



Distr.: Limited 6 June 2022

Original: English

**Committee on the Peaceful** Uses of Outer Space Sixty-fifth session Vienna, 1–10 June 2022

# **Draft report**

Addendum

**Chapter I** 

# I. Introduction

## F. General statements

1. Statements were made by representatives of the following States members of the Committee during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). The representative of Tunisia made a statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The representative of Egypt made a statement on behalf of the Group of African States. The representative of the European Union, in its capacity as permanent observer, made a statement on behalf of the European Union and its member States. Further statements were made by the observers for APSCO, CEOS, the European Telecommunications Satellite Organization, For All Moonkind, the Hague Institute for Global Justice, IAF, IISL, the National Space Society, the Open Lunar Foundation, SGAC, the Square Kilometre Array Observatory, UNIDROIT, UNISEC-Global and World Space Week Association.

2. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Marius-Ioan Piso (Romania), the outgoing Chair, Francis Chizea (Nigeria), the outgoing First Vice-Chair, and Nicolás Botero Varón (Colombia), the outgoing Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur, for their excellent work and achievements during their terms of office.

3. At the 786th meeting, on 1 June, the Chair delivered a statement in which he recalled that 2022 had marked the sixty-fifth anniversary of the launch into outer space of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, the fifty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Outer Space Treaty and the fiftieth anniversary of the Land





Remote Sensing Satellite (Landsat) programme. He highlighted the importance of strengthening international collaboration, promoting compliance with the United Nations treaties on outer space, fostering fair access to space and encouraging knowledge-sharing initiatives. He also stressed the role of research and development in space science and technology as fundamental for sustainable development on Earth, the protection and preservation of the outer space environment and the exploration of the universe.

4. The Chair warmly welcomed Angola, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Panama and Slovenia as the newest members of the Committee, which brought the membership of the Committee to the milestone number of 100 member States. The Chair also welcomed the Open Lunar Foundation, the Square Kilometre Array Observatory and UNIDROIT as the newest international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with observer status with the Committee.

5. Also at the 786th meeting, the Acting Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs made a statement in which he reviewed the work carried out by the Office. He stressed how the Office had continued to adapt to the challenges posed by the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, adopting and making use of new solutions and applying them across the range of activities to ensure service delivery and a results-driven approach. The demand for the services provided by the Office to Member States continued to expand, and in that context he underlined the current and upcoming activities of the Office, including those conducted in partnership with various stakeholders, in particular for the benefit of developing countries. The Acting Director also announced that he would retire from the Office in the coming months.

6. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Acting Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Niklas Hedman, who had provided valuable long-standing support for the international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, in particular in the role of Secretary of the Committee and its subcommittees for more than a decade and a half.

7. The Committee heard the following presentations:

(a) "CONAE space plan", by the representative of Argentina;

(b) "Projection of the national space system", by the representative of Chile;

(c) "BeiDou Navigation Satellite System: sharing of application cases", by the representative of China;

(d) "The Iranian CanSat competition", by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran;

(e) "Progress and plans for deep space human exploration", by the representative of the United States;

(f) "The imperative to protect cultural heritage in outer space", by the observer for For All Moonkind;

(g) "A united voice for youth in space policy and advocacy: introducing the Space Generation Advocacy and Policy Platform (SGAPP)", by the observer for SGAC.

8. The Committee noted that space activities had continued to intensify in recent years, with increasingly more actors entering the space arena and significantly more objects being launched into outer space.

9. The Committee agreed that, together with its subcommittees, and with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the Committee remained the unique international forum tasked with promoting international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful use of outer space.

10. The Committee agreed that the increasing number of States becoming members of the Committee in recent years was a clear signal of the international recognition of the value of the work of the intergovernmental body.

11. Some delegations expressed the view that a rules-based international system, with the United Nations at its core, and a multilateral approach to international affairs should be supported, and that the Committee contributed to that system, including through the development of international space law, international norms and standards, guidelines, best practices and other transparency and confidence-building measures.

12. Some delegations expressed the view that the international community should make further efforts and explore all possible ways and means of making full use of the Committee and its subcommittees to achieve the common objectives of all nations on space-related issues.

13. Some delegations expressed the view that while some countries had reached important milestones in space activities, others were only starting to develop their own space programmes and policies and that it was crucial that developing countries not be left behind or unfairly disadvantaged by space exploration efforts. Therefore, capacity-building and technical assistance were key factors for expanding the abilities of those working in the field, enabling them to gain expertise and knowledge from more advanced spacefaring nations.

