United Nations

Report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Sixty-seventh session (19–28 June 2024)

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Supplement No. 20

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

[15 July 2024]

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Chapter I

Introduction

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its sixty-seventh session in Vienna from 19 to 28 June 2024. The officers of the Committee were as follows:

Chair	Sherif Mohamed Sedky (Egypt)
First Vice-Chair	Juan Francisco Facetti Fernandez (Paraguay)
Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur	Hasan Abbas (Pakistan)

A. Meetings of subsidiary bodies

2. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its sixty-first session in Vienna from 29 January to 9 February 2024, with Ulpia-Elena Botezatu (Romania) as Chair. The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/1307).

3. The Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its sixty-third session in Vienna from 15 to 26 April 2024, with Santiago Ripol Carulla (Spain) as Chair. The procedural report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/1311).

B. Adoption of the agenda

4. At its 818th meeting, on 19 June, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Election of officers.
4. Statement by the Chair.
5. General exchange of views.
6. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
7. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its sixty-first session.
8. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its sixty-third session.
9. Space and sustainable development.
10. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
11. Space and water.
12. Space and climate change.
13. Use of space technology in the United Nations system.
14. Future role and method of work of the Committee.
15. Space exploration and innovation.
16. “Space2030” Agenda.
17. Other matters.
18. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Election of officers

5. At the 818th meeting of the Committee, Sherif Mohamed Sedky (Egypt) was elected Chair of the Committee for the sixty-seventh session, in 2024, and Rafiq Akram (Morocco) for the sixty-eight session, in 2025, Juan Francisco Facetti Fernandez (Paraguay) was elected First Vice-Chair for the 2024 and 2025 sessions, and Hasan Abbas (Pakistan) was elected Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur for the 2024 session and Hesa Al-Khalifa (Bahrain) for the 2025 session.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee endorsed the election of Ulpia-Elena Botezatu (Romania) as Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Santiago Ripol Carulla (Spain) as Chair of the Legal Subcommittee for the period 2024–2025.

D. Membership

7. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1472 A (XIV), 1721 E (XVI), 3182 (XXVIII), 32/196 B, 35/16, 49/33, 56/51, 57/116, 59/116, 62/217, 65/97, 66/71, 68/75, 69/85, 71/90, 72/77, 74/82, 76/76 and 77/121 and decisions 45/315, 67/412, 67/528, 70/518 and 73/517, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was composed of the following 102 States: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

E. Attendance

8. Representatives of the following 95 States members of the Committee attended the session: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

9. The session was attended by representatives of the European Union, in its capacity as permanent observer of the Committee and in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 65/276 and 73/91.

10. At its 818th and 824th meetings, on 19 and 24 June, the Committee decided to admit Djibouti, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia and Nepal as observers,

at their request, to attend the session and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that doing so would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

11. At its 824th meeting, the Committee considered the request of Myanmar to attend the session. The Committee recalled the practice of other United Nations bodies in similar situations to which competing credentials had been submitted and agreed to defer a decision on the credentials of Myanmar, pending guidance from the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly.

12. At its 818th meeting, the Committee also decided to admit the Holy See and the League of Arab States as observers, at their request, to attend the session and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that doing so would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

13. Observers for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Global Service Centre and the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat and the World Meteorological Organization attended the session.

14. The session was attended by observers for the following intergovernmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee: Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO), European Space Agency (ESA), European Telecommunications Satellite Organization (EUTELSAT IGO), International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), International Organization of Space Communications (Intersputnik), Regional Centre for Remote Sensing of the North African States and Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO).

15. The session was attended by the observer for the Space and Global Health Network in accordance with the agreement of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its sixtieth session (A/AC.105/1279, para. 238).

16. The session was also attended by observers for the following non-governmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee: CANEUS International, Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), European Astronomical Society, European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), For All Moonkind, International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), International Astronautical Federation (IAF), International Astronomical Union (IAU), International Institute of Space Law (IISL), Moon Village Association, National Space Society, Open Lunar Foundation, Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water (PSIPW), Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics, Secure World Foundation (SWF), Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), Three Country – Trusted Broker, University Space Engineering Consortium-Global (UNISEC-Global) and World Space Week Association.

17. At its 818th and 824th meetings, the Committee decided to admit the Global Satellite Operators Association, the International Genetically Engineered Machine Foundation, the Outer Space Institute and Space Renaissance International as observers, at their request, to attend the session and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that doing so would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

18. A list of representatives of States members of the Committee, United Nations entities and other organizations attending the session is contained in A/AC.105/2024/INF/1.

F. General statements

19. Statements were made by representatives of the following States members of the Committee during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Statements were made by the representative of Colombia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by the representative of Burkina Faso on behalf of the Group of African States. The representative of the European Union, in its capacity as permanent observer, made a statement on behalf of the European Union and its member States. Statements were also made by the observers for APSCO, CANEUS International, CEOS, ESPI, the European Astronomical Society, EUTELSAT IGO, For All Moonkind, IAA, the Moon Village Association, the National Space Society, the Open Lunar Foundation, the Regional Centre for Remote Sensing of the North African States, SGAC, SKAO, SWF, UNIDROIT, UNISEC-Global and World Space Week Association. In addition, statements were made by the International Genetically Engineered Machine Foundation and the Outer Space Institute, which had been admitted to the session as observers.

20. At the 818th meeting of the Committee, the Chair delivered a statement in which he recalled that the Committee and its subcommittees were called upon to rise to the challenge of developing relevant consensual frameworks, as needed, while building upon existing United Nations treaties, for a sector that was advancing at a pace never seen before. He also highlighted the need to continue to strengthen international collaboration to implement the "Space2030" Agenda, especially by allowing developing countries to harness the benefits of space technology, drive socioeconomic development, improve resilience to environmental challenges and ensure fair access to space. He further underscored the importance of collective efforts to uphold the Vienna spirit by virtue of compromise and by focusing on the substance of the agenda of the Committee.

21. The Chair welcomed the European Astronomical Society and Three Country – Trusted Broker as the newest international non-governmental organizations with observer status with the Committee.

