



Distr.: Limited
18 July 1999
Original: English

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

Vienna
19-30 July 1999

Report of the pre-Conference consultations held in Vienna on 18 July 1999

I. Introduction

1. The pre-Conference consultations were held on 18 July 1999 at the Austria Center Vienna. Participation was open to representatives of all States Members of the United Nations.
2. The consultations were chaired by N. Jasentuliyana, the executive secretary of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III). U. R. Rao, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for UNISPACE III, reported on the work that the Preparatory Committee had conducted.
3. The following documents were before the pre-Conference consultations:
 - (a) Matters for consideration in the pre-Conference consultations to be held in Vienna on 18 July 1999 (A/CONF.184/PRE-CONF/L.1);
 - (b) Provisional agenda of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/CONF.184/1);
 - (c) Provisional rules of procedure of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/CONF.184/2);
 - (d) Final programme of the Conference;
 - (e) Programme of the opening ceremony.
4. The matters considered in the pre-Conference consultations and the recommendations agreed upon are set out below.

II. Recommendations agreed upon in the pre-Conference consultations

A. Opening of the Conference (item 1 of the provisional agenda of the Conference)

5. The executive secretary of the Conference provided, for the information of the representatives, details of the programme for the opening meeting and organizational arrangements made by the Secretariat at the Conference site. It was agreed to recommend the arrangements to the Conference.

B. Election of the President of the Conference (item 2)

6. It was recommended that the Conference should elect by acclamation U. R. Rao (India), Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as President of the Conference.

C. Adoption of the rules of procedure and the agenda (item 4)

7. It was recommended that the Conference should adopt the provisional rules of procedure (A/CONF.184/2, annex) with the following modifications to the texts of rules 7, 15 and 16 to reflect the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee:

(a) The text of rule 7 should be changed so that the Rapporteurs of Committee I and Committee II will serve as Vice-Chairmen of those bodies;

(b) Under rule 15, representatives of those space-related international organizations identified and called upon under item 7 of the provisional agenda of the Conference should be permitted to make statements on their reports in the Plenary, Committee I and Committee II;

(c) Rule 16 should be applied to the participation of national organizations.

8. It was recommended that the Conference should adopt the provisional agenda (A/CONF.184/1) as recommended by the Preparatory Committee.

D. Establishment of the committees and election of other officers (item 5)

1. Establishment of the committees and organization of work

9. It was recommended that, in accordance with rules 4 and 5 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Conference should establish two main committees, Committee I and Committee II, as well as a Technical Forum as a technical body of the Conference. With regard to the organization of the meetings of the Conference, the following arrangements were recommended:

(a) The Conference will commence with the Plenary and will break into Committee I and Committee II, which should consider substantive items of the provisional agenda (items 7-12), on the understanding that no more than two meetings of those bodies will be held simultaneously except where it is considered absolutely necessary and interpretation and other facilities can be provided. The items of the provisional agenda should be allocated as follows:

Plenary: items 1-6 and 13-15
Committee I: items 7, 9, 10 and 12

Committee II: items 8 and 11

(b) Chapter IV of the draft report of the Conference (A/CONF.184/3 and Corr.1 and 2), covering the substantive agenda items, will be considered by Committee I and Committee II. Before commencing the consideration of each agenda item covered in each section in chapter IV, the Chairman of the appropriate main committee will provide representatives of Member States, at their request, with opportunities to make brief general remarks on the item, bearing in mind that a general exchange of views will take place in the Plenary. The other chapters of the draft report will be considered in the Plenary (see paragraph 16 below);

(c) The work of the Technical Forum will commence with a statement by its Chairman on the first day of the Plenary;

(d) Committee I, Committee II and the Technical Forum will report to the Plenary, which will reconvene to consider their reports and adopt the report of the Conference;

(e) During the first week of the Conference, meetings of the Plenary, Committee I and Committee II should be scheduled, in principle, from 9 a.m. to noon and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., except for the morning meeting on Monday, 19 July, which will begin at 10 a.m., and the afternoon meeting on Tuesday, 20 July, which will be scheduled from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. During the second week of the Conference, meetings should be scheduled, in principle, from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., except for the morning meeting on Friday, 30 July, which will be scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (see annex I);

(f) Technical presentations by representatives of Member States and international organizations that indicated their intention of making presentations by the deadline agreed upon by the Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III should be scheduled from Monday, 26 July to Wednesday, 28 July, immediately following the morning meetings of Committee I and Committee II, from 12.30 p.m. to 13.30 p.m., without simultaneous interpretation;

(g) Presentations by representatives of space-related industries should be scheduled from Tuesday, 20 July, to Friday, 23 July, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., on a first-come first-served basis.

