



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/42/812
25 November 1987

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-second session
Agenda **item 76**

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

Report of **the** Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mpumelelo Joseph HLOPHE (Swaziland)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The **item** entitled:

"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** Secretary-General"

was included in the provisional **agenda of** the forty-second **session of the** General Assembly in **accordance** with Assembly resolution **41/64** of **3** December 1986.

2. **At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1987, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee,** decided to include **the item in its** agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political **Committee.**

3. **The Special Political Committee considered the item at its 14th, 16th to 20th and 22nd meetings, on 3, 5, 6 and 9 to 12 November 1987 (see A/SPC/42/SR.14, 16-20 and 22).**

4. **The Committee had before it the following documents;**

(a) Report of **the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;** 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second **Session,** Supplement No. **20** (A/42/20).

(b) Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: report of the Secretary-General (A/42/518 and Corr.1).

5. The Committee also had before it a letter dated 17 December 1986 from the Permanent Representatives of Argentina and Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/62), a letter dated 6 January 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/73), a letter dated 20 March 1987 from the Charge d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/185), a letter dated 14 September 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/562) and a letter dated 23 October 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/681).

6. At the 14th meeting, on 3 November, Mr. Helmut Hohenfellner, Minister and Head of the Austrian delegation, introduced the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on behalf of Mr. Peter Jankowitsch, Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/SPC/42/L.18 and Corr.1

7. At the 20th meeting, on 11 November, the representative of Austria introduced a draft resolution entitled "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space" (A/SPC/42/L.18 and Corr.1), on behalf of the Working Group on International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space of the Special Political Committee, which, in accordance with the decision of the Special Political Committee at its 2nd meeting, on 8 October, was established under the chairmanship of the representative of Austria to work out a draft resolution on this item. He expressed the hope that the resolution would be adopted by consensus.

8. The draft resolution was sponsored by Austria on behalf of the Working Group on International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space of the Special Political Committee.

9. At its 22nd meeting, on 12 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/SPC/42/L.18 and Corr.1 without a vote (see para. 11 below).

10. The representative of Mexico explained his country's position on the draft resolution.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

11. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution **41/64** of 3 December 1986,

Deeply convinced of the common interest **of mankind** in promoting the exploration and **use** of outer space for peaceful purposes and **in continuing efforts to** extend to all **States** the benefits derived therefrom, **and of the importance of** international co-operation in this field, for which the United **Nations** should continue to provide a focal point,

Reaffirming the **importance of** international co-operation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms **of** space law and their **important role** in international co-operation for the exploration **and use** of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Commemorating the thirtieth **anniversary** of the launching into orbit **of** the first man-made object, Sputnik, which marked the beginning of the exploration and use **of** outer **e-space** for peaceful purposes and of international co-operation in this field,

Commemorating also the twentieth anniversary **of** 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, 2/** which has played and continues **to** play a positive role in the implementation **of** the purposes **and** principles **of** the Charter **of** the United Nations and the progressive development **of** the law **of** outer **space**, including the elaboration and adoption of other **international instruments** governing the outer space activities **of States**,

Gravely concerned at the extension of an arms **race** into outer **space**,

Recognizing that all States, in particular those **with** major space capabilities, should contribute actively to **the** goal of preventing an **arms** race in outer **space** as an essential condition for the promotion **of** **international** co-operation in the exploration and **use of** outer space for peaceful purposes ,

Aware of the need to increase the benefits **of** space technology and **its** **applications** and to contribute to an orderly **growth** of **space** activities favourable to the socio-economic **advancement** of mankind, in particular the peoples of developing countries,

Taking note of the **progress** achieved in the **further** development of peaceful space exploration and application **as well as** in various national and co-operative space projects, which contribute to international co-operation **in this** field,

2/ . Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General 3/ on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second **United Nations** Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful **Uses of Outer Space**, 4/

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful **Uses of Outer Space on the work of its thirtieth session**, 5/

1. Endorses the report **of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses Of Outer Space**;
2. Invites States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space 6/ to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties]
3. Notes that the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful **Uses of Outer Space at its twenty-sixth session, in its working groups, continued its work as mandated by General Assembly resolution 41/64**; 7/
4. Endorses the recommendations of the Committee **on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Legal Sub-Committee at its twenty-seventh session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries, should:**

(a) Continue the elaboration of draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space through its working group;

3/ A/42/518 and Corr.1.

4/ See Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 9-21 August 1982 (A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1 and 2).

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/42/20).

6/ Treaty on Principles *Governing* the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the **Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 2222 (XXI), annex)**; Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into *Outer Space (resolution 2345 (XXII), annex)*; Convention on International Liability for **Damage Caused by Space Objects (resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex)**; Convention on **Registration of Objects** Launched into Outer Space (resolution 3235 (XXIX), **annex)**; Agreement *Governing* the Activities of States **on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies** (resolution **34/68**, annex).

