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Agenda item 28

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE:

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE;
- (b) REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL [CHAPTER VII (SECTION IV)]

Report of the First CommitteeRapporteur: Mr. Fernando VOLIO JIMENEZ (Costa Rica)

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1721 (XVI) of 20 December 1961 and 1802 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, the item "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" was included in the provisional agenda of the eighteenth regular session of the General Assembly (A/5450 and Corr.1).
2. In its report of 19 September (A/5530), the General Committee recommended the inclusion of item 28 in the agenda and its allocation to the First Committee. It also approved the recommendation of the Secretary-General that chapter VII, section IV of agenda item 12 (Report of the Economic and Social Council), which related to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, be considered by the First Committee, and agreed, on the proposal of the representative of the United States, that this item and item 28, which were of a similar nature, should be considered under the single heading "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space" as sub-items (a) and (b) entitled "Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" and "Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapter VII (section IV)]" respectively.
3. At its 1210th plenary meeting on 28 September, the General Assembly approved the recommendations of the General Committee and referred item 28, as well as the relevant portion of item 12, to the First Committee for consideration and report.

4. The First Committee considered the items at its 1342nd to 1346th meetings.
5. Representatives of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as well as the representative of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) participated in the discussions as observers and made statements.
6. The Committee had the following documents before it:
 - (a) A document entitled "First memorandum of understanding to implement the bilateral space agreement of 8 June 1962 between the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States" (A/5482);
 - (b) Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/5549 and Add.1);
 - (c) Second report prepared by the ITU on telecommunication and the peaceful uses of outer space (E/3770);
 - (d) Second report prepared by WMO on the advancement of atmospheric sciences and their application in the light of developments in outer space (E/3794);
 - (e) Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapter VII (section IV)] (A/5503);
 - (f) A "Draft declaration of legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and uses of outer space" submitted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/C.1/L.331 and Corr.1).
7. On 4 December, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America introduced a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.332) which was later revised (A/C.1/L.332/Rev.1) by substituting the word "six" for the word "five" in paragraph 2 (e) of part II.
8. At the 1346th meeting on 5 December, the First Committee adopted by acclamation the draft declaration submitted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/C.1/L.331 and Corr.1) and the revised twenty-seven-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.332/Rev.1).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

9. The First Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Draft Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space

The General Assembly,

Inspired by the great prospects opening up before mankind as a result of man's entry into outer space,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the progress of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Believing that the exploration and use of outer space should be carried on for the betterment of mankind and for the benefit of States irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,

Desiring to contribute to broad international co-operation in the scientific as well as in the legal aspects of exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Believing that such co-operation will contribute to the development of mutual understanding and to the strengthening of friendly relations between nations and peoples,

Recalling its resolution 110 (II) of 3 November 1947, which condemned propaganda designed or likely to provoke or encourage any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression, and considering that the aforementioned resolution is applicable to outer space,

Taking into consideration its resolutions 1721 (XVI) of 20 December 1961 and 1802 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, approved unanimously by the States Members of the United Nations,

Solemnly declares that in the exploration and use of outer space States should be guided by the following principles:

1. The exploration and use of outer space shall be carried on for the benefit and in the interests of all mankind.

2. Outer space and celestial bodies are free for exploration and use by all States on a basis of equality and in accordance with international law.

3. Outer space and celestial bodies are not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means.

4. The activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space shall be carried on in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation and understanding.

5. States bear international responsibility for national activities in outer space, whether carried on by governmental agencies or by non-governmental entities, and for assuring that national activities are carried on in conformity with the principles set forth in this Declaration. The activities of non-governmental entities in outer space shall require authorization and continuing supervision by the State concerned. When activities are carried on in outer space by an international organization, responsibility for compliance with the principles set forth in this Declaration shall be borne by the international organization and by the States participating in it.

6. In the exploration and use of outer space, States shall be guided by the principle of co-operation and mutual assistance and shall conduct all their activities in outer space with due regard for the corresponding interests of other States. If a State has reason to believe that an outer space activity or experiment planned by it or its nationals would cause potentially harmful interference with activities of other States in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, it shall undertake appropriate international consultations before proceeding with any such activity or experiment. A State which has reason to believe that an outer space activity or experiment planned by another State would cause potentially harmful interference with activities in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space may request consultation concerning the activity or experiment.

7. The State on whose registry an object launched into outer space is carried shall retain jurisdiction and control over such object, and any personnel thereon, while in outer space. Ownership of objects launched into outer space, and of their component parts, is not affected by their passage through outer space or by their return to the earth. Such objects or component parts found beyond the limits of the State of registry shall be returned to that State, which shall furnish identifying data upon request prior to return.