14. Some delegations expressed the view that the use and exploration of outer space were to be carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes, with a view to realizing a shared vision for the future, for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and in conformity with the body of applicable international law.

15. Some delegations expressed the view that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee should work more closely with each other, in particular on overlapping and interrelated subject matters.

16. The view was expressed that the Committee and its secretariat should continue initiatives and study ways to further enable closer coordination and engagement on the work of the two subcommittees, and with bodies that were closely interlinked with the mandate of the Committee, such as other United Nations bodies and other international organizations, when applicable, as this would ensure coordinated, relevant and timely resolution of cross-cutting issues.

17. Some delegations expressed the view that the growing support for the Artemis Accords on the Principles for Cooperation in the Civil Exploration and Use of the Moon, Mars, Comets, and Asteroids for Peaceful Purposes demonstrated the value of the Accords as an operational framework to ensure that the peaceful exploration of space remained transparent, safe and sustainable.

18. Some delegations expressed the view that cooperation on the international lunar research station initiated by China and the Russian Federation was advancing and provided new opportunities for space exploration for all interested partners.

19. Some delegations reiterated their opposition to the establishment of a new regional centre for space science and technology education in the Eurasian region, affiliated to the United Nations, hosted by the Roscosmos Corporate Academy, as proposed by the Government of the Russian Federation. Those delegations were also of the view that although the General Assembly, in its resolution 76/76, had noted with satisfaction the progress in the establishment of the regional centre, in the light of recent developments, they were not in a position to accept any affiliation of that regional centre to the United Nations.

20. The view was expressed that the Committee, at its sixty-fourth session, had noted that the evaluation mission on the proposed establishment of the regional centre had resulted in a recommendation to accept the offer of the Russian Federation to establish the regional centre, that the Committee had welcomed the progress on the establishment of the regional centre, and that therefore no additional agreement was required by the Committee. The delegation expressing that view also informed the Committee that the centre was already operational and providing services.

21. The Committee welcomed the publication by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of its *Annual Report 2021*, which contained a comprehensive account of the Office's activities, cooperation, partnership programmes and achievements in 2021.

22. The Committee noted with appreciation the exhibitions presented in the Rotunda of the Vienna International Centre in conjunction with its sixty-fifth session: an exhibition on the E.T.PACK project, a technological solution for the space debris proliferation problem, organized by Spain; an exhibition on the Artemis Accords, organized by the United States; and an exhibition entitled "Inspiring stars", on the concept of inclusion, organized by IAU.

23. The Committee noted with appreciation the donation by the Government of Poland to the permanent exhibit of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of a painting of Manfred Lachs, the first Chair of the Legal Subcommittee and one of the most influential scholars in international space law.

24. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the organization of the following events during the session:

(a) "Advancing #GenderEquality in Space", organized by the Republic of Korea and the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(b) "Emerging Space@COPUOS 2022", organized by Slovakia;

(c) "Awareness-raising and capacity-building related to the implementation of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS Guidelines): stakeholder study report", organized by the United Kingdom and the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(d) "Youth space exchanges and opportunities", organized by the United States and the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(e) "Progressing lunar policy: a round table", organized by Moon Village Association, the Open Lunar Foundation, the Secure World Foundation and SGAC;

(f) "Access to Space for All: opportunities for Member States", organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(g) "Virtual briefing for COPUOS delegates: what is UNOOSA and why is it relevant for you?", organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

## **Chapter II**

## **Recommendations and decisions**

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

25. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 76/76, the Committee continued its consideration, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and its consideration of the broader perspective of space security and associated matters that would be instrumental in ensuring the safe and responsible conduct of space activities, including ways to promote international, regional and interregional cooperation to that end.

26. The representatives of Brazil, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the United Arab Emirates, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under this item. A statement was also made by the observer for the Secure World Foundation. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by other member States.

27. The Committee heard the following presentations:

(a) "Micro-space debris detection with ADLER-1", by the representative of Austria;

(b) "Mapping collision risk in low Earth orbit", by the representative of the United States;

(c) "Opportunities and practices to enhance space safety and sustainability", by the representative of the United States;

(d) "Safety norms for space security: how the development of norms can strengthen the peaceful purposes principle", by the observer for SGAC.

