



General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Forty-eighth session
Vienna, 8-17 June 2005

Draft report

Chapter I Introduction

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its forty-eighth session in Vienna from 8 to 17 June 2005. The officers of the Committee were as follows:

<i>Chairman:</i>	Adigun Ade Abiodun (Nigeria)
<i>First Vice-Chairman:</i>	Ciro Arévalo Yepes (Colombia)
<i>Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur:</i>	Parviz Tarikhi (Islamic Republic of Iran)

The unedited verbatim transcripts of the meetings of the Committee are contained in documents COPUOS/T.534- [...].

A. Meetings of subsidiary bodies

2. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had held its forty-second session in Vienna from 21 February to 4 March 2005, under the chairmanship of Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu (Romania). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/848).

3. The Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had held its forty-fourth session in Vienna from 4 to 15 April 2005, under the chairmanship of Sergio Marchisio (Italy). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/850). The unedited verbatim transcripts of the meetings of the Subcommittee are contained in documents COPUOS/Legal/T.711- [...].



B. Adoption of the agenda

4. At its opening meeting, the Committee adopted the following agenda:
 1. Opening of the session.
 2. Adoption of the agenda.
 3. Statement by the Chairman.
 4. General exchange of views.
 5. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
 6. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
 7. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-second session.
 8. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its forty-fourth session.
 9. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
 10. Space and society.
 11. Space and water.
 12. Composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2006-2007.
 13. Other matters.
 14. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Membership

5. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1472 A (XIV) of 12 December 1959, 1721 E (XVI) of 20 December 1961, 3182 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 32/196 B of 20 December 1977, 35/16 of 3 November 1980, 49/33 of 9 December 1994, 56/51 of 10 December 2001, 57/116 of 11 December 2002 and 59/116 of 10 December 2004 and decision 45/315 of 11 December 1990, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was composed of the following 67 States: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

D. Attendance

6. Representatives of the following [...] States members of the Committee attended the session: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.
7. At its 534th, 536th and [...] meetings, the Committee decided to invite, at their request, representatives of Angola, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Finland, the Holy See, Paraguay, Switzerland, Tunisia, Yemen and Zimbabwe to attend its forty-eighth session and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that it would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.
8. Representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and [...] attended the session.
9. The session was also attended by representatives of the European Association for the International Space Year (EURISY), the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), the Spaceweek International Association (SIA) and [...].
10. A list of representatives of States members of the Committee, States not members of the Committee, United Nations entities and other organizations attending the session is contained in document A/AC.105/XLVIII/INF/1.

E. General statements

11. The Committee welcomed the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Thailand as new members and noted their active participation in the Committee and its subcommittees during their first year of membership.
12. The Committee expressed its gratitude to Takemi Chiku for her exceptional service in the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat.
13. The Committee expressed its condolences to the Government of Australia and to the family of Professor John Carver, former Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, who passed away on 25 December 2004. The Committee also expressed its condolences to the Government of France and to the family of Professor Hubert Curien, former Minister of Research, President of the Academy of Sciences of France and founder of EURISY, who passed away on 6 February 2005.

14. Statements were made by representatives of the following States members of the Committee during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, United States and Viet Nam. Statements were also made by the representatives of UNESCO, IAF, ESPI and EURISY.

15. At the 534th meeting, on 8 June, the Chairman made a statement outlining the work of the Committee at its current session. While commending the Committee for contributing towards the achievement of the goals enshrined in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2), the Chairman encouraged delegates to continue to promote international cooperation in identifying new areas for the application of space technologies for sustainable development. The Chairman reminded delegates that their work in the fields of tele-health, education and the strengthening of decision-making in the management of natural resources, such as water, and the mitigation of natural disasters, demonstrated the commitment of the Committee.

16. Also at the 534th meeting, the President of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, Jean Ping (Gabon), made a statement to the Committee.

17. At the same meeting, the representative of Bolivia made a statement on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

18. At the 536th meeting, on 9 June, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs made a statement, in which he reviewed the work carried out by the Office during the previous year. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Director for the services provided and work conducted by the Office in the previous year.

19. Also at the 536th meeting, Karl Doetsch (Canada), Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee from its thirty-eighth to fortieth sessions, gave a special presentation on the scientific and technical aspects of the work of the Committee and the way ahead. The Committee welcomed his lecture and expressed its appreciation to Mr. Doetsch for his valuable contribution to the work of the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

20. During the general exchange of views, the Committee heard a presentation by Toshibumi Sakata of Japan entitled "Archaeology from space".

F. Adoption of the report of the Committee

21. After considering the various items before it, the Committee, at its [...] meeting, on [...] June 2005, adopted its report to the General Assembly containing the recommendations and decisions set out below.

Chapter II Recommendations and decisions

A. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes

22. In accordance with paragraph 35 of General Assembly resolution 59/116 of 10 December 2004, the Committee continued its consideration, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

23. The Committee noted with satisfaction the agreement of the Assembly that, during its consideration of the matter, the Committee could consider ways to promote regional and interregional cooperation based on experiences stemming from the Space Conference of the Americas and the role space technology could play in the implementation of recommendations emerging from the World Summit on Sustainable Development.¹

24. With regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Committee noted that, based on the input provided by member States of the Committee and entities of the United Nations system, the Office for Outer Space Affairs had continued to update the list of space-related initiatives and programmes that corresponded to recommendations contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.² The Committee agreed that the Office should continue to update the list, which is available on the website of the Office (www.uncosa.unvienna.org/wssd/wssd.doc).

25. The representatives of China, India and the United States made statements under this item. The representative of Ukraine made a statement under this item on behalf of the GUUAM States (Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Uzbekistan).

26. Some delegations expressed the view that the introduction of weapons into outer space would undermine the concept of the peaceful uses of outer space, as well as the basis for, and the very logic of, the development of non-proliferation mechanisms.

27. The view was expressed that the matter of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes had not been receiving the attention it required in the deliberations of the Committee.

28. Some delegations expressed the view that, in order to prevent an arms race in outer space more effectively, the Committee should establish a practical mechanism for coordinating its work with that of other relevant bodies, such as the Conference on Disarmament. The view was expressed that the Committee could contribute to the work of the Conference on Disarmament on such legal matters as the definition and delimitation of outer space and the definition of space objects.

29. The view was expressed that it was important to establish links between the space-related work of the First and Fourth Committees of the General Assembly.

¹ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum).

² *Ibid.*, chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

30. Some delegations expressed the view that the consideration of all issues affecting the peaceful uses of outer space, including militarization, was within the purview of the Committee. Some delegations further expressed the view that consideration of the prevention of an arms race in outer space by the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament should not prevent the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space from also considering related issues.
31. The view was expressed that the Committee had been created exclusively to promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and that disarmament aspects of outer space were more appropriately dealt with in other forums, such as the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament.
32. Some delegations were of the view that the development of a comprehensive United Nations convention on space law could meet the legal challenges presented by modern space activities and ensure that outer space was maintained exclusively for peaceful purposes.
33. The view was expressed that the best way to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes was to further strengthen international cooperation in the field in order to enhance the safety and security of the space assets of all countries.
34. The view was expressed that involving more countries, in particular developing countries, in international cooperation in space might enhance the use of outer space for peaceful purposes.
35. The view was expressed that, in order to further the objective of promoting the peaceful uses of outer space, the limited resources of outer space, such as geostationary orbital positions, should be shared equitably among countries.
36. The view was expressed that regional and interregional cooperation was pivotal to maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
37. The Committee recommended that, at its forty-ninth session, in 2006, it should continue its consideration, on a priority basis, of the item on ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.