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## THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

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Vienna

19-30 July 1999

**Committee I**

Agenda item 9

**Benefits of basic space science and capacity-building**

### Technical Forum

#### Conclusions and proposals of the Symposium on the Contribution of Space Techniques to the Exploration of the Universe

1. The participants of the Symposium on the Contribution of Space Techniques to the Exploration of the Universe, organized by the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), noted with satisfaction the following:

(a) Exploration of the universe using space techniques had made impressive progress since the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held in 1982, and major fundamental discoveries had been made in the study of the entire electromagnetic spectrum in relation to a number of scientific topics;

(b) New challenges were being addressed by the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) to ensure continued technological development so that even more complex future missions could be undertaken. Given its complexity, space research to explore the universe was an international endeavour, requiring global collaboration;

(c) The extensive, publicly accessible, scientific databases that were currently available or becoming available from space observatories also allowed global participation in scientific analysis and interpretation, including by developing countries.

2. Accordingly, the participants of the COSPAR Workshop recommended the following (paragraph numbers in parentheses refer to paragraphs in the draft report of UNISPACE III (A/CONF.184/3 and Corr.1 and 2)):

(a) Existing activities, such as the successful series of United Nations/European Space Agency workshops on basic space science, organized in the period 1991-1999, should continue to be supported (paras. 199 and 215);

(b) New initiatives, such as those of COSPAR and the International Astronomical Union aimed at organizing, together with the regional centres for space science and technology, workshops on more specific topics, should be encouraged (paras. 222 and 223).

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