28. The Committee agreed that through its work in the scientific, technical and legal fields, as well as through the promotion of international dialogue and the exchange of information on various topics relating to the exploration and use of outer space, it had a fundamental role to play in ensuring that outer space was maintained for peaceful purposes.

29. Some delegations expressed the view that it was the responsibility of all spacefaring nations to preserve and promote the benefits of outer space for all, through the advances made in space technology and its applications.

30. Some delegations expressed the view that in order to ensure the sustainable and peaceful use of outer space, it was crucial that outer space activities were carried out in accordance with international law, rules, regulations and norms.

31. Some delegations expressed the view that transparency and confidence-building measures were essential to ensuring the peaceful uses of outer space. The same delegations referred to the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities (A/68/189) of 2013 and encouraged States to implement its recommendations and appropriate measures.

32. Some delegations expressed the view that although the Committee was not a forum dedicated to disarmament in outer space, it still played a fundamental and unique role in global governance and international cooperation on outer space and should strengthen that role. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that the Committee's work in a wide range of fields ensured the peaceful use of outer space and was a key factor in preventing the risk of an arms race and the militarization of outer space and that therefore the Committee's work complemented and supported other forums for preventing an arms race in outer space.

33. Some delegations reaffirmed that issues specifically associated with the prevention of an arms race in outer space and the use of outer space for national security activities and related matters were more appropriately discussed in forums whose mandates focused on those issues, such as the Conference on Disarmament, the Disarmament Commission and the First Committee of the General Assembly.

34. Some delegations expressed the view that norms could create the climate of confidence that was necessary to develop future legally binding measures governing space and, in that context, welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours (A/76/77) and the work of the open-ended working group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours deepened the discussion on space norms.

35. The view was expressed that the threat of militarization of outer space underscored the importance of international dialogue and negotiation aimed at creating legally binding norms for transparency and confidence-building because non-legally binding measures did not sufficiently address the threat of an arms race in outer space. The delegation expressing that view also found it fundamental that legally binding measures should focus on reaffirming the shared interest of outer space for peaceful use and purposes, in accordance with the existing principles of international law.

36. Some delegations reaffirmed that it was crucial to prevent an arms race in outer space and the placement of weapons of any kind in outer space, and called upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the peaceful use of outer space in order to prevent its militarization and to refrain from placing weapons of any kind in outer space or any other action contrary to that objective. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that the preservation of the outer space environment in the long term required the commitment of the international community to ensuring that no weapons were ever placed in outer space.

37. Some delegations reiterated that more consideration should be given to the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat of use of force against space objects, prepared by China and the Russian Federation, as it paved the way for ensuring the use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

38. Some delegations expressed the view that the intentional destruction of space objects generating large amounts of space debris indiscriminately increased the risk of collisions of on-orbit space objects and was an irresponsible behaviour that would undermine the sustainable and stable use of outer space.

39. Some delegations expressed concern about anti-satellite tests that generated space debris and emphasized that States should refrain from using or testing those capabilities. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that the recent announcement by the United States, followed by Canada, committing not to conduct destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile testing was a positive step towards formulating norms of responsible behaviour in outer space.

40. The view was expressed that the Committee should remain a platform for non-politicized discussions and should promote the development of doctrinal guidelines of States aimed at preserving outer space for peaceful purposes, thereby maintaining international peace and security and strengthen international cooperation and mutual understanding.

41. The view was expressed that the Committee should focus on the challenges posed by the development of commercial spaceflight, promote the strengthening of effective national regulations on commercial space participation in military activities, and ensure that space activities of non-governmental entities were consistent with peaceful purposes, and at the same time enhance transparency at the international level. It was also necessary to attach importance to the safety of outer space activities and strengthen research, hold extensive discussions and seek solutions to the safety risks posed by megaconstellations.

42. The Committee noted that Africa Space Week would be held in Nairobi in September 2022 and would provide an innovative platform for African space industry stakeholders to deliberate on expanding Africa's space industry and strengthen efforts to promote and enable intra-Africa and international cooperation on space activities.

43. The Committee noted that the twenty-seventh session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, on the theme "Expand space innovation through diverse partnerships", had been held online from 30 November to 3 December 2021.

44. The Committee noted that the fifteenth meeting of the Council of APSCO had been held online from 9 to 11 November 2021. The Council had approved the APSCO project implementation plan for 2021–2025 and the amendment of the rules on cooperative activities of APSCO.

45. The Committee recommended that, at its sixty-sixth session, in 2023, consideration of the item on ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes should be continued, on a priority basis.