



# General Assembly

Distr.: Limited  
3 February 2017

Original: English

---

**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee  
Fifty-fourth session  
Vienna, 30 January-10 February 2017

## Draft report

### I. Introduction

#### C. General statements

1. Statements were made by representatives of the following member States during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechia, Ecuador, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam. Statements were also made by the representative of Algeria on behalf of the Group of African States and by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. The representative of the European Union also made a statement. General statements were also made by the observers for the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment, the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO), the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), International Astronautical Federation (IAF), International Astronomical Union (IAU), Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology (ISNET), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) and Secure World Foundation (SWF). Statements were also made by the observers for the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Unidroit), the African Union Commission, and the European Science Foundation (ESF), represented by the European Space Sciences Committee (ESSC).

2. The Subcommittee heard the following scientific and technical presentations:
- “White paper on China space”, by the representative of China;
  - “Icarus, a new space system for global wildlife observation and protecting biodiversity”, by the representatives of Germany;



- (c) “The China Long March series launch vehicles”, by the representative of China;
- (d) “Japan’s current and future programmes in space exploration”, by the representatives of Japan;
- (e) “Women in aerospace Europe: the network”, by the observer for Women in Aerospace Europe;
- (f) “Recent developments in China’s space science missions”, by the representative of China;
- (g) “Recent Indian space missions”, by the representative of India;
- (h) “The James Webb space telescope”, by the representative of the United States;
- (i) “United States Strategic Command: space situational awareness-sharing programme update”, by the representative of the United States;
- (j) “Cassini mission: the grand finale”, by the representative of Italy;
- (k) “Satellite industry interaction with Government for the long-term sustainability of space”, by the representative of the United States;
- (l) “Analogue research efforts of the Austrian Space Forum”, by representatives of Austria;
- (m) “Innovative research satellites in Sweden”, by the representative of Sweden;
- (n) “Presentation on Netherlands space activities in 2016”, by the representative of the Netherlands;
- (o) “From the RIM-PAMELA programme to the GAMMA-400 project: Russian-Italian cooperation in astroparticle physics and nature of dark matter”, by the representatives of the Russian Federation and Italy;
- (p) “Outcomes of the sixty-seventh International Astronautical Congress in Mexico”, by the representative of Mexico;
- (q) “BRITE nanosatellite constellation: four years of successful operations”, by the representative of Austria;
- (r) “The framework of international organizations to develop an international lunar decade campaign”, by the observer for the National Space Society (NSS);
- (s) “Update on SCOSTEP activities”, by the observer for Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP);
- (t) “Terrestrial gamma-ray flashes and lightning discharges”, by the observer for SCOSTEP;
- (u) “Lunar Hathon: international deep drilling lunar mission study”, by the observer for International Space University (ISU);
- (v) “World Space Week”, by the observer for World Space Week Association (WSWA);
- (w) “ESA and climate change”, by the observer for ESA;
- (x) “Space Generation Advisory Council: next-generation perspectives”, by the observer for SGAC;

(y) “ESPI-Group of Latin American and Caribbean States joint communication on a report of space activities in Latin American countries”, by the observer for the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI);

(z) “Pseudo-satellites and their use in near-space”, by the observer for the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety (IAASS);

(aa) “Towards the establishment of an international registry of security interests in space objects”, by the observer for Unidroit;

(bb) “0G summit: shuttle diplomacy in a new space age”, by the observer for Space Trust.

3. The Subcommittee welcomed New Zealand as the newest State member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. New Zealand brought the membership of the Committee to 84 States. The Subcommittee also welcomed the International Air Transport Association, a non-governmental organization, as the newest permanent observer to the Committee.

4. At the 855th meeting, the Chair of the Subcommittee made a statement outlining the work of the Subcommittee at its current session. She brought to the attention of the Subcommittee several provisions of General Assembly resolution 71/90 pertaining to the current work of the Subcommittee and drew particular attention to the fact that the General Assembly had emphasized the significant progress in the development of space science and technology and their applications that had enabled humans to explore the universe, and the extraordinary achievements made over the past decades in space exploration efforts. She noted that, in that regard, the General Assembly had recognized the unique platform at the global level for international cooperation in space activities represented by the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee and assisted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat.

