

3234 (XXIX). International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3182 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,¹

Reaffirming the common interest of mankind in furthering the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Recalling its resolution 1721 B (XVI) of 20 December 1961, in which it expressed the belief that the United Nations should provide a focal point for international co-operation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space,

Reaffirming further its belief that the benefits deriving from space exploration can be extended to States at all stages of economic and scientific development if Member States conduct their space programmes with a view to promoting maximum international co-operation, including the widest possible exchange of information in this field, and the expansion of international programmes for the practical applications of space technology to development,

Reaffirming the importance of international co-operation in developing the rule of law in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

2. *Invites* States which have not yet become parties to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,² the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space³ and the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects⁴ to give early consideration to ratifying or acceding to those international agreements, so that they may have the broadest possible effect;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has completed the text of the draft Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space;⁵

4. *Notes with appreciation* the useful work carried out by the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the field of the progressive development and the codification of the law of outer space;

5. *Notes* that, in responding to the request of the General Assembly, the Legal Sub-Committee and the Committee itself have achieved further progress towards completion of the draft treaty relating to the Moon;

6. *Recommends* that the Legal Sub-Committee should consider at its fourteenth session, with the same high priority:

(a) The draft treaty relating to the Moon with a view to completing it as soon as possible;

(b) The elaboration of principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting with a view to concluding an international agreement or agreements, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2916 (XXVII) of 9 November 1972;

(c) The legal implications of remote sensing of the earth from space, taking into account the various views of States expressed on the subject, including proposals for draft international instruments;

7. *Notes*, in this context, that the delegations of Argentina and Brazil have introduced, during the current session of the General Assembly, draft basic articles of a treaty on remote sensing of natural resources by means of space technology⁶ for the consideration of the Legal Sub-Committee at its fourteenth session;

8. *Also recommends* that the Legal Sub-Committee should consider at its fourteenth session, as time permits, matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and outer space activities;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the useful work carried out by the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites, *inter alia* in facilitating the work of the Legal Sub-Committee in elaborating principles governing the use by States of artificial earth satellites for direct television broadcasting;

10. *Recommends* that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, bearing in mind the useful contribution that the Working Group on Direct Broadcast Satellites can make to its work, should consider reconvening the Working Group if or when it deems it useful;

11. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in promoting international co-operation in the applications of space technology, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and its Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites have given considerable attention to the potential use of remote sensing of the earth by satellites in development programmes of all countries, especially of developing countries;

12. *Welcomes* the various efforts envisaged with a view to making more readily available the benefits of this new technology to all countries, especially developing countries;

13. *Welcomes further*, as a valuable step in the efforts to find appropriate patterns for the possible international organization of an operational remote-sensing system or systems, the request of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Secretary-General undertake studies on the organizational and financial requirements of global and regional centres for remote sensing;

14. *Endorses* the opinion that further studies by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of organizational and financial questions relating to remote sensing of the earth from space should progress together with consideration by the Legal Sub-Committee of the legal aspects of remote sensing of the earth from space as a matter of priority;

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/9620).

² Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

³ Resolution 2345 (XXII), annex.

⁴ Resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex.

⁵ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/9620), annex III.

⁶ See A/C.1/1047.

15. *Commends* the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites for its accomplishment in assessing the current stage of development of remote sensing and in facilitating understanding of the potential benefits of this new space application for development, especially that of the developing countries;

16. *Notes with approval* that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, having considered the various recommendations made by its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee with regard to the work of the Working Group on Remote Sensing of the Earth by Satellites, as set out in the final report of the Working Group,⁷ agreed to the recommendation that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, at its twelfth session in 1975, should give to remote sensing the priority accorded to it in paragraph 49 of the Committee's report;

17. *Welcomes* the continuing progress achieved in developing the United Nations programme on space applications into a significant means of promoting international co-operation in this field, as set out in paragraphs 35 to 41 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and in paragraph 29 of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee,⁸ and recommends that, in order to facilitate further progress in space applications, the Committee should explore the desirability of expanding the programme in the future, including the possibility of improving its effectiveness, taking especially into account the needs of the developing countries;

18. *Endorses* the United Nations programme on space applications, as referred to in paragraph 41 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and in paragraph 29 of the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, and recommends the continuing development of the programme, taking especially into account the needs of the developing countries;

19. *Notes with appreciation* that several Member States have offered educational and training facilities, under United Nations sponsorship, in the practical applications of space technology and draws the attention of Member States, particularly the developing countries, to those opportunities as outlined in paragraphs 35 to 38 and 40 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

20. *Further notes with appreciation* the actions, as mentioned in paragraph 37 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, of several Member States in serving as hosts to the United Nations-sponsored panels, seminars and workshops in 1973 and 1974, and in agreeing to serve as hosts to the United Nations-sponsored panels, seminars and workshops in 1975;

21. *Further notes* the value of United Nations panels and training seminars in various fields of space application and hopes that Member States will continue to offer to serve as hosts to these panels and training seminars with a view to the widest possible spread of information and sharing of costs in this new area of development, especially that of the developing countries;