22. Also at the 818th meeting, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs made a statement in which she informed the Committee that she, together with the Deputy Director of the Office, would serve as secretaries to the Committee at its present session. She highlighted that, in order to ensure that the Office delivered on the priorities of Member States, she and the Deputy Director had launched the Office's Vision and Strategy 2024–2030 after their first 100 days in office. She also emphasized that, with space activities becoming more complex and with more actors involved each year, to remain at the forefront of space governance, the Committee must keep pace with those developments and the Office must evolve in order to effectively support it.

23. The Committee heard the following presentations:

(a) "China human space programme: for the advancement of space exploration for all humans", by the representative of China;

(b) "United Nations/Germany World Space Forum 2024", by the representative of Germany;

(c) “India’s science missions Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya L1”, by the representative of India;

(d) “Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum’s 30 years of contributions to the space sector in the Asia-Pacific region and prospects for new activities”, by the representative of Japan;

(e) “Space sustainability: the advent of commercial on-orbit servicing and the immediate need for space norms”, by the representative of Japan;

(f) “Latin American and Caribbean Space Agency (ALCE): current status and progress”, by the representative of Mexico;

(g) “Introduction of the Korea Aerospace Administration (KASA)”, by the representative of the Republic of Korea;

(h) “The Spanish Space Agency”, by the representative of Spain;

(i) “Artemis”, by the representative of the United States;

(j) “Implementation mechanisms for the ‘Pact for the Future’”, by the observer for CANEUS International.

24. The Committee reaffirmed that, together with its subcommittees, and with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, it remained the unique international forum tasked with promoting international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful use of outer space and that additionally, it had a fundamental role to play in enhancing transparency and building confidence.

25. The Committee agreed that the fact that new States were applying to become members of the Committee was a clear signal of the international recognition of the value of the work undertaken by the intergovernmental body.

26. The Committee agreed that it must ensure that it remained able to deliver on its mandates.

27. Some delegations expressed the view that the upcoming Summit of the Future, to be held in New York on 22 and 23 September 2024, would provide an excellent opportunity to strengthen the role of the Committee and its subcommittees, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and to address the topics of space traffic management, space debris and space resources and, in that connection, noted the Lisbon Declaration on Outer Space (A/AC.105/1315, annex).

28. Some delegations expressed the view that the Summit of the Future and the Pact for the Future should provide a unique opportunity to foster cooperation and coordination on the exploration and utilization of outer space, in particular capacity-building efforts and technical support for the benefit of all developing countries.

29. The view was expressed that space agencies and organizations were called to join the alliance of space agencies and organizations for the ocean to be launched at the 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

30. Some delegations highlighted the positive contribution made by the Space Law for New Space Actors project of the Office for Outer Space Affairs on the development of capacities of emerging States in the field of space law.

31. Some delegations expressed the view that the most important principles that should govern activities in outer space included universal and equal access to outer space for all countries, regardless of their level of scientific, technical and economic development, without discrimination; the equitable and rational use of outer space for the benefit and in the interest of all humankind; the principle of non-appropriation of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies; and international cooperation in the development of space activities, especially those referred to in the

Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking in Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries (General Assembly resolution 51/122, annex).

32. The view was expressed that commercial space activities, including large satellite constellations, had made the benefits of outer space more accessible to a greater number of people, helping to bridge the digital divide. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that issues concerning space-based radio telecommunications services should be discussed by the relevant technical experts in the appropriate forum.

33. Some delegations expressed the view that there was a need to enhance international cooperation in outer space activities by increasing the participation of developing countries, including through the provision of active and sustained assistance by advanced spacefaring nations and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, free from conditionalities. Those delegations reiterated that capacity-building, technical assistance and the transfer of technology were key factors in the expansion of the abilities of those working in the field, allowing them to gain expertise and knowledge from more advanced spacefaring nations.

34. Some delegations expressed the view that all space activities, including those involving megaconstellations and their related operations, should fully respect the Charter of the United Nations and its principles, including the principle of non-intervention, and international law. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that if megaconstellations or any company providing satellite-based Internet services wished to operate within a country, those operations must respect the legal requirements and landing rights of that country and the relevant legal instruments of ITU.

35. Some delegations reiterated their opposition to the establishment of a new regional centre for space science and technology education in the Eurasian region, affiliated to the United Nations, hosted by the Roscosmos Corporate Academy, as proposed by the Government of the Russian Federation. Those delegations were also of the view that although the General Assembly, in its resolution 76/76, had noted with satisfaction the progress in the establishment of the regional centre, in the light of recent developments, they were not in a position to accept the affiliation of that regional centre to the United Nations.

36. The view was expressed that the Committee, at its sixty-fourth session, had noted that the evaluation mission on the proposed establishment of the regional centre for space science and technology education had resulted in the recommendation to accept the offer of the Russian Federation to establish the regional centre and that the Committee had welcomed the progress on the establishment of the regional centre, and thus no additional agreement was required by the Committee. The delegation expressing that view also informed the Committee that the centre was already operational and providing services.

37. Some delegations welcomed the most recent signatories of the Artemis Accords on the Principles for Cooperation in the Civil Exploration and Use of the Moon, Mars, Comets, and Asteroids for Peaceful Purposes, noting that the number of signatories had increased to 43, and expressed the view that the shared international vision contained in the Accords would facilitate sustainable human activity on the Moon and Mars and would enhance peaceful relationships between nations.

38. Some delegations noted that additional States were cooperating on the International Lunar Research Station initiated by China and the Russian Federation and that other interested countries, international organizations and international partners were welcome to join.

39. Some delegations expressed the view that the African Union’s space programme and its Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 would generate new impetus across Africa and significantly increase the participation of all African States in space activities.

40. Some delegations expressed the view that it was important to utilize the opportunities that space-enabled data provided to better understand and mitigate the impacts of climate change, including in the Pacific region.

41. The view was expressed that efforts to strength space cooperation among the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean should be supported, which was why the Latin American and Caribbean Space Agency was an important regional body seeking to contribute to and strengthen the sustainable development of the space activities environment in the region for the benefit of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean.

42. Some delegations expressed the view that there was serious concern over space activities conducted in violation of existing Security Council resolutions.

