



# General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
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## Annex I

### **Commemorative segment of the fifty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight and the fiftieth anniversary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held on 1 June 2011**

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/97 and the agreement reached by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifty-third session, in 2010, the Committee, at its fifty-fourth session, held a commemorative segment on 1 June 2011, open to all States Members of the United Nations, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight and the fiftieth anniversary of the Committee. The commemorative segment was chaired by Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu (Romania), Chair of the Committee.

2. Representatives of the following 79 Member States attended the commemorative segment: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Yemen.



3. The commemorative segment was also attended by observers for the European Union, the Holy See and Palestine.
4. Observers for the following United Nations entities also attended the commemorative segment: International Atomic Energy Agency and International Telecommunication Union.
5. The commemorative segment was attended by observers for the following intergovernmental organizations: Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization, European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere, European Space Agency (ESA), European Telecommunications Satellite Organization, International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Unidroit), International Mobile Satellite Organization, International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO) and Regional Centre for Remote Sensing of North African States.
6. The commemorative segment was also attended by observers for the following non-governmental organizations: Association of Space Explorers, European Space Policy Institute, International Academy of Astronautics, International Astronautical Federation, International Astronomical Union, International Institute of Space Law, International Space University, International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water, Secure World Foundation, Space Generation Advisory Council and World Space Week Association.
7. The commemorative segment enjoyed the participation of representatives at the ministerial level, heads of space agencies, astronauts and cosmonauts, and other dignitaries who cited the achievements of the Committee over the course of 50 years, the 50 years of human presence in outer space and the future of humankind in outer space.
8. The programme of the commemorative segment included opening addresses, the adoption of a declaration, a round-table discussion, addresses by representatives of Member States and the inauguration of an international exhibition on human space flight.
9. Opening addresses were delivered by Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, through a video message, Yuri Fedotov, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, and Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu, Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The commemorative segment was also addressed by the crew of the International Space Station, through a video message.
10. The Secretary-General, in his video message, recalled the remarkable 50 years of human space flight, which began on 12 April 1961, when Yuri Gagarin became the first human to orbit the Earth. He noted that 2011 was the fiftieth anniversary of the first meeting of the permanent Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held on 27 November 1961, and that the Committee had ever since worked to ensure that outer space was used for peaceful purposes. He also emphasized the importance of space technology applications in the work of United Nations entities.
11. The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, recalling the amazing achievement of the first human space flight, commended the Committee for the pivotal role it had played over the past five decades in enhancing international

cooperation for the benefit of all countries, and the Office for Outer Space Affairs for assisting countries, in particular developing countries, in the development of capacities for using space science and technology and their applications for peaceful purposes.

12. The Chair of the Committee emphasized the instrumental role the Committee had played in the development of the international legal regime governing outer space activities, the broad area of focus of the Committee and the alignment of its activities with the Millennium Development Goals. Being a cosmonaut himself, he stressed the need to look more closely into how advanced space research, exploration systems, technologies and scientific research relating to human space flight could benefit all countries. He also recalled the tremendous contribution of all those who had travelled to outer space to the development of space science and technology and their applications.

13. The crew of the International Space Station, in their video message, paid tribute to Yuri Gagarin, the first envoy of humankind to outer space, and to all those who have followed him, and recalled the major achievements of the Committee in the history of space activities and the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

14. The States participating in the commemorative segment adopted by acclamation the Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of Human Space Flight and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which is contained in the appendix to the present annex.

15. The round table on space exploration and the future of humankind in space was moderated by the Chair of the Committee and comprised the following speakers: Juan Acuña Arenas, Head of the Chilean Space Agency; Refaat Chaabouni, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Tunisia; Jean-Jacques Dordain, Director-General of ESA; Yoshifumi Inatani of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and lead scientist of the re-entry capsule of Hayabusa; Alexey A. Leonov, cosmonaut of the Russian Federation and the first human to perform a spacewalk; Leland Melvin, Associate Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and astronaut, United States; and Liwei Yang, the first astronaut of China to orbit the Earth.

16. The round table emphasized the role of space science and technology and their applications in addressing global challenges such as climate change, health and disaster management; further development and challenges in human space flight programmes and the prospects of space exploration in the future; the importance of education and outreach programmes in the area of space activities; the prospects for the development of space science and technology in developing countries; and the need for regional and interregional cooperation in space activities.

17. In the commemorative segment, statements were made by representatives of the following Member States: Austria, Belgium, China, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and United States. The representative of Hungary made a statement on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union. The observer for the Holy See also made a statement.

18. The States participating in the commemorative segment noted the two historic fiftieth anniversaries and welcomed the opportunity they presented to increase awareness of the relevance and importance of space applications for the betterment of the conditions of human life.

19. The States participating in the commemorative segment noted the desirability of a continued collective approach to advancing international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and the importance of further strengthening the role of the Committee in shaping international standards for space activities in many areas for the benefit of all countries, and in ensuring the long-term sustainability of space activities.