2. Election of other officers

10. It was recommended that, in accordance with rule 7 of the provisional rules of procedure and the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee, the Conference should elect the following officers, in addition to the President of the Conference, to constitute the General Committee: Vice-President and Rapporteur-General of the Plenary; the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur of Committee I; the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur of Committee II; and the Chairman of the Technical Forum.

11. In accordance with the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee, it was also recommended that the following individuals should be nominated as the candidates for the offices of the General Committee (see also paragraph 6 above):

Plenary

Vice-President: Raimundo González (Chile)
Rapporteur-General: Mohamed Aït Belaïd (Morocco)

Committee I

Chairman: Dietrich Rex (Germany)
Vice-Chairman: Alexander V. Yakovenko (Russian Federation)
Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur: R. A. Boroffice (Nigeria)

Committee II

Chairman: Shunji Murai (Japan)
Vice-Chairman: Vladimir Kopal (Czech Republic)

Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur: Luiz Gylvan Meira Filho (Brazil)

Technical Forum

Chairman: Peter Jankowitsch (Austria)

3. Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

12. It was recommended that, in accordance with rule 3 of the provisional rules of procedure and the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee, the Conference should appoint China, Fiji, Jamaica, Mali, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, Venezuela and Zimbabwe as members of the Credentials Committee, on the understanding that, if a State is not present, the Conference should replace that State by another State from the same regional group, as designated by that group. The Credentials Committee should present its report to the Conference as soon as the report is available.

E. General exchange of views (item 6)

13. The following were recommended:

(a) The general exchange of views should be held in the Plenary starting on Monday, 19 July, and should be concluded by Thursday, 22 July, and there should be no general exchange of views in Committee I or Committee II;

(b) The list of speakers for the general exchange of views should be closed on Tuesday, 20 July;

(c) While it is desirable that statements by Member States during the general exchange of views not exceed 10 minutes, that time limit should be indicative and interpreted with flexibility. In accordance with rule 14 of the provisional rules of procedure, organizations of the United Nations system and international organizations having permanent observer status with the General Assembly or the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should be permitted to deliver general statements limited to 7 minutes. The full texts of such statements may be circulated in writing. International organizations not having permanent observer status with the General Assembly or the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should be permitted to submit general statements in writing to the Plenary.

F. Activities of the Technical Forum (item 13)

14. The following recommendations were made regarding the activities of the Technical Forum (see annex II):

(a) Results and proposals emanating from each activity of the Technical Forum should be reviewed and forwarded by the Chairman of the Technical Forum to the Plenary, Committee I or Committee II for consideration;

(b) The Space Generation Forum should present its report to Committee I under item 9 of the provisional agenda as soon as the report is available. Proposals of the Space Generation Forum should be submitted to the Chairman of the Technical Forum, who will forward them to Committee I or Committee II, as appropriate, for consideration.

G. Adoption of the report of the Conference (item 14)

15. It was recommended that the report of the Conference should consist of the decisions of the Conference, a brief account of the events leading to the convening of the Conference, the proceedings, including a summary of the general exchange of views in the Plenary, a narrative of the organization of work and procedures of the main committees and the Technical Forum, including the action taken in plenary meetings on the recommendations prepared by the main committees.

16. It was also recommended that, while the sections of chapter IV of the draft report should be considered by Committee I and Committee II, forming the basis for the work of those committees, chapters I-III and V and the summary of the draft report should be considered by the Plenary under item 14 of the provisional agenda, on the adoption of the report of the Conference (see also paragraph 9 (b) above).

17. It was further recommended that, in accordance with rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Conference should establish a Drafting Group, chaired by the Rapporteur-General of the Plenary and consisting of the two designated representatives from each of the five regional groups, together with any additional representatives of the Member States invited by the Rapporteur-General to assist in the preparation of the full draft report. The following individuals were recommended as candidates from the regional groups to be included in the Drafting Group: Dawlat Hassen (Egypt), Mongezi Tshongweni (South Africa), Sridhara Murthy (India), Mazlan Othman (Malaysia), Dumitru Dorin Prunariu (Romania), Arif Mehdiyev (Azerbaijan), Alejandra Bonilla (Colombia), Raúl Pelaez (Argentina), Gabriella Venturini (Italy) and Lynne F. H. Cline (United States). The Drafting Group may consider any matters referred to it by Committee I, Committee II or the Rapporteur-General.