43. Some delegations expressed the view that the politicization of the work of the Committee was a serious concern, especially when issues that were beyond the mandate for its work were brought before the Committee.

44. The Committee welcomed the publication by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of its *Annual Report 2023*, which focused on a year of transition for the Office.

45. The following exhibitions were presented in the Vienna International Centre in conjunction with the sixty-seventh session of the Committee: “The Italian spaceway: towards the International Astronautical Congress 2024, Milan”, organized by the Permanent Mission of Italy; and “Visualizing Earth: the pale blue dot challenge”, organized by the Permanent Mission of the United States.

46. The following events were held on the margins of the sixty-seventh session of the Committee:

(a) “Space solutions supporting the Sustainable Development Goals: Space Solutions Compendium”, co-organized by Austria, Canada, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States, ESA and the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(b) “Panel discussion: preserving dark and quiet skies – responsible behaviour for science and development”, co-organized by the Permanent Mission of Chile and the Permanent Mission of Spain and supported by the European Astronomical Society, ESO, ESPI, IAU, SKAO and the Institute of Astrophysics of the Canary Islands;

(c) “Sustainability of space activities: a perspective from the French space industry”, organized by France;

(d) “Outer space in the Pact for the Future: concluding the dialogue”, co-organized by the Permanent Mission of Germany and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in cooperation with the German Space Agency at the German Aerospace Center (DLR);

(e) “The Italian spaceway: towards the International Astronautical Congress 2024, Milan” organized by Italy;

(f) “Latest developments in space debris mitigation and remediation”, co-organized by Japan and the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(g) “Space4Women: where we are and the way forward”, organized by the Republic of Korea and the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(h) “Saudi towards space: igniting the space sector”, organized by Saudi Arabia;

(i) “Empowering Africa: leveraging space technologies for development”, organized by South Africa;

(j) “Space situational awareness activities and global coordination”, organized by the United States;

(k) “Pale blue dot challenge: winning teams present their Earth observation visualizations”, organized by the United States;

(l) “The European Union Space Programme and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals: key highlights of Copernicus regional centres in Chile, Panama and the Philippines”, organized by the European Union, in cooperation with Chile, Panama, the Philippines, ESA and the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(m) “Reflections on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Lunar Activities: priorities and capacity-building”, co-organized by SWF and the Lunar Policy Platform and supported by the Republic of Korea;

(n) “Fourth Interregional Space Policy Dialogue between Asia-Pacific and Europe: exploring new funding pathways for the global space economy”, co-organized by the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum and ESPI;

(o) “Sustainable lunar environment: challenges and opportunities”, co-organized by COSPAR, IAU, For All Moonkind and the Moon Village Association;

(p) “Three Country – Trusted Broker: process and principles for cooperative remediation of massive derelicts”, organized by Three Country –Trusted Broker.

G. Adoption of the report of the Committee

47. After considering the various items before it, the Committee, at its 833rd meeting, on 28 June 2024, adopted its report to the General Assembly containing the recommendations and decisions set out below.

Chapter II

Recommendations and decisions

A. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes

48. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 78/72, the Committee continued its consideration, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and its consideration of the broader perspective of space security and associated matters that would be instrumental in ensuring the safe and responsible conduct of space activities, including ways to promote international, regional and interregional cooperation to that end.

49. The representatives of Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under agenda item 6. Statements were also made by the observers for For All Moonkind and IAF. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by other member States.

50. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Conference room paper submitted by the Russian Federation entitled “Draft resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on ‘Space science and technology for promoting peace’” (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.10);

(b) Conference room paper submitted by the Russian Federation entitled “Working paper on building common understanding on new phenomena in space activities with view of possible self-restricting measures” (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.23).

51. The Committee heard a presentation entitled “Cultural heritage’s role in maintaining peaceful purposes”, by the observers for For All Moonkind.

52. The Committee agreed that, through its work in the scientific, technical and legal fields and through the promotion of international dialogue, the exchange of information and international and regional cooperation on various topics relating to

the exploration and use of outer space, it had a fundamental role to play in ensuring that outer space was maintained for peaceful purposes.

53. The Committee reaffirmed that international space law, with the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (Outer Space Treaty) at its core, should be strictly adhered to. The Committee further reaffirmed the obligations of all States parties under article IV of the Outer Space Treaty not to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction.

54. The Committee encouraged its member States to becomes States parties to the Outer Space Treaty, which contained fundamental principles on the peaceful uses of outer space.

55. Some delegations expressed the view that transparency and confidence-building measures were essential for ensuring the peaceful uses of outer space.

56. Some delegations expressed the view that voluntary actions, such as sharing information on their intentions, capabilities, doctrines and policies and exchanging data, tools, knowledge and best practices, could contribute to increasing transparency and confidence among States.

57. The view was expressed that space situational awareness capabilities were essential for ensuring safe and sustainable space operations given that the number of space objects continued to grow, and that it was crucial to regularly track and monitor activities in space in order to mitigate associated risks.

58. Some delegations expressed the view that States members of the Committee should implement, without delay, the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities (A/68/189).

59. Some delegations expressed the view that the threat of the militarization of outer space underscored the importance of international dialogue and negotiation aimed at creating legally binding norms for transparency and confidence-building in outer space activities.

60. Some delegations reiterated that more consideration should be given to the draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects, as that treaty paved the way for ensuring the use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

61. Some delegations expressed the view that adherence to a common set of voluntary, non-legally binding measures could increase stability and predictability, enable crisis management, enhance operational safety and reduce the risks of misperception and miscalculation, thus contributing to the prevention of misconduct in outer space activities.

62. Some delegations expressed the view that, in order to ensure the sustainable and peaceful use of outer space, it was crucial that outer space activities be carried out in accordance with international law, rules, regulations and norms, including the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee and the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee (A/74/20, annex II).

63. Some delegations expressed the view that the intentional destruction of space objects, which generated large amounts of space debris, increased the risk of collisions of on-orbit space objects and constituted irresponsible behaviour that would undermine the sustainable and stable use of outer space.

64. Some delegations expressed the view that General Assembly resolution 77/41 had reaffirmed the importance of States not conducting destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile tests.