20. The States participating in the commemorative segment underscored the role of space science and technology and their applications in meeting challenges to global development, the fostering of regional and interregional cooperation in space activities for sustainable development and the need for enhanced capacity-building in the use of space science and technology for the benefit of all countries.

21. The commemorative segment concluded with the official opening of the international exhibition on the 50 years of human space flight, held in the Vienna International Centre. Opening statements were made by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, the Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and Mazlan Othman, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. The exhibition, organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs with the generous support of member States and permanent observers, comprised contributions from 20 States, ESA and International Space Station partners. Exhibitors included Algeria, Austria, Belgium, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), ESA and the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

22. The States participating in the commemorative segment expressed their appreciation to the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the successful preparations for the commemorative segment and a number of related side events.

## **Appendix**

### **Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of Human Space Flight and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

We, the States participating in the commemorative segment of the fifty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held at Vienna on 1 June 2011, in commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight and the fiftieth anniversary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,

1. *Recall* the launch into outer space of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik I, on 4 October 1957, thus opening the way for space exploration;

2. *Also recall* that on 12 April 1961, Yuri Gagarin became the first human to orbit the Earth, opening a new chapter of human endeavour in outer space;

3. *Further recall* the amazing history of human presence in outer space and the remarkable achievements since the first human spaceflight, in particular Valentina Tereshkova becoming the first woman to orbit the Earth on 16 June 1963, Neil Armstrong becoming the first human to set foot upon the surface of the Moon on 20 July 1969, and the docking of the Apollo and Soyuz spacecrafts on 17 July 1975, being the first international human mission in space, and recall that for the past decade humanity has maintained a multinational permanent human presence in outer space aboard the International Space Station;

4. *Respectfully recall* that the human exploration of outer space has not been without sacrifice, and remember the men and women who have lost their lives in the pursuit of expanding humanity's frontiers;

5. *Emphasize* the significant progress in the development of space science and technology and their applications that has enabled humans to explore the universe, and the extraordinary achievements made over the past fifty years in space exploration efforts, including deepening the understanding of the planetary system and the Sun and the Earth itself, in the use of space science and technology for the benefit of all humankind and in the development of the international legal regime governing space activities;

6. *Recall* 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 (Outer Space Treaty) on 10 October 1967,<sup>a</sup> which establishes the fundamental principles of international space law;

7. *Also recall* the first meeting of the permanent Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, convened on 27 November 1961, which facilitated the adoption of General Assembly resolutions 1721 A to E (XVI) of 20 December 1961, including resolution 1721 A, in which the first legal principles were commended to States for their guidance in space activities, and resolution 1721 B, in which the Assembly expressed its belief that the United Nations should provide a focal point for international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space;

8. *Recognize* that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, assisted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, has for the past fifty years served as a unique platform at the global level for international cooperation in space activities and that the Committee and its subsidiary bodies stand at the forefront in bringing the world together in using space science and technology to preserve the Earth and the space environment and ensure the future of human civilization;

9. *Acknowledge* that significant changes have occurred in the structure and content of the space endeavour, as reflected in the emergence of new technologies and the increasing number of actors at all levels, and therefore note with satisfaction the progress made in strengthening international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space by enhancing the capacity of States for economic, social and cultural development and by strengthening the regulatory frameworks and mechanisms to that effect;

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<sup>a</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, No. 8843.

10. *Reaffirm* the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law, and of the widest possible adherence to the international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space;

11. *Express our firm conviction* that space science and technology and their applications, such as satellite communications, Earth observation systems and satellite navigation technologies, provide indispensable tools for viable long-term solutions for sustainable development and can contribute more effectively to efforts to promote the development of all countries and regions of the world, to improve people's lives, to conserve natural resources in a world with a growing population that places an increasing strain on all ecosystems, and to enhance the preparedness for and mitigation of the consequences of disasters;

12. *Express our deep concern* about the fragility of the space environment and the challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, in particular the impact of space debris;

13. *Stress* the need to look more closely into how advanced space research and exploration systems and technologies could further contribute to meeting challenges, including that of global climate change, and to food security and global health, and endeavour to examine how the outcomes and spin-offs of scientific research in human space flight could increase the benefits, in particular for developing countries;

14. *Emphasize* that regional and interregional cooperation in the field of space activities is essential to strengthen the peaceful uses of outer space, assist States in the development of their space capabilities and contribute to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration;<sup>b</sup>

15. *Confirm* the need for closer coordination between the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and other intergovernmental bodies involved in the global development agenda of the United Nations, including with respect to the major United Nations conferences and summits for economic, social and cultural development;

16. *Call upon* all States to take measures at the national, regional, interregional and global levels to engage in the common efforts to use space science and technology and their applications to preserve planet Earth and its space environment for future generations.

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<sup>b</sup> General Assembly resolution 55/2.