H. Indicative schedule of work of the Conference

18. The indicative schedule of work of the Conference is reproduced in annex I.

19. A calendar of meetings of the Conference is provided in annex III.

Annex I

Indicative schedule of work of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to be held at the Austria Center Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Plenary (Main Hall)</i>		<i>Committee I (Hall E)</i>		<i>Committee II (Hall F)</i>	
	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
<i>Monday, 19 July</i>						
10 a.m.-noon	1	Opening of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)				
	2	Election of the President of the Conference				
	3	Statement by the President of the Conference				
	4	Adoption of the rules of procedure and the agenda				
	5	Establishment of the committees and election of other officers				
3-6 p.m.	6	General exchange of views				
<i>Tuesday, 20 July</i>						
9 a.m.-noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m.	6	General exchange of views			8	Status and applications of space science and technology

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Plenary (Main Hall)</i>		<i>Committee I (Hall E)</i>		<i>Committee II (Hall F)</i>	
	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
<i>Wednesday, 21 July</i>						
9 a.m.-noon and 3-6 p.m.	6	General exchange of views	7	Status of the scientific knowledge of Earth and its environment		
<i>Thursday, 22 July</i>						
9 a.m.-noon	6	General exchange of views	7	Status of the scientific knowledge of Earth and its environment		
3-6 p.m.			7	Status of the scientific knowledge of Earth and its environment	8	Status and applications of space science and technology
<i>Friday, 23 July</i>						
9 a.m.-noon and 3-6 p.m.			9	Benefits of basic space science and capacity- building	8	Status and applications of space science and technology
<i>Monday, 26 July</i>						
9.30 a.m.- 12.30 p.m.			9	Benefits of basic space science and capacity- building	8	Status and applications of space science and technology
3-6 p.m.			10	Information needs and the global approach	8	Status and applications of space science and technology
<i>Tuesday, 27 July</i>						
9.30 a.m.- 12.30 p.m.			10	Information needs and the global approach	8	Status and applications of space science and technology
3-6 p.m.			12	Promotion of international cooperation	11	Economic and societal benefits

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Plenary (Main Hall)</i>		<i>Committee I (Hall E)</i>		<i>Committee II (Hall F)</i>	
	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
<i>Wednesday, 28 July</i>						
9.30 a.m.- 12.30 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.			12	Promotion of international cooperation	11	Economic and societal benefits
<i>Thursday, 29 July</i>						
9.30 a.m.- 12.30 p.m.			12	Promotion of international cooperation	11	Economic and societal benefits Adoption of the report of Committee II
3-6 p.m.	13	Activities of the Technical Forum (report of the Chairman of the Technical Forum)	9	Benefits of basic space science and capacity- building Adoption of the report of Committee I		
	14	Adoption of the report of the Conference, including the Vienna Declaration and Action Plan Adoption of the report of Committee II				
<i>Friday, 30 July</i>						
10 a.m.- 1 p.m.	14	Adoption of the report of the Conference, including the Vienna Declaration and Action Plan Adoption of the report of Committee I				
3-6 p.m.	14	Adoption of the report of the Conference, including the Vienna Declaration and Action Plan				
	15	Closing of the Conference				

Annex II

Schedule of activities of the Technical Forum, to be held at the Vienna International Centre and the Austria Center Vienna during the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description of activity</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>
7	Scientific Forum on Climate Variability and Global Change	Tuesday, 20 July	9 a.m.-noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	International Forum on the Integrated Global Observing Strategy	Wednesday, 21 July	9 a.m.-noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites: Workshop on Meteorological Satellite Systems	Thursday, 22 July	2.30-6 p.m.
	Workshop: "Blue Planet, Green Planet"	Friday, 23 July	9 a.m.-noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m.
8	Workshop on Resource Mapping from Space	Thursday, 22 July	9 a.m.-noon
	Workshop on Disaster Management	Thursday, 22 July	9 a.m.-noon
	Workshop on Remote Sensing for the Detection, Monitoring and Mitigation of Natural Disasters	Thursday, 22 July	2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Seminar on Environment and Remote Sensing for Sustainable Development	Friday, 23 July	9 a.m.-noon
	Seminar on Global Health	Friday, 23 July	2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Round Table on Tele-education	Friday, 23 July	2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Global Navigation Satellite Systems	Monday, 26 July	9 a.m.-noon
	Workshop on Telemedicine	Monday, 26 July	2.30-5.30 p.m.
9	Special Environmental Symposium: "Preserving the Astronomical Sky"	Monday-Friday, 12-16 July	9 a.m.-noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Space Generation Forum	Sunday-Tuesday, 18-27 July	