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/42/20), sect. C.

(b) Continue, through its working group, **its consideration of matters** relating to the definition **and** delimitation of outer space and to the **character and utilization** of the geostationary orbit, including **consideration of ways** and means to **ensure the rational and equitable use** of the geostationary orbit, without prejudice to the role **of** the International Telecommunication Union;

5. **Requests** the Legal Sub-Committee to finalise the choice of a new item for its agenda, taking into account the proposal made by the Group of 77 and other proposals, in order to begin its consideration at its twenty-seventh session;

6. **Notes** that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its twenty-fourth session continued its work as mandated by General Assembly resolution 41/64, 8/

7. **Endorses** the recommendations of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee at its twenty-fifth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries, should:

(a) Consider the following items on a priority basis:

- (i) United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the co-ordination of space activities within the United Nations system)
- (ii) Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;
- (iii) Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries;
- (iv) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space;

(b) Consider the following items:

- (i) Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space;
- (ii) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit) examination of its utilisation and applications, including in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries;
- (iii) Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine;

8/ Ibid., sect. B.

- (iv) Progress in the geosphere-biosphere (**global change**) programme; the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation should be invited to **present** reports and arrange a special **presentation on this subject**;
- (v) **Matters** relating to planetary **exploration**;
- (vi) Matters relating to **astronomy**;
- (vii) The **theme** fixed for the special attention of the 1988 session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee; "**Microgravity experiments in space and their applications**") the Committee on Space Research and the International **Astronautical** Federation should be invited to **arrange a** symposium, with as wide a participation **as** possible, on the theme "**Microgravity experiments in space and their applications**", to be held during the first week of the **Sub-Committee's session**, after the adjournment of its meeting, to **complement** discussions within the **Sub-Committee**;

8. Considers, in the context of paragraph 7 (a) (ii) above, that it is particularly urgent to implement the following recommendations:

(a) All countries should have **the** opportunity to use the techniques resulting from medical studies in **space**;

(b) **Data** banks at the national and regional levels **should** be strengthened **and** expanded and an international space information service should **be** established to function **as** a centre of co-ordination;

(c) **The United Nations** should support the creation of adequate training centres at the regional level, linked, **whenever** possible, to **institutions** implementing space programmes; necessary funding for the development of such centres should **be** made available **through financial institutions**;

(d) **The United Nations** should **organize** a fellowship programme **through** which selected **graduates** or post-graduates from developing **countries** should get in-depth, long-term exposure to space technology or applications; it is **also** desirable to encourage the availability of opportunities for **such** exposures on other bilateral **and** multilateral **bases** outside the **United Nations system**;

9. Endorses the recommendation of the **Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space** that **the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee** should **re-establish**, at its twenty-fifth session, the Working Group of the Whole to **Evaluate the** Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of **Outer Space**, with a view to improving **the execution of activities** relating to **international co-operation**, particularly those included in **the United Nations Programme on Space Applications**, and to **propose concrete steps to** increase such co-operation **as well as to make it** more efficient;

10. Endorses the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole as endorsed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, contained in paragraphs 11 to 13 of the report of the Working Group of the Whole, 9/

11. Endorses the recommendation of and the agreements reached in the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee with respect to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, contained in paragraphs 55 to 63 of the report on the work of its twenty-fourth session, 10/ as endorsed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in paragraph 58 of its report, 5/

12. Decides that, during the twenty-fifth session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space shall be reconvened to conduct additional work on the basis of its previous reports and of subsequent reports of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee I

13. Endorses the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 1988, as proposed to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space by the Expert on Space Applications, 11/

14. Emphasizes the urgency and importance of implementing fully the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as early as possible;

15. Reaffirms its approval of the recommendation of the Conference regarding the establishment and strengthening of regional mechanisms of co-operation and their promotion and creation through the United Nations system;

16. Expresses its appreciation, to all Governments that made or expressed their intention to make contribution towards carrying out the recommendations of the Conference ;

19. Invites all Governments to take effective action for the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;

18. Urges all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international co-operation in the exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes;

19. Takes note of the views expressed and documents circulated during the thirtieth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and

9/ Ibid. annex II.

10/ A/AC.105/383 and Cor r , 1.

11/ See A/AC.105/380, sect. III.

during the forty-second session of the General Assembly concerning ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes;

20. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

21. Affirms that the interference that satellite systems to be newly established may cause to systems already registered with the International Telecommunication Union shall not exceed the limits specified in the relevant provision of the International Telecommunication Union Radio Regulations applicable to space services;

22. Requests all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations working in the field of outer space or on space-related matters to co-operate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;

23. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session on the implementation of the recommendations of the Conferences

24. Requests the specialized agencies and other international organizations to continue and, where appropriate, enhance their co-operation with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and to provide it with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

25. Requests the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its work, in accordance with the present resolution, to consider, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future.
