

Bearing in mind the various recommendations in the field of natural disaster prevention and the measures adopted in General Assembly resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971 with a view to improving the co-ordination and effectiveness of international efforts to deal with natural disasters, and stressing the importance of pre-disaster planning,

Noting the work being carried out by the joint Typhoon Committee of the World Meteorological Organization and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and the large degree of collaboration between the World Meteorological Organization and other national, regional and international organizations in matters relating to tropical cyclones,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the report of the World Meteorological Organization entitled "Tropical cyclone project: plan of action",¹ prepared by its Executive Committee Panel of Experts on Tropical Cyclones in response to General Assembly resolution 2733 D (XXV) of 16 December 1970, in which the Assembly requested the World Meteorological Organization to find ways and means of mitigating the harmful effects of tropical storms;

2. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the plan of action should be brought to the attention of Member States;²

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite Member States to co-operate to the fullest possible extent with the World Meteorological Organization with a view to achieving the objectives laid down in resolution 2733 D (XXV);

4. *Requests* the World Meteorological Organization to pursue actively the implementation of its tropical cyclone project, continuing and intensifying its other related action programmes, including the World Weather Watch and, especially, the efforts being undertaken towards obtaining basic meteorological data and discovering ways and means to mitigate the harmful effects of tropical storms and to remove or minimize their destructive potential;

5. *Calls upon* the Member States concerned to undertake or intensify research, as well as operational projects, towards this end and requests other Member States to contribute and assist in these projects;

6. *Recommends* integrated action through increased co-operation and co-ordination between the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the future United Nations environment programme, particularly with regard to the preparedness for, and the prediction, detection, prevention and control of, natural disasters;

7. *Requests* the World Meteorological Organization to submit a report, through the Secretary-General, to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its next session, to the Economic and Social Council and to such other United Nations bodies as may be appropriate on the progress achieved and on the co-operation measures and other steps taken pursuant to the present and other relevant resolutions.

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¹ See A/AC.105/105.

² Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/8720), para. 29.

2915 (XXVII). 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,³

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;

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 Bodies⁴ and the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space⁵ to give early consideration to ratifying or acceding to those 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 Objects⁶ and invites States that have not yet become parties to it to give early consideration to ratifying or acceding to the Convention 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 at its next session pursue, as a matter of priority, its work on the draft treaty relating to the Moon and the draft convention on registration of objects launched into outer space;

³ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 20 (A/8720).

⁴ See resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

⁵ See resolution 2345 (XXII), annex.

⁶ See resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex.

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 report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 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 Member States 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 set forth in the report of the Committee's Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee on the work of its ninth session;⁷

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 by Satellites;

13. *Welcomes* the fact that the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites plans to begin its substantive work in January 1973 and notes that the Working Group has requested the Secretary-General to prepare, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2778 (XXVI), a background paper assessing the documents and other data brought to its attention, including the 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 on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the potential of satellites and other space platforms in monitoring the environment with a view to helping to achieve the objectives of the future United Nations environment programme;

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 resources 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 worldwide and non-discriminatory basis, as expressed in General Assembly resolution 1721 D (XVI) of 20 December 1961;

20. *Takes note* of the progress achieved 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 should 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 specialized agencies, in particular the World Meteorological Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, have continued to take an active part in the United Nations programme for the promotion of international co-operation in the practical application of space technology, including the organization of technical panels;

25. *Takes note* of the programmes currently 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

⁷ A/AC.105/102.

Information, the Spread of Education and Greater Cultural Exchange,⁸ and also notes the need to coordinate 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);

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 that 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 and the European Launcher Development Organization 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 Assembly at its twenty-eighth session.

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2916 (XXVII). Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2222 (XXI) of 19 December 1966, in which it stressed the importance of international co-operation in the field of activities in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space and the importance of developing the rule of law in this new area of human endeavour,

Recalling further its resolution 2453 B (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, in which it stated that the benefits of space exploration can be extended to States at all stages of economic and scientific development,

Reaffirming the common interest of all mankind in furthering the peaceful exploration and use of outer space for the benefit of all States and for the development of friendly relations and mutual understanding among them,

Bearing in mind that direct television broadcasting should help to draw the peoples of the world closer together, to widen the exchange of information and cultural values and to enhance the educational level of people in various countries,

Considering at the same time that direct television broadcasting by means of satellites should take place under conditions in which this new form of space technology will serve only the lofty goals of peace and friendship among peoples,

Mindful of the need to prevent the conversion of direct television broadcasting into a source of international conflict and of aggravation of the relations among States and to protect the sovereignty of States from any external interference,

⁸ See A/AC.105/104.

Noting the draft convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting, submitted to the General Assembly by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,⁹

Desiring to further the elaboration of specific rules of international law governing the activities of States in this field on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations, the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies¹⁰ and the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,¹¹

Believing that the activity of States in the field of direct television broadcasting must be based on the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty, non-interference in domestic affairs, equality, co-operation and mutual benefit,

Considering at the same time that the introduction of direct television broadcasting by means of satellites could raise significant problems connected with the need to ensure the free flow of communications on a basis of strict respect for the sovereign rights of States,

1. *Considers* it necessary to elaborate principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements;

2. *Requests* the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to undertake the elaboration of such principles as soon as possible;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space all documentation relating to the discussion, at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly, of the item entitled "Preparation of an international convention on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting".

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2917 (XXVII). Preparation of international instruments or United Nations arrangements on principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2448 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, dealing with freedom of information, and the preamble of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,¹² which stipulates that General Assembly resolution 110 (II) of 3 November 1947 is applicable to outer space,

Notes that the work done on the draft Convention on Freedom of Information and deliberations thereon in the General Assembly may be useful in the discussion

⁹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Annexes*, agenda items 28, 29 and 37, document A/8771.

¹⁰ See resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

¹¹ See resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

¹² See resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.