65. Some delegations expressed the view that the rapidly increasing numbers of space actors, space activities and space objects was resulting in the further creation of space debris and was presenting risks and threats to space activities, and called for an international framework on responsible behaviour in outer space.

66. The view was expressed that pragmatic, non-binding standards of responsible behaviour, if accepted by a majority of States, could become legally binding international law in the future.

67. Some delegations expressed the view that all States should be encouraged to engage in the discussion of the open-ended working group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours, which would commence its work in 2025.

68. Some delegations reaffirmed their position that it would be more appropriate to discuss issues related to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, the use of outer space for national security activities and related matters in forums whose mandates focused on those issues, such as the Conference on Disarmament, the Disarmament Commission and the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security Committee) of the General Assembly.

69. The Committee noted that discussions on space in Vienna, Geneva and New York should be complementary, promote effective collaboration and avoid duplication or conflict between relevant mandates.

70. Some delegations expressed the view that, although the Committee did not directly discuss the prevention of an arms race in outer space, it played a vital role in ensuring that the space domain remained accessible to all and that the activities conducted were carried out in a sustainable manner.

71. The Committee took note of the draft resolution on space science and technology for promoting peace (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.10). Since consensus had not been reached regarding the draft resolution during the sixty-seventh session of the Committee, some delegations expressed the view that the issue could be revisited at the sixty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, to be held in 2025.

72. The Committee, while reiterating the respective mandates of the relevant United Nations bodies, discussed issues related to the broader perspectives of space safety, security and sustainability, and associated matters, including existing and emerging space technologies such as satellites and large satellite constellations, in the context of its consideration, of ways and means of maintaining space for peaceful purposes.

73. The Committee noted with appreciation that a joint panel discussion of the First Committee and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the General Assembly on possible challenges to space security and sustainability was scheduled to be held in New York later in 2024, during the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The Committee also noted that such joint panel discussions should continue to be organized in order to discuss cross-cutting issues.

74. The view was expressed that the above-mentioned joint panel discussion would play an important part in highlighting the fundamental role of the Committee as a focal point for international cooperation in maintaining the peaceful uses of outer space.

75. The Committee recommended that, at its sixty-eighth session, in 2025, consideration of the item on ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes should be continued.

B. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its sixty-first session

76. The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its sixty-first session (A/AC.105/1307), which contained the results of its deliberations on the items considered by the Subcommittee in accordance with General Assembly resolution 78/72.

77. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Ulpia-Elena Botezatu (Romania) for her able leadership as Chair during the sixty-first session of the Subcommittee.

78. The representatives of Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under the item. The representative of Colombia made a statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. A statement was also made by the Coordinator of the Space and Global Health Network. The observers for COSPAR and Space Renaissance International also made statements. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by other member States.

79. The Committee heard the following presentations:

(a) "Non-governmental entity support for public/private sector data-sharing", by the representative of the United Kingdom;

(b) "Access to Space for All: news and updates", by the representative of the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(c) "Protecting the dark and quiet sky is our joint responsibility. But have you ever wondered what's your connection to the Big Bang?", by the observer for IAU.

1. Space for sustainable development: technology and its applications, including the United Nations Programme on Space Applications

80. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under the item on space for sustainable development: technology and its applications, including the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1307, paras. 53–72 and annex I).

81. The Committee endorsed the decisions and recommendations of the Subcommittee on the item (A/AC.105/1307, para. 72).

82. The Committee took note of the report of the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, reconvened under the chairmanship of Prakash Chauhan (India) as Chair (A/AC.105/1307, annex I).

83. The Committee noted that the Programme on Space Applications continued to implement the Access to Space for All initiative, which was focused on developing the capacity of Member States to access the benefits of space. In that regard, the Committee noted the activities of the Programme carried out in 2023 and those planned for 2024, as presented in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1307, para. 63), as well as the latest activities in CubeSat development, launch and deployment under the United Nations/Japan Cooperation Programme on CubeSat Deployment from the International Space Station Japanese Experiment Module (KiboCUBE) and the new opportunity for CubeSat deployment as part of cooperation between the United Nations and Exolaunch. The Committee also noted the opportunity made available to a team in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in relation to microgravity experiments and to a team in the Philippines in relation to hyper-gravity experiments.

84. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the implementation of the activities of the Programme on Space Applications. The Committee also expressed its appreciation to the Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that had sponsored the activities. The Committee

noted with satisfaction that further progress was being made in the implementation of the Programme's activities for 2024.

85. The Committee expressed its concern that the financial resources available to the Programme on Space Applications remained limited and emphasized that it was important that the Office for Outer Space Affairs be equipped with the necessary resources, including sufficient funding, to help ensure that the greatest number of countries had access to the benefits of space science and technology and their applications in line with the spirit of the Outer Space Treaty and the "Space2030" Agenda.

86. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Programme on Space Applications had continued to emphasize, promote and foster cooperation with Member States at the regional and global levels to support the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations.

87. The Committee noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs continued to collaborate closely with the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations.

88. The Committee also noted that directors of the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, had held meetings on 20 and 21 June 2024 to explore ways that the centres could increase cooperation between one another and further support the Office for Outer Space Affairs. In that connection, the Committee noted with appreciation that the host countries of the regional centres were providing significant financial and in-kind support to the centres.

89. The Committee was informed of a proposal by the Government of Uzbekistan to establish a regional centre for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, in Uzbekistan. The Committee was also informed that the Office for Outer Space Affairs would, at the request of Uzbekistan, facilitate an evaluation mission in that regard.

90. Some delegations called upon the Committee and the Office to provide greater support for the training programmes of the regional centres affiliated to the United Nations, and to conduct wider exchange and cooperation among different regional centres, including through the alliance of regional centres, with the aim of enhancing North-South and South-South cooperation to foster the development of technology among nations.

91. Some delegations called upon the Committee and the Office to provide more opportunities for academic networking, long-term fellowships and collaboration with national and regional institutions in the field of outer space, especially in developing countries.

92. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the International Satellite System for Search and Rescue (COSPAS-SARSAT), which provided worldwide coverage of emergency beacons carried on vessels and aircraft and by individual users around the world, currently had 45 member States, and two organizations were formally associated with it. The Committee also noted that since the start of the programme, COSPAS-SARSAT had supported more than 50,000 rescues worldwide.

93. The Committee noted the existence of national, bilateral, regional and international programmes on remote sensing, in particular in the following areas: monitoring of the broader impacts of climate change; land use and land cover monitoring; natural resource management; monitoring of forests and wildfires; detection of illegal fishing; monitoring of oil pipelines and the illegal tapping of oil pipelines; monitoring of protected marine areas and marine species; environmental monitoring; monitoring of the atmosphere, greenhouse gases and air pollution; urban planning; disaster management support; telehealth and epidemiology; watershed monitoring and development planning; irrigation infrastructure assessment; agriculture, horticulture and crop production forecasting; monitoring of

desertification; snow and glacier monitoring; and monitoring of oceans, glacial lakes and other water bodies.

2. Space debris

94. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under the item on space debris, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1307, paras. 73–99).

95. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the endorsement by the General Assembly, in its resolution 62/217, of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee had proved vital in controlling the space debris problem for the safety of future space missions.

96. The Committee also noted with satisfaction that many States and international intergovernmental organizations were implementing space debris mitigation measures consistent with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee (A/74/20, annex II) and/or the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC), and that a number of States had harmonized their national space debris mitigation standards with those guidelines.

97. In addition, the Committee noted that many States and international organizations were using the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee and the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of IADC as reference points in their regulatory frameworks for national space activities.

98. The Committee also noted that, in the area of space debris, some States were cooperating under the space surveillance and tracking support framework funded by the European Union, integrating data, on-ground sensors and services in order to monitor space debris.

99. The Committee agreed that Member States and international organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee should continue to be invited to provide reports on research on space debris, the safety of space objects with nuclear power sources on board, problems relating to the collision of such space objects with space debris and the ways in which debris mitigation guidelines were being implemented.

100. The Committee noted that some States had undertaken a number of actions to mitigate space debris, such as improving the design of launch vehicles, engines and spacecraft, developing special software, passivation, life extension, end-of-life operations and disposal. The Committee also noted the evolving technologies related to the in-orbit robotic servicing of satellites, the extension of satellite lifespans and active space debris removal.

101. The Committee noted the importance of international cooperation, capacity-building and technical support.

102. The Committee noted the development and application of new technologies and ongoing research related to space debris mitigation; the protection of space systems from space debris; means of limiting the creation of additional space debris; re-entry and collision avoidance techniques; the measurement, characterization, continuous monitoring and modelling of space debris; the prediction, early warning and notification of space debris re-entry and collision; and space debris orbit evolution and fragmentation.

103. Some delegations expressed concerns about the proliferation of space debris, the potential hazards posed by the collision of debris with space objects and the consequences of the harmful contamination of outer space. The delegations expressing those concerns were also of the view that megaconstellations exacerbated challenges, including those related to collision risks and the sustainable use of orbits and frequencies, and that the Committee should address those challenges as a priority.

104. Some delegations highlighted the importance of strengthening the capacity of developing countries for the voluntary implementation of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee.

105. The view was expressed that a legal definition of space debris object was required in order to foster discussion on space debris mitigation and remediation.

3. Space-system-based disaster management support

106. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under the item on space-system-based disaster management support, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1307, paras. 100–118).

107. The Committee noted the importance of space-based information for disaster management and emergency response.

108. The Committee welcomed the activities organized by the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), which supported the development of the capacity to use all types of space-based information in support of the full disaster management cycle. In that regard, the Committee noted the UN-SPIDER activities and capacity-strengthening efforts, including the generation of tailored space-based information for countries in need in 2023 (see A/AC.105/1310), which were carried out with the continued support of its network of partners, as well as the benefits of the UN-SPIDER knowledge portal (www.un-spider.org), a web-based platform for information, communication and process support that fostered the exchange of information, the sharing of experiences, capacity-building and technical advisory support and services.

109. Some delegations noted that UN-SPIDER was an important initiative as it promoted measures aimed at disaster prevention and mitigation.

110. Some delegations expressed the view that space science and technology and their applications were essential for effectively addressing natural disasters, which presented current and future challenges to social and economic development and sustainability. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that space science and technology offered many cross-cutting benefits in terms of disaster management and emergency response.

111. The view was expressed that mechanisms, applications and services, including the Charter on Cooperation to Achieve the Coordinated Use of Space Facilities in the Event of Natural or Technological Disasters (International Charter on Space and Major Disasters), were important areas of international cooperation that allowed States to reduce the harmful impact of natural disasters and contribute to relief efforts.

112. The view was expressed that the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters and other humanitarian tools based on space technologies should be applied without any kind of discrimination or politicization.

113. The view was expressed that satellite technology in low Earth orbit provided growing opportunities for supporting emergency preparedness and disaster response.

114. The view was expressed that the Committee should promote policies that strengthened data infrastructure, built resilience and mitigated the consequences of natural disasters.

115. The view was expressed that the use of space-based information and satellite observation data was essential in the area of disaster management and for mitigating the impact of climate change, and that UN-SPIDER was an important framework under which the application of space technologies, including the development of geospatial intelligence tools, could assist national authorities in their disaster risk reduction and management efforts.

116. The view was expressed that there was a need to improve natural disaster monitoring and response capabilities, and that satellite imagery had been instrumental

in the conduct of assessments of the extent of damage and the coordination of relief efforts, underscoring its value in critical situations. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that satellite technology was essential for monitoring increasing temperatures, which contributed to the frequency and severity of phenomena such as droughts and fires, and that space technology was vital for monitoring those risks and supporting decision-making regarding their management.

117. The Committee noted with appreciation the financial and staff resource contributions made by China, France and Germany to UN-SPIDER and the in-kind contributions, including the provision of experts, made by some States members of the Committee and by the regional support offices in 2023 in support of the activities conducted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs through UN-SPIDER, as well as their efforts to share experience with other interested countries. In that regard, the Committee encouraged other member States and permanent observers to provide to the activities and programmes of the Office, including UN-SPIDER, all necessary support on a voluntary basis, including increased financial support, to enable it to better respond to Member States' requests for assistance and to fully carry out its workplan in the coming years.