8. Each State which launches or procures the launching of an object into outer space, and each State from whose territory or facility an object is launched, is internationally liable for damage to a foreign State or to its natural or juridical persons by such object or its component parts on the earth, in air space, or in outer space.

9. States shall regard astronauts as envoys of mankind in outer space, and shall render to them all possible assistance in the event of accident, distress, or emergency landing on the territory of a foreign State or on the high seas. Astronauts who make such a landing shall be safely and promptly returned to the State of registry of their space vehicle.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1721 (XVI) of 20 December 1961 and 1802 (XVII) of 14 December 1962 on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space,

Having considered the report submitted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,^{1/}

Mindful of the benefits which all Member States would enjoy by participation in international programmes of co-operation in this field,

I

1. Recommends that consideration should be given to incorporating in international agreement form, in the future as appropriate, legal principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space;

2. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue to study and report on legal problems which may arise in the exploration and use of outer space, and in particular to arrange for the prompt preparation of draft international agreements on liability for damage caused by objects launched into outer space and on assistance to and return of astronauts and space vehicles;

3. Further requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to report to the General Assembly at its nineteenth session on the results achieved in preparing these two agreements;

II

1. Endorses the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space concerning exchange of information, encouragement of international programmes, international sounding rocket facilities, education and training and potentially harmful effects of space experiments;

2. Welcomes the decision of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to undertake, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, and making full use of the functions and resources of the Secretariat:

(a) The preparation of a working paper on the activities and resources of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other competent international bodies relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

(b) The preparation of a summary of national and of co-operative international space activities;

(c) The preparation of a list of available bibliographic and abstracting services covering scientific and technical results and publications in space and space-related areas;

(d) The compilation, in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, of reviews of information on facilities for education and training in basic subjects related to the peaceful uses of outer space in universities and other places of learning;

(e) The establishment, at the request of the Government of India, of a group of six scientists to visit the sounding rocket launching facility at Thumba and to advise the Committee on its eligibility for United Nations sponsorship in accordance with the basic principles endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 1802 (XVII);

3. Notes with appreciation that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1721 (XVI), the Secretary-General is maintaining a public registry of objects launched into orbit or beyond on the basis of information being furnished by States Members of the United Nations;

4. Notes with appreciation that certain Member States have, on a voluntary basis, provided information on their national space programmes and invites other Member States to do so;

5. Invites Member States to give favourable consideration to requests of countries desirous of participating in the peaceful exploration of outer space for appropriate training and technical assistance on a bilateral basis or on any other basis they see fit;

6. Notes the considerable measure of co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space under way among Member States;

7. Notes that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America have reached an agreement looking toward co-operation in the fields of satellite meteorology, communications and magnetic field mapping;

8. Encourages Member States to continue and extend co-operative arrangements so that all Members can benefit from the peaceful exploration and use of outer space;

9. Believes that international co-operation can be beneficial in furthering the exploration of the solar system;

III

1. Notes with appreciation:

(a) The second report of the World Meteorological Organization on the advancement of atmospheric sciences and their application in the light of developments in outer space;^{2/}

(b) The organizational and financial steps taken by the Fourth Congress of the World Meteorological Organization in response to resolutions 1721 C (XVI) and 1802 (XVII), section III;

2. Endorses efforts toward the establishment of a World Weather Watch under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organization to include the use of satellite as well as conventional data, with data centres to facilitate the effectiveness of the system;

3. Urges that Member States:

(a) Extend their national and regional meteorological efforts to implement the expanded programme of the World Meteorological Organization;

(b) Co-operate in the establishment of the World Weather Watch;

(c) Increase research and training in the atmospheric sciences;

4. Invites the World Meteorological Organization to make a progress report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1964 relating to its activities in this field;

IV

1. Notes with appreciation the second report of the International Telecommunication Union on telecommunications on the peaceful uses of outer space;^{3/}

2. Welcomes the decisions of the October-November 1963 Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference, convened by the International Telecommunication Union on the allocation of frequency bands for space communication and procedures for their use as a step in the development of space radio communications;

^{2/} E/3794.

^{3/} E/3770.

3. Invites the International Telecommunication Union to make a progress report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1964 relating to its activities in this field;

4. Recognizes the potential contribution of communications satellites in the expansion of global telecommunications facilities and the possibilities this offers for increasing the flow of information and for furthering the objectives of the United Nations and its agencies;

V

Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its work as set forth in General Assembly resolutions 1472 (XIV), 1721 (XVI) and 1802 (XVII), as well as in the present resolution, and to report to the General Assembly at its nineteenth session on the activities of the Committee.