22. *Commends* to the attention of Member States the questionnaire, recently communicated to them for

their reply, which has been prepared for the purpose of facilitating future planning of a more effective United Nations programme on space applications with particular regard to the needs of the developing countries for assistance in this field;

23. *Recommends* that, in accordance with paragraph 57 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the specialized agencies—such as the International Telecommunication Union, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization—having existing responsibilities or programmes of studies pertaining to the geostationary orbit should provide the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its next session with background information brought up to date on the subject;

24. *Approves* continuing sponsorship by the United Nations of the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in India and the CELPA Mar del Plata Station in Argentina, expresses its satisfaction at the work being carried out at those ranges in relation to the use of sounding rocket facilities for international co-operation and training in the peaceful and scientific exploration of outer space, and recommends that Member States should continue to give consideration to the use of those facilities for space research activities;

25. *Recalls* the principles governing the operation of such United Nations-sponsored facilities as set forth in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1962⁹ and originally endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 1802 (XVII) of 14 December 1962;

26. *Agrees* with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as set out in paragraph 45 of its report, that proper co-ordination is necessary for activities within the United Nations system relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

27. *Recalls* its interest in receiving information concerning discussions in the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization regarding the use of maritime satellites, particularly in view of the International Conference on the Establishment of an International Maritime Satellite System, to be held in 1975;

28. *Reiterates* its requests to the World Meteorological Organization to pursue actively the implementation of its tropical cyclone project, while continuing and intensifying its other related action programmes, including the World Weather Watch and, especially, the efforts being undertaken towards obtaining basic meteorological data and discovering ways and means to mitigate the harmful effects of tropical storms and to remove or minimize their destructive potential, and looks forward to its report thereon in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 2914 (XXVII) of 9 November 1972 and 3182 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973;

29. *Notes with appreciation* that the specialized agencies, in particular the World Meteorological Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, have continued to take an active part in the United Nations programme

⁷ A/AC.105/125.

⁸ A/AC.105/131.

⁹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 27, document A/5181.

for the promotion of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, including the practical applications of space technology;

30. *Requests* the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency to continue, as appropriate, to provide the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space and to examine—and report thereon to the Committee—the particular problems that may arise from the use of outer space in the fields within their competence and that should, in their opinion, be brought to the attention of the Committee;

31. *Requests* the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its work, as set out in the present and previous resolutions of the General Assembly, and to report to the Assembly at its thirtieth session.

2280th plenary meeting
12 November 1974

3235 (XXIX). Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance of international co-operation in the field of the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, and of promoting the rule of law in this new field of human endeavour,

Desiring, in the light 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,¹⁰ the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space¹¹ and the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects,¹² to make provision for registration by launching States of space objects launched into outer space with a view, *inter alia*, to providing States with additional means and procedures to assist in the identification of space objects,

Bearing in mind its resolution 3182 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, in which it requested the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to consider as a matter of priority the completion of the text of the draft Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,¹³

Noting with satisfaction that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Sub-Committee have completed the text of the draft Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space,

1. *Commends* the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to open the Convention for signature and ratification at the earliest possible date;

¹⁰ Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

¹¹ Resolution 2345 (XXII), annex.

¹² Resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex.

¹³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/9620).*

3. *Expresses its hope* for the widest possible adherence to this Convention.

2280th plenary meeting
12 November 1974

ANNEX

Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space

The States Parties to this Convention,

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

Recalling that the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies of 27 January 1967 affirms that States shall bear international responsibility for their national activities in outer space and refers to the State on whose registry an object launched into outer space is carried,

Recalling also that the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space of 22 April 1968 provides that a launching authority shall, upon request, furnish identifying data prior to the return of an object it has launched into outer space found beyond the territorial limits of the launching authority,

Recalling further that the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects of 29 March 1972 establishes international rules and procedures concerning the liability of launching States for damage caused by their space objects,

Desiring, in the light 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, to make provision for the national registration by launching States of space objects launched into outer space,

Desiring further that a central register of objects launched into outer space be established and maintained, on a mandatory basis, by the Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Desiring also to provide for States Parties additional means and procedures to assist in the identification of space objects,

Believing that a mandatory system of registering objects launched into outer space would, in particular, assist in their identification and would contribute to the application and development of international law governing the exploration and use of outer space,

Have agreed on the following:

ARTICLE I

For the purposes of this Convention:

(a) The term "launching State" means:

- (i) A State which launches or procures the launching of a space object;
- (ii) A State from whose territory or facility a space object is launched;

(b) The term "space object" includes component parts of a space object as well as its launch vehicle and parts thereof;

(c) The term "State of registry" means a launching State on whose registry a space object is carried in accordance with article II.

ARTICLE II

1. When a space object is launched into earth orbit or beyond, the launching State shall register the space object by means of an entry in an appropriate registry which it shall maintain. Each launching State shall inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the establishment of such a registry.