118. The Committee noted with appreciation that since its establishment, UN-SPIDER had benefited from voluntary contributions (cash and in-kind) from the following States: Austria, China, Croatia, Czechia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland, Türkiye and United States.

4. Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems

119. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under the item on recent developments in global navigation satellite systems (GNSS), as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1307, paras. 119–131).

120. The Committee had before it a note by the Secretariat on the seventeenth meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (A/AC.105/1304).

121. The Committee noted that the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems had continued to advance discussions on the interoperability and compatibility of GNSS and was aiming to create an interoperable, multi-GNSS space service volume, which would enable improved navigation for space operations beyond the geostationary Earth orbit, and that GNSS services were expected to be employed in cislunar space.

122. The Committee noted that the United Nations/Philippines workshop on the applications of GNSS had been held in Manila from 22 to 26 April 2024 (see A/AC.105/1313) and had been an effective forum for discussing current GNSS technology trends and case studies, for defining the needs and requirements of end users of GNSS and for providing a framework for scientific research enabled by such systems.

123. The Committee noted the efforts by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in promoting the use of GNSS through its capacity-building and information dissemination initiatives, as well as the role of the Office as the executive secretariat of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems in coordinating its annual meetings, its Providers' Forum and its working groups.

5. Space weather

124. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under the item on space weather, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1307, paras. 132–143).

125. The Committee noted that space weather, caused by solar variability, was an international concern owing to its potential threat to space systems, human space

flight, ground- and space-based infrastructure and aviation activity, upon which society increasingly relied. It therefore needed to be addressed in a global manner, through international cooperation and coordination, to make it possible to predict potentially severe space weather events and mitigate their impact in order to guarantee the safety and sustainability of outer space activities.

126. The Committee noted a number of national and international activities undertaken in the areas of research, training and education to improve scientific and technical understanding of the adverse effects of space weather.

127. The Committee noted that the coordination of sustained participation in relevant international space weather initiatives was important, including through emergency management protocols that would support coordinated response and recovery efforts.

6. Near-Earth objects

128. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under the item on near-Earth objects, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1307, paras. 144–158).

129. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Draft resolution on a United Nations-designated international year of asteroid awareness and planetary defence in 2029 (A/AC.105/L.339);

(b) Conference room paper submitted by Romania and co-sponsored by Mexico, containing a draft resolution on a United Nations-designated international year of asteroid awareness and planetary defence in 2029 (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.11);

(c) Conference room paper submitted by Romania and co-sponsored by Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Chile, Czechia and Mexico, as well as IAU and the European Astronomical Society, containing a draft resolution on a United Nations-designated international year of asteroid awareness and planetary defence in 2029 (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.11/Rev.1).

130. The Committee welcomed the recommendation by the Subcommittee, at its sixty-first session, that 2029 be declared a United Nations-designated international year of asteroid awareness and planetary defence, dedicated to a worldwide campaign to raise awareness about asteroids and to highlight the collaborative efforts being undertaken by the Committee to mitigate the potential hazard posed by the impact on the Earth of near-Earth objects, and as an excellent opportunity for a global educational campaign about near-Earth objects. In that regard, the Committee took note of the guidelines for the proclamation of international years, contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 and related General Assembly resolutions 53/199 and 61/185.

131. The Committee noted that informal consultations were being held on the margins of the current session on a draft resolution on a United Nations-designated international year of asteroid awareness and planetary defence in 2029 by Romania.

132. The Committee noted the broad support for the proposed draft resolution on a United Nations-designated international year of asteroid awareness and planetary defence in 2029, submitted by Romania, and agreed that the draft resolution, contained in annex I to the present report, would be submitted to States members of the Committee for a decision, by means of a silence procedure by the end of September 2024, and thereafter, depending on the outcome, would be submitted by Romania to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session, in 2024, for adoption by the Assembly under the agenda item entitled “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space”.

133. The Committee noted with appreciation the work done by the International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN) and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG) to share information with regard to the discovery, monitoring and physical characterization of potentially hazardous near-Earth objects in order to ensure that all

nations, in particular developing countries with limited capacity to predict and mitigate the impact of a near-Earth object, were aware of the potential hazard of impact by an asteroid.

134. The Committee also noted the importance of national efforts and action plans aimed at developing capabilities in the discovery, observation, early warning and mitigation of potentially hazardous near-Earth objects, which contributed to strengthening international collaboration and information-sharing, and in that regard highlighted the importance of contributing to the work of IAWN and SMPAG.

135. The Committee noted that, should a credible threat of impact be discovered by the Network, available information would be provided by IAWN and disseminated to all Member States through the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

136. The Committee also noted that further information on the meetings of IAWN and SMPAG, to which the Office for Outer Space Affairs served as the permanent secretariat, had been made available on their websites (http://iawn.net and http://smpag.net).

7. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities

137. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under the item on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1307, paras. 159–183), and endorsed the decisions of the Subcommittee and of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, reconvened under the chairmanship of Umamaheswaran R. (India) (A/AC.105/1307, para. 183, and annex II, paras. 10, 11 and 14–16).

138. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Working paper by the Chair of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities containing summaries, not representing consensus, of implementation experiences, opportunities for capacity-building and challenges (A/AC.105/C.1/L.410/Rev.1);

(b) Report on the Workshop of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (A/AC.105/C.1/126);

(c) Non-paper submitted by the Chair of the Working Group dated 19 June 2024;

(d) Non-paper submitted by the Chair of the Working Group dated 24 June 2024.

139. The Committee was informed of a number of national, regional and international scientific, technical, legal and policy measures and initiatives that had been or were currently being undertaken to support the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and to implement the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee (A/74/20, annex II), including within the private sector.

140. The Committee noted that the Working Group had held an online informal meeting on 16 May 2024, during which it had discussed approaches to categorizing challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, with a view to including the ideas of all member States.

141. The Committee noted that the Working Group had met both formally, with the benefit of interpretation services, and informally, during the present session.