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description of activity</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>
	Special Workshop on Education	Tuesday and Wednesday, 20 and 21 July Friday, 23 July	9 a.m.-noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m. 9 a.m.-noon
	Round Table on the Integration of Earth Observation into Secondary Education	Wednesday, 21 July	2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Symposium on Recent Progress and Future Plans for Exploration of the Solar System	Thursday, 22 July	9 a.m.-noon
	Symposium on the Contribution of Space Techniques to the Exploration of the Universe	Thursday, 22 July	2.30-6 p.m.
	Workshop on Space Debris	Monday, 26 July	9 a.m.-1.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Mars Exploration	Monday, 26 July	9 a.m.-12.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Observations of Near-Earth Objects	Monday, 26 July	2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Life Science Activities on the International Space Station	Tuesday, 27 July	2.30-5.30 p.m.
10	Workshop on Geospatial Data Access	Monday, 26 July	9 a.m.-12.30 p.m. and 2.30-5.30 p.m.
11	Workshop on Small Satellites at the Service of Developing Countries	Monday, 26 July	2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Developing Indigenous Earth Observation Industrial Capabilities in Developing Countries	Tuesday, 27 July	9 a.m.-noon and 2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Session on International Standardization for Space Systems	Tuesday, 27 July	2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Clean and Inexhaustible Space Solar Power	Tuesday, 27 July	9 a.m.-noon
	Forum on Industrial Utilization of the International Space Station	Tuesday, 27 July	9 a.m.-noon

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description of activity</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>
12	High-level academic panel: "Space Benefits for Humanity"	Monday, 19 July	3-5 p.m.
	Workshop on Managing Space Programmes in Developing Countries	Tuesday, 20 July	9 a.m.-noon
	High-level space industry panel: "Harnessing Space for Development and Exploration: A Global Vision for the Twenty-first Century"	Tuesday, 20 July	noon-1.30 p.m.
	Session on the results of the 5th International Cooperation in Space Workshop: "International Space Cooperation: Solving Global Problems"	Tuesday, 20 July	2.30-5.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Space Law in the Twenty-first Century	Tuesday-Friday 20-23 July Saturday, 24 July	9 a.m.-noon and 2.30- 5.30 p.m. 9 a.m.-noon
	Forum on Space Activities in the Twenty-first Century	Wednesday, 21 July	9 a.m.-noon and 2.30- 5.30 p.m.
	Panel of space agency and industry heads on the theme of the Conference	Wednesday and Thursday, 21 and 22 July	noon-1.30 p.m.
	Round Table on Cooperation and International Competition	Friday, 23 July	noon-1.30 p.m.
	Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights in Space	Tuesday, 27 July	9 a.m.-noon

Annex III

**Calendar of meetings of the Third United Nations Conference on the
Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Committee I</i>	<i>Committee II</i>	<i>Technical Forum</i>	
				<i>Other activities (workshops, seminars etc.)</i>	<i>Space Generation Forums</i>
Monday, 19 July	a.m. p.m.			p.m.	a.m. p.m.
Tuesday, 20 July	a.m. p.m.		a.m. p.m.	a.m. p.m. ^a	a.m. p.m.
Wednesday, 21 July	a.m. p.m.	a.m. p.m.		a.m. p.m. ^a	a.m. p.m.
Thursday, 22 July	a.m.	a.m. p.m.	p.m.	a.m. p.m. ^a	a.m. p.m.
Friday, 23 July		a.m. p.m.	a.m. p.m.	a.m. p.m. ^a	a.m. p.m.
Monday, 26 July		a.m. ^b p.m.	a.m. ^b p.m.	a.m. p.m.	a.m. p.m.
Tuesday, 27 July		a.m. ^b p.m.	a.m. ^b p.m.	a.m. p.m.	a.m. p.m.
Wednesday, 28 July		a.m. ^b p.m.	a.m. ^b p.m.		
Thursday, 29 July	p.m.	a.m. p.m.	a.m.		
Friday, 30 July	a.m. p.m.				

^a High-level space agency and industry panels will be held from noon to 1.30 p.m. (from noon to 2 p.m. on Friday, 23 July) as part of the Technical Forum activities.

^b National technical presentations will be made from 12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m., immediately following the morning meetings of Committee I and Committee II.