5. Also at the 855th meeting, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs made a statement in which she reviewed the work carried out by the Office during the previous year and presented a detailed description of activities planned for the coming year, including outreach activities and cooperation and coordination with United Nations entities and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. She provided a comprehensive account of the work of the Office in support of the objectives of the plan of work for the thematic cycle dedicated to the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 2018 (UNISPACE+50). She stressed the current unfavourable financial situation of the Office and highlighted the importance of having financial and other resources available for the successful implementation of the programme of work of the Office.

6. The Subcommittee welcomed with appreciation the designation of Scott Kelly, former astronaut of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), as United Nations Champion for Space. He will support the Office for Outer Space Affairs in promoting space as a tool for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and in raising awareness of the Office’s activities, including activities related to UNISPACE+50.

7. The Subcommittee noted the remarkable convergence of anniversaries in 2017. The year 2017 marked the sixtieth anniversary of the advent of the space age with the launch into outer space of the first artificial Earth satellite, Sputnik I, on 4 October 1957; the fiftieth anniversary of the entry into force 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 (General Assembly resolution 2222

(XXI), annex); the fiftieth anniversary of the Landsat programme; the tenth anniversary of the International Heliophysical Year; the tenth anniversary of the endorsement by the General Assembly in 2007 of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; and the sixtieth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In that connection, the Subcommittee welcomed the opportunity presented by those anniversaries to increase awareness of the relevance and importance of space applications for the betterment of the conditions of human life.

8. The Subcommittee agreed that without space science and technology, and in particular without communication and navigation systems, it was impossible to meet the current and future challenges of social and economic development and sustainability, such as natural disasters, food security, climate change and natural resource security. The Subcommittee emphasized that space activities were also crucial to supporting sustainable development, especially as part of efforts to support sustainable economic growth, improve the quality of life and manage the global environment.

9. The Subcommittee noted the instrumental role it had played in the development of the legal regime governing the use of outer space activities for peaceful purposes and in efforts to provide a unique multilateral platform at the global level for enhancing international cooperation for the benefit of all countries, in particular in the area of using space applications for sustainable development, including within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

10. The Subcommittee welcomed the adoption of the African Space Policy and Strategy by the African Union Heads of State and Government during the twenty-sixth session of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa on 31 January 2016, a milestone achievement that marked the first concrete steps towards the realization of an African outer space programme within the framework of the African Union's Agenda 2063.

11. The Subcommittee noted that the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Bolivarian Agency for Space Activities would host the Eighth Space Conference of the Americas and the Second Venezuelan Conference on Space Technology, to be held in parallel in Caracas from 11 to 15 September 2017.

12. The Subcommittee also noted that the twenty-third session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) on the theme "Building a future through space science, technology, and innovation" had been held in Manila from 15 to 17 November 2016. The twenty-fourth session of APRSAF would be held in Bangalore, India, in November 2017.

13. The Subcommittee noted the activities that APSCO had been pursuing to promote the socio-economic development of the Asia-Pacific region in 2016. The Subcommittee also noted that Egypt became to be a new associate member of APSCO.

14. The Subcommittee stressed the importance of the Outer Space Treaty for the orderly conduct of international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. The Subcommittee also stressed that the Treaty played an important role in the regulation of various aspects of international cooperative activities aimed at the development of, inter alia, space science and technology and their applications.

15. The view was expressed that it was important to ensure that the delicate formulations of the provisions of the Treaty were understood and followed in a uniform manner by States and other participants to space activities, and that there were emerging instances of severe deviations from this important practice. Thus, the Treaty stipulated that there should be freedom of scientific investigation in outer space

and that outer space should be free — not more than that — for exploration and use, while some politicians and experts in their interpretations appealed irresponsibly to a non-existing principle of “freedom of action in space”.

