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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space****Sixty-fifth session**

Vienna, 1–10 June 2022

Item 14 of the provisional agenda**

Future role and method of work of the Committee**Preparations for a multi-stakeholder dialogue on outer
space as part of a United Nations Summit of the Future****Paper submitted by Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom and the
United States of America**

The challenges facing the world today are larger and more complex than when the United Nations was founded in 1945. As our delegations have noted in the Committee and other United Nations bodies, the multilateral system is being tested in unprecedented ways. Nevertheless, core principles of sovereignty, solidarity, and fairness endure.

Canada, Japan, and the United States of America thank the Secretary-General for sharing his vision of how we can recommit to the United Nations' purpose and principles and innovate the United Nations' practices. The "Our Common Agenda" report ([A/75/982](#)) identifies many of the world's most critical challenges, including maintaining the peaceful, secure and sustainable use of outer space in the face of new risks to security, safety, and sustainability.

To address these challenges, the report of the Secretary-General proposes to convene a multi-stakeholder dialogue on space as part of a Summit of the Future be held in conjunction with the high-level week of the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly. This multi-stakeholder dialogue would bring together Member States of the United Nations and other leading space actors.

Such a multi-stakeholder dialogue has the potential to inspire us all to work together to help ensure the sustainable and peaceful use of outer space for current and future generations. To realize this vision, Member States must proceed strategically and identify priorities in areas where the United Nations has a comparative advantage. Planning for a multi-stakeholder dialogue also must respect the existing international legal framework applicable to space activities, leverage existing programs and forums, respect the mandates of the United Nations' current bodies and subsidiary bodies, as well as the mandates of other international organizations and other forums, and be cognizant of budgetary limitations.

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Human activity in space is increasing in both volume and complexity. Nevertheless, all space activity continues to be governed by the four core – and widely accepted – treaties on outer space: the Outer Space Treaty; the Rescue and Return Agreement; and the Liability and Registration Conventions. Under the legal framework of these treaties, the exploration and use of space by States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and private entities has flourished.

Activities in outer space are also guided by extensive work of the United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) and its subcommittees. In UNCOPUOS, a growing number of space-faring States and relevant stakeholders already work constructively to address sustainability issues in space, including most of those noted in “Our Common Agenda.”

It is therefore essential that planning for a high-level track on space at the Summit of the Future take full account of the unique role of UNCOPUOS and its subcommittees, as reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution 76/3 “The ‘Space2030’ Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development,” which was adopted on 25 October 2021.

Planning by the Secretariat for the multi-stakeholder dialogue on space also should ensure that the Committee and its Member States have the fullest opportunity to provide contributions for both the high-level track and any preparatory events organized by the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs or other elements of the Secretariat.

Planning by the Secretariat for a multi-stakeholder dialogue on space should also take account of the joint panel discussion on “Possible challenges to space security and sustainability,” which will be held by the General Assembly’s First Committee and Fourth Committee during its seventh-seventh session. This joint panel discussion will be convened pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/55 “Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities,” which was adopted on 6 December 2021.

To underscore UNCOPUOS’ unique role in advancing a multi-stakeholder dialogue on space, the report of the Committee’s sixty-fifth session should:

- Underscore General Assembly Resolution 1348 (XIII) of December 13, 1958, establishing the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, with the responsibility for the study of, and encouraging the fullest international cooperation for, the peaceful uses of outer space;
- Stress that planning for the Secretary-General’s proposed multi-stakeholder dialogue on space as part of a Summit of the Future to be held in conjunction with the high-level week of the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly should take full account of General Assembly resolution 76/3 (“The ‘Space2030’ Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development”);
- Further stress that resolution 76/3 reaffirmed the unique role of the Committee, and its subcommittees, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as unique platforms for international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, for the global governance of outer space activities, consistent with international law, for developing international space law, for fostering dialogue among spacefaring and emerging space nations, and for promoting the increased involvement of all countries in space activities, including through capacity-building initiatives;
- Note that the joint half-day panel discussion of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) to address possible challenges to space security and sustainability during the General Assembly’s seventy-seventh session can serve as an important contribution to planning for a multi-stakeholder dialogue on space as part of a Summit of the Future;
- Request that the Secretary-General provide a report to the Committee regarding the status of preparations for a multi-stakeholder dialogue on space; and

- Also request that the report by the Secretary-General on the status of preparations be provided to States members of UNCOPUOS prior to the sixtieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, with updates provided prior to the sixty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee and the sixty-sixth session of the Committee.
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