142. The Committee noted that the Working Group had agreed to use the tables contained in the non-paper submitted by the Chair of the Working Group dated 19 June 2024, which covered challenges related to implementation of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee, challenges related to capacity-building within the framework of the Guidelines, and the identification and consideration of new challenges to the long-term sustainability

of outer space activities, as a basis for subsequent substantive discussions. The Committee also noted that the tables were intended to facilitate discussions rather than to anticipate final decisions.

143. The Committee noted that the Working Group had agreed that its members would fill in those tables, focusing on challenges and justifications, to the extent practicable, in the intersessional period, and would send related written input to the Chair and the secretariat by 16 September 2024.

144. The Committee noted that the Working Group had agreed that it would hold an informal online meeting in the period from October to November 2024. The Chair and the secretariat would compile and circulate the consolidated input on the tables in advance of the intersessional meeting in order to support the intersessional discussions.

145. The Committee noted that the Working Group would have before it, at the sixty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in 2025, a draft report, to be prepared by the Chair of the Working Group before the end of 2024 (see A/AC.105/1258, annex II, appendix, para. 18), which would be based on the outcomes of the intersessional meetings and on work undertaken during sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Committee held since 2021.

146. Some delegations expressed the view that the adoption of the voluntary Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities had been the outcome of a multidimensional compromise and a delicate balance, and that that delicate balance should be preserved in the implementation of the workplan of the Working Group, taking into consideration the priorities and concerns of all member States, in particular those of developing countries.

147. Some delegations expressed the view that it was critical to make progress on the Working Group's agreed workplan by engaging in constructive, substantive discussions on challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities with a view to developing evidence-based recommendations.

148. Some delegations expressed the view that the Working Group should focus first on enumerating challenges, with all its members being able to add to the above-mentioned tables any challenges that they perceived to exist, and that the criteria, justifications and rationale used for identifying challenges were an important part of the exercise.

149. Some delegations expressed the view that there was a need to add short descriptions to the challenges already included in the tables, in order to ensure a common understanding of the topics being discussed.

150. Some delegations expressed the view that the Working Group could produce a detailed compendium of experiences and best practices and that the content of each entry would not necessarily have to be agreed by consensus.

151. The view was expressed that developing countries that lacked expertise and experience in space operations and space situational awareness had insufficient access to comprehensive data on the space environment, which hampered their ability to make informed decisions and effectively participate in international space traffic management efforts.

152. The view was expressed that there was a long-standing proposal to unite the efforts of all participants in space activities through the development of a United Nations information platform serving common needs in the collection and provision of information on the monitoring of outer space objects, in the interest of ensuring the safety of space operations.

153. Some delegations expressed the view that the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities provided an effective framework for the ongoing development and implementation of rules and norms that supported the safety, stability and sustainability of outer space activities.

154. The view was expressed that multiple solutions could be proposed to address a specific challenge to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, including through the implementation of existing guidelines and the elaboration of possible new ones. The delegation expressing that view also proposed to collect opinions on the structure and substance of a draft long-term sustainability compendium.

155. Some delegations expressed the view that the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities addressed ongoing challenges and that their global implementation and related capacity-building were essential for enhancing international cooperation.

8. Future role and method of work of the Committee

156. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under the item on the future role and method of work of the Committee, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1307, paras. 184–213).

157. The Committee noted that informal consultations led by the delegation of Romania on the establishment of an action team to study a potential consultative mechanism for lunar activities within the framework of the Committee had been held on the margins of the sixty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee under the cross-cutting agenda item on the future role and method of work of the Committee, and that the final decision on the establishment of the action team would be made by the Committee at its current session.

9. Space and global health

158. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under the item on space and global health, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1307, paras. 214–225).

159. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Working paper prepared by the Coordinator of the Space and Global Health Network entitled “Draft long-term strategy on space and global health for the period 2025–2035” (A/AC.105/C.1/L.417);

(b) Conference room paper containing the report on the meetings of the Space and Global Health Network held on the margins of the sixty-seventh session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.18).

160. The Committee noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 78/72, requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to strengthen, within existing resources, capacity-building and networking in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, through regional technical cooperation projects, and to support field projects for strengthening collaboration between the space and global health sectors as an efficient strategy for making better use of space science and technology for access to global health for beneficiary States and taking better advantage of opportunities offered by bilateral or multilateral collaboration, as mandated by the Assembly in its resolution 77/120, entitled “Space and global health”.

161. The Committee noted that the United Nations/World Health Organization International Conference on Space and Global Health had been held in Geneva from 1 to 3 November 2023 (see A/AC.105/1306) as the first major event since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 77/120, and that it had been attended by major stakeholders in the fields of space and global health. The Committee noted that participants in the Conference had recommended, inter alia, the creation of a space and global health curriculum and a short-term action plan and a longer-term strategy for the implementation of actions supporting the General Assembly resolution on space and global health.

162. The Committee also noted the meeting of the Space and Global Health Network held on 19 June 2024 on the margins of the current session, at which the Network had reviewed its activities for 2024, including the following:

(a) The Geneva Digital Health Day, held in Geneva on 30 May, on the margins of the seventy-seventh session of the World Health Assembly;

(b) The Space and Global Health Hackathon, organized by the Geneva Digital Health Hub and ESA in Geneva from 30 May to 1 June;

(c) A workshop on advancing work on the space and global health curriculum and technical interoperability, to be held from 13 to 15 October on the sidelines of the World Health Summit in Berlin;

(d) A regional conference on space and global health planned to be organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago from 14 to 18 October.

163. The Committee took note of the draft long-term strategy on space and global health for the period 2025–2035 (A/AC.105/C.1/L.417) and agreed to issue the strategy under the symbol A/AC.105/C.1/127.

164. The Committee noted that the Space and Global Health Network had established an interdisciplinary task force to develop a curriculum on space and global health, which would introduce policymakers and decision-makers to prominent issues related to space technology and the use of space data to support current and nascent global health initiatives, and would provide students with an opportunity to explore space resources and public health challenges in greater detail.

165. The Committee recalled that Member States had been invited to identify experts and institutions and encourage them to participate in the Space and Global Health Network. In that regard, the Committee noted that delegations could join the Space and Global Health Network using the statement of intent available at https://sgh.network/, and encouraged delegations to participate in the discussions and task forces, such as the one established to develop the curriculum.

10. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

166. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under the item on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1307, paras. 226–241).

167. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Subcommittee and the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, reconvened under the chairmanship of Leopold Summerer (Austria) under the five-year workplan of the Working Group for the period 2024–2028, including the recommendation that the Working Group hold intersessional meetings, facilitated by the secretariat, to further the objectives of the workplan (A/AC.105/1279, annex III, paras. 8 and 9; and A/AC.105/1307, annex III, paras. 6 and 8).

168. The Committee noted that one of the possible methods for collecting information under the objectives of the five-year workplan of the Working Group, and as a way to invite more member States and international intergovernmental organizations to join the Working Group and share their views, plans and experiences, could be the use of a dedicated list of questions in the form of a questionnaire.

169. In that connection, the Committee noted that the Working Group had held a series of intersessional meetings, facilitated by the secretariat, and that the Working Group had held two informal meetings on the margins of the current session, on 20 and 21 June 2024, to advance its work.

170. The view was expressed that the proliferation of nuclear power sources in outer space should not be allowed without first quantifying their impact on humans and the environment and establishing a regulatory framework that clearly established liability and enabled any critical situation arising from irresponsible practices to be addressed.

The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that, while recognizing the need to use nuclear power sources in outer space to make interplanetary missions viable, the use of nuclear power sources in Earth orbits was high risk and therefore not admissible given the risk of collisions that posed a threat to humankind and the environment.

171. Some delegations expressed the view that the use of nuclear power sources in outer space provided unique opportunities for the exploration of outer space and that substantive discussions on nuclear power sources, including on safety aspects, should continue to be held in the context of the dedicated Working Group. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that principals relevant to nuclear power sources in outer space and the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space represented a comprehensive foundation for ensuring the safe development and use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

172. The view was expressed that continuous efforts should be made to ensure the highest standards of safety and that updates to safety frameworks might be necessary for that purpose.

11. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

173. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under the item on the examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries, without prejudice to the role of, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1307, paras. 242–253).

174. Some delegations expressed the view that the geostationary orbit, as a limited natural resource clearly in danger of saturation, needed to be used in a way that ensured that countries had equitable access to those orbits and frequencies, taking into account the special needs of developing countries and the geographical situation of particular countries.

175. The view was expressed that the geostationary orbit should be utilized in a rational, balanced, efficient and equitable manner given its special characteristics.

12. Draft provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

176. The Committee took note of the discussion of the Subcommittee under the item on the draft provisional agenda for its sixty-second session, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1307, paras. 254–259).

177. The Committee endorsed the recommendations and decisions on the item made by the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1307, paras. 255–259 and annex I, paras. 8–10).

178. The Committee noted that the secretariat had scheduled the sixty-second session of the Subcommittee to be held from 3 to 14 February 2025.

179. On the basis of the deliberations of the Subcommittee at its sixty-first session, the Committee agreed that the following items should be considered by the Subcommittee at its sixty-second session:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Statement by the Chair.

3. General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities.

4. Space for sustainable development: technology and its applications, including the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

5. Space debris.

6. Space-system-based disaster management support.

7. Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems.

8. Space weather.

9. Near-Earth objects.

10. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

(Work for 2025 as reflected in the multi-year workplan of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (see A/AC.105/1258, annex II, appendix, para. 18))

11. Future role and method of work of the Committee.

12. Space and global health.

13. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

(Work for 2025 as reflected in the five-year workplan of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (see A/AC.105/1279, annex III, para. 8; and A/AC.105/1307, annex III, para. 6))

14. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.

(Single issue/item for discussion)

15. Dark and quiet skies, astronomy and large constellations: addressing emerging issues and challenges.

(Single issue/item for discussion)

16. Draft provisional agenda for the sixty-third session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

17. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

180. The Committee agreed to include the item entitled “Dark and quiet skies, astronomy and large constellations: addressing emerging issues and challenges” on the provisional agenda of the Subcommittee for its sessions in 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028 and 2029 as a single issue/item for discussion. The Committee agreed that, under that item at the Subcommittee’s session in 2029, the Subcommittee would consider and decide whether to retain the item on its provisional agenda.

181. The Committee noted that the scope of the agenda item entitled “Dark and quiet skies, astronomy and large constellations: addressing emerging issues and challenges” was to be closely linked to its title, within the mandate of the Committee and the remit of the Subcommittee.

182. Some delegations expressed the view that the scope of the agenda item must remain closely linked to its title and original intent, which was to focus on raising awareness of the emerging issues and identify balanced approaches to preserving the skies for astronomy.

183. Some delegations welcomed the establishment of the "Group of Friends for Dark and Quiet Skies" and its multi-stakeholder work to advance efforts to mitigate the effects of satellites and satellite constellations on astronomy.

184. The Committee agreed that the Working Group of the Whole, the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space and the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities should be reconvened at the sixty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

185. The Committee agreed that, in accordance with the agreement reached at the forty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, in 2007 (A/AC.105/890, annex I, para. 24), the symposium to be held at the sixty-second session of the Subcommittee, in 2025, was to be organized by IAF on the topic "Space for climate action".

C. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its sixty-third session

186. The Committee took note of the procedural report of the Legal Subcommittee on its sixty-third session (A/AC.105/1311), which did not constitute a precedent for future reports.

187. The Committee noted that it had not been possible to reach a consensus to adopt a substantive report of the Legal Subcommittee on its sixty-third session. The Committee also noted that that fact should not set a precedent for future work related to the adoption of the report of the Committee and its subcommittees and that every effort should be made to achieve consensus in future meetings of the Committee and its subcommittees.

188. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Santiago Ripol Carulla (Spain) for his able leadership as Chair during the sixty-third session of the Subcommittee.

189. The representatives of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under the item. A statement was also made by the representative of Colombia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the agenda item were also made by other member States.

190. The Committee heard the following presentations:

(a) "Chilean legal recognition of the need for 'dark skies' for science and society", by the representative of Chile;

(b) "Cooperative remediation of massive derelicts – now is the time