16. Some delegations reaffirmed the commitment of their countries to the peaceful use and exploration of outer space and emphasized the following principles: universal access, on an equal and non-discriminatory basis, to outer space for all States, irrespective of their level of scientific, technical and economic development; non-appropriation of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, by claim of sovereignty, use, appropriation, occupation or any other means; the commitment by States to the use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes, as a common heritage of humankind; the non-militarization of outer space, the non-placement of weapons in outer space, and its strict use for the improvement of living conditions and peace on the planet; and international and regional cooperation to promote the development of space activities.

17. Some delegations expressed the view that the Outer Space Treaty and other space treaties had been serving the international community well during the past decades and that those instruments remained as relevant today as before. That important point should be kept in focus as work continued on other areas of space governance, such as the long-term sustainability guidelines or transparency and confidence-building measures. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that, as human space activity continued to multiply at an ever faster rate, it was important for the international community to ensure safety and security in outer space by complying with international space law as it existed today.

18. The view was expressed that a thesis on the global space governance or management did not have any substantive content and meaning, besides for some States that tended to prioritize national regulations of space activities and were, rather, predisposed to sort of egocentric approaches with regard to the exploration and use of outer space.

19. The view was expressed that there would be no prospect of arriving at what could be termed “space traffic management” without a preliminary consensus among States about an efficient and suitable international, multilateral system for regulating the safety of space operations. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that a rapid introduction of traffic rules in space, as some were advocating, would inevitably run into numerous complex issues that would be more suitably resolved as part of the development of the guidelines for the long-term sustainability for outer space activities.

20. Some delegations expressed the view that international and regional cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space for the purpose of meeting global development goals was essential for States and should thus be continuously strengthened through the Committee and its Subcommittees. The Committee and its Subcommittees should remain a central international forum for those matters. In that regard it would be essential to explore various options for strengthening the capabilities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs so that it could actively contribute to the promotion of capacity-building and technical assistance in space science and technology and their applications for the benefit of all States, in particular developing States.

21. The view was expressed that space technology was a driving force for socioeconomic development, and that that role was expanding at an extraordinary rate. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that space technology should be made available to all countries in an unhindered and non-discriminatory manner, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries.

22. Some delegations expressed the view that, given the impact of space activities on human life and the environment and given the current state of technological advances coupled with the increasingly prominent role played by new private actors, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee should enhance their interaction and coordination in a way that promotes the progressive development of international law and its codification and furthers the establishment of binding international norms governing issues critical to the use and exploration of outer space.

23. The view was expressed that the question on the permissibility to apply exclusively technocratic approach to the matters of the exploration and use of resources of celestial bodies would require its consideration within the context of UNISPACE+50. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that it was a matter of the grave concern that there was a growing trend of dispersion of this important problem between various fora, including so called the Hague Space Resources Governance Working Group, while it should be considered only by the Committee and its Subcommittees. In this connection, it would be opportune to consider the advantages of the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, which was adopted unanimously by the General Assembly, and constituted an important part of the body of international space law. The Agreement had a relatively small number of Parties due to the effect of “delayed decision”, since many States decided to take time for further consideration of the ways of the development of relevant technology and perspectives of space resources exploration. Therefore, it would be possible to consider, within the framework of this Subcommittee, of the ways of a simultaneous joint accession of the leading space-faring nations to this agreement, to be followed by similar actions of other States.

24. The view was expressed that a series of ballistic missile launches in 2016 by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea should be condemned, as they were in violation of relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2270 (2016) and resolution 2321 (2016), which prohibited scientific and technical cooperation that could contribute to the development of nuclear weapon delivery systems by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. The delegation expressing this view was also of the view that Member States should faithfully implement those resolutions.

