making satellite communications available to States on a world-wide and non-discriminatory basis, as expressed in General Assembly resolution 1721 D (XVI) of 20 December 1961;

20. Takes note of progress in implementing agreements relating to space communications recently concluded among a number of States and reiterates the desirability of keeping the United Nations currently informed concerning activities and developments in this field;

21. Approves continuing sponsorship by the United Nations of the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in India and the CELPA Mar del Plata Station in Argentina, expresses its satisfaction at the work being carried out at these ranges in relation to the use of sounding rocket facilities for international co-operation and training in the peaceful and scientific exploration of outer space and recommends that Member States continue to give consideration to the use of those facilities for space research activities;

22. Welcomes the announcement by Sweden that the ESRANGE-Kiruna range will also be made available for international co-operative projects;

23. Notes that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1721 B (XVI) of 20 December 1961, the Secretary-General continues to maintain a public registry of objects launched into orbit or beyond on the basis of information furnished by Member States;

24. Notes with appreciation, that a number of the specialized agencies, in particular the World Health Organization, International Telecommunication Union and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, have continued to take an active part in the United Nations programme for the promotion of international co-operation in the practical applications of space technology, including the organization of technical panels;

25. Takes note of the programmes currently being undertaken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Telecommunication Union in satellite broadcasting for the purpose of contributing to the advancement of education and training, including consideration by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of the draft Declaration of Guiding Principles on the Use of Satellite Broadcasting for the Free Flow of Information, the Spread of Education and Greater Cultural Exchange, and also notes the need to co-ordinate activities of the specialized agencies in this field with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as set out in General Assembly resolution 2776 (XXVI) of 29 November 1971;

26. Requests the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency to continue, as appropriate, to provide the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space and to examine and report to the Committee on the particular problems that may arise from the use of outer space in the fields within their competence and should, in their opinion, be brought to the attention of the Committee;

27. Notes that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has agreed to grant observer status to the European Space Research Organization (ESRO) and the European Launcher Development Organization (ELDO) and to invite them to participate in the Committee's work;

28. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its work as set out in the present resolution and in previous resolutions of the General Assembly and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session.