25. The Subcommittee expressed its gratitude to the organizers of the following events, held on the margins of the current session of the Subcommittee:

(a) Evening event on the theme “India in space: the forward look to international cooperation”, organized by ESPI;

(b) Evening event on the theme “Planetary defence: technical, legal and economic aspects”, organized by National Point of Contact for Space Law Austria of the European Centre for Space Law and the Museum of Natural History, Vienna;

(c) Tutorial and workshop session on the theme “Landsat past, present and future: accessing the United States Geological Survey land remote sensing archive”, organized by the delegation of the United States;

(d) Special panel session and official book launch for *Fragility and Beauty: My Planet From Space*, organized jointly by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and ESA;

(e) Side event on the theme “Long-term sustainability guidelines implementation: an open dialogue”, organized by the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom;

(f) Special panel session on the theme “Space for women”, held to mark the upcoming International Day of Women and Girls in Science on 11 February, organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

## V. Space debris

26. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/90, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 7, "Space debris".

27. The representatives of Canada, China, Egypt, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under agenda item 7. A statement was made under the item by the representative of Argentina on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

28. The Subcommittee heard the following scientific and technical presentations:

(a) "Overview of the 2016 space debris mitigation activities in France", by the representative of France;

(b) "Overview of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's research on comprehensive space debris measures", by the representative of Japan;

(c) "Activities of the Russian Federation on space debris research in 2016", by the representative of the Russian Federation;

(d) "International Scientific Optical Network for near-Earth space monitoring: the latest achievements and perspectives", by the representatives of the Russian Federation;

(e) "Space debris research in Switzerland", by the representative of Switzerland;

(f) "United States space debris environment, operations, and research updates", by the representative of the United States;

(g) "ESA mitigation status report 2016", by the observer for ESA;

(h) "Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee annual activity overview", by the observer for ESA;

(i) "Impact of newcomers on space debris risk", by the observer for IAASS.

29. The Subcommittee had before it information on national research on space debris, the safety of space objects with nuclear power sources on board and problems relating to the collision of such objects with space debris, in replies received from Member States and international organizations (see [A/AC.105/C.1/111](#) and Add.1 and [A/AC.105/C.1/2017/CRP.12](#)).

30. The Subcommittee noted with satisfaction that 2017 marked the tenth anniversary of the endorsement by the General Assembly, in its resolution 62/217, of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and that those Guidelines had proved vital in controlling the space debris problem for the safety of future space missions.

31. The Subcommittee noted with satisfaction that some States and international intergovernmental organizations were implementing space debris mitigation measures consistent with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee and/or the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and that a number of States had harmonized their national space debris mitigation standards with those guidelines.

32. The Subcommittee noted that some States were using the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee, the European Code of Conduct for Space Debris Mitigation, International Organization for Standardization standard 24113:2011

(Space systems: space debris mitigation requirements), and ITU recommendation ITU-R S.1003 (“Environmental protection of the geostationary-satellite orbit”) as reference points in their regulatory frameworks for national space activities.

33. The Subcommittee noted that in the area of space debris some States had cooperated in the space surveillance and tracking support framework funded by the European Union and the ESA space situational awareness programme.

34. Some delegations expressed the view that the initial set of guidelines finalized by the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities contained guidelines related to space debris that were an extension of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee.

35. The view was expressed that the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee should incorporate those portions of the finalized guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities that related to space debris, with a view to developing a new set of United Nations principles on space debris mitigation.

36. Some delegations expressed the view that outcome documents produced by the working groups of the Subcommittee, such as the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space and the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee, should be officially presented to the Legal Subcommittee for examination.

37. The view was expressed that cooperation between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee would result in the development of legally binding rules for the handling of space debris, including of debris derived from space platforms with nuclear power sources (NPS) on board.

38. The view was expressed that the issue of space debris should remain on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and that appropriate working groups and intergovernmental legal and technical panels should be created as necessary to explore the issue of space debris further.

39. The Subcommittee also noted that the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee, whose initial work served as the basis for the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee, continued its work to characterize the space debris environment and evaluate improvements to its own Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines.

40. The Subcommittee expressed concern at the increasing amount of space debris and encouraged States as well as agencies, industries and academic institutions that had not yet done so to consider voluntarily implementing the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee.

41. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation that States had adopted a number of approaches and concrete actions to mitigate space debris, including the improvement of the design of launch vehicles and spacecraft, the development of specific software, the reorbiting of satellites, passivation, life-extension, end-of-life operations and disposal.

42. The Subcommittee noted the development and application of new technologies and ongoing research related to space debris mitigation; collision avoidance; protecting space systems from space debris and limiting the creation of additional space debris; re-entry and collision avoidance techniques; measuring, characterizing, continuous monitoring and modelling of space debris; and prediction, early warning and notification of space debris re-entry, evolution, fragmentation and collision.

43. The Subcommittee noted the evolving technologies related to the in-orbit robotic servicing of satellites, the extension of satellite lifespans and active space debris



removal, which included the use of nets, harpoons, robotic arms, tentacles, slingshots, electrodynamic tethers and solar sails.

44. Some delegations expressed the view that space debris issues should be addressed in a manner that would not jeopardize the development of the space capabilities of developing countries.

45. Some delegations expressed the view that countries with advanced space programmes should assume their responsibilities for space debris mitigation and removal to ensure that the mitigation and removal costs were not passed on to countries with emerging space capabilities.

46. The view was expressed that in addressing space debris issues, States should act based on their common but differentiated responsibilities and their respective capabilities.

47. Some delegations expressed the view that information on action taken to reduce the creation of space debris should be made available to the Committee by, in particular, those States largely responsible for the current situation and those able to reduce space debris.

48. Some delegations expressed the view that efforts should be made to reuse launch vehicles and rockets in order to contain the amount of space debris at its current level.

49. The view was expressed that developed countries should perform detailed space debris analyses and include new technologies relating to orbit decay at the satellite mission design stage.

50. Some delegations expressed the view that States, in particular spacefaring nations, should pay greater attention to the problem of debris coming from platforms with NPS in outer space and to collisions of space objects with space debris and its derivatives, as well as to ways of improving the technology for monitoring space debris.

51. Some delegations expressed the view that all relevant information about the re-entry of space debris into the Earth's atmosphere should be reported diligently and expeditiously to countries that might be affected.

52. Some delegations expressed the view that it was important to take appropriate measures to mitigate the possible re-entry of space debris over territories of other countries, especially in populated areas, and that national capacities to mitigate disasters resulting from space debris should be strengthened.

53. Some delegations expressed the view that it was necessary to strengthen international cooperation to promote research and build capacities in space debris mitigation measures, including in the areas of orbital assessment and calculations, predictive models, monitoring tools operational protocols, and satellite design.

54. Some delegations expressed the view that spacefaring nations should provide developing countries technical assistance relating to the monitoring, mitigation and removal of space debris.

55. Some delegations expressed the view that the international community should further enhance cooperation to expand scientific knowledge and develop technology related to space debris, including, possibly, by conducting active debris removal missions in the future.

56. The view was expressed that developed countries should, under the auspices of the United Nations, take the lead in developing systems to remove space debris already present in space with a view to stabilizing the space environment.

57. The view was expressed that active removal operations should be undertaken in such a way as to avoid any further multiplication of space debris.

58. Some delegations expressed the view that to arrive at meaningful mitigation strategies and remediation measures it was essential that States exchange knowledge, skills, technical competency, data, information and analysis methods.

59. The view was expressed that all countries should have access to space debris data and data archives.

60. The Subcommittee noted with satisfaction that the compendium of standards adopted by States and international organizations to mitigate the creation of space debris, which had been initiated by Canada, Czechia and Germany, was continuously being updated and could be consulted via the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. The Subcommittee encouraged Member States to provide their contributions and updates to the compendium.

61. The Subcommittee took note of paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 71/90 and agreed that Member States and international organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee should continue to be invited to provide reports on research on space debris, the safety of space objects with NPS on board, problems relating to the collision of such space objects with space debris and the ways in which debris mitigation guidelines were being implemented.

## **X. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space**

62. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/90, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 12, "Use of nuclear power sources in outer space".

63. The representatives of China, Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), as well as the representative of Argentina speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, made statements under agenda item 12. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

64. The Subcommittee heard a scientific and technical presentation entitled "Safety recommendations for nuclear power source applications in outer space", by the representative of the United Kingdom.

65. The Subcommittee had before it the following:

(a) Draft report on the implementation of the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space and general recommendations for potential future work prepared by the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.359](#));

(b) Working paper submitted by the United Kingdom on safety recommendations for nuclear power source applications in outer space ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.360](#)).

66. The Committee stressed the value and importance of implementing the voluntary Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space, which had been developed by the Subcommittee jointly with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

67. The Subcommittee noted that States were developing, or considered to develop, national legal and regulatory instruments on the safety of the use of NPS in outer space, taking into account the contents and requirements of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space and of the Safety Framework.

68. Some delegations expressed the view that the Safety Framework represented a significant advance in the development of safe NPS applications and that the implementation of the Safety Framework by Member States and international intergovernmental organizations would provide assurance to the global public that NPS applications for use in outer space were being developed, launched and used in a safe manner.

69. The Subcommittee agreed that in order to encourage the sharing of best practices and substantiate national commitments to safety, it was important to continue to share, within the framework of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space and under the present agenda item, experiences in implementing the guidance contained in the Safety Framework and in satisfying the intent of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space; and for Member States and intergovernmental organizations with experience with NPS missions to engage in discussions about advances in knowledge and practices and their potential for enhancing the technical content and scope of the Principles.

70. Some delegations expressed the view that more consideration should be given to the use of NPS in terrestrial orbits in order to address the problem of potential collisions of objects with NPS on board and to the accidental re-entry of NPS into the Earth's atmosphere. Those delegations were also of the view that more attention should be given to that matter through the formulation of adequate strategies, long-term planning, the issuance of regulations and the promotion of binding standards, as well as observance of the Safety Framework.

71. Some delegations were of the view that serious consideration should be given to the protection of the Earth's biosphere from potential risks associated with the launch, operation and decommissioning of NPS applications.

72. The view was expressed that, for more than five and a half decades, NPS applications had played a critical role in the exploration of space, enabling missions of scientific discovery to destinations across the solar system.

73. The view was expressed that the use of NPS applications should be in conformity with international law, the Charter of the United Nations and United Nations treaties and principles on outer space, in particular the Outer Space Treaty.

74. Some delegations were of the view that, in order to ensure the safe use of NPS, it would be important for space actors with proven capabilities in this field to make available to other States their know-how and information on measures taken to ensure the safety of objects using NPS.

75. Some delegations expressed the view that the regulatory process associated with the use of NPS in outer space was the exclusive responsibility of States, irrespective of their level of social, economic, scientific or technical development, and that the matter concerned all humanity. Those delegations were also of the view that Governments bore international responsibility for national activities involving the use of NPS in outer space conducted by governmental and non-governmental organizations alike, and that such activities must be beneficial, not detrimental, to humanity.

76. The view was expressed that the effects of the use of NPS in outer space on humans and the environment had not been identified, that there still was no clearly defined regulatory framework for establishing responsibilities of States for the use of NPS and that potential critical situations arising from irresponsible practices in this area had not been addressed. The delegation expressing this view was also of the view that, in that connection, the Safety Framework in its current form was still insufficient.

77. The view was expressed that to date, the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space had not identified any challenges to implementing the Safety Framework that would require any modifications or additions to it. The delegation expressing this view was also of the view that, based on a practical assessment of and experience with the Safety Framework, it provided a comprehensive and sufficient foundation for guidance for Member States and international intergovernmental space organizations to develop and operate their own NPS applications for use in outer space in a safe manner.

78. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/90, the Subcommittee, at its 855th meeting, on 30 January, reconvened its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space under the chairmanship of Sam A. Harbison (United Kingdom).

79. The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space held [...] meetings. At its [...] meeting, on [...] February, the Subcommittee endorsed the report and recommendations of the Working Group, including its new multi-year workplan (see annex [...], para. [...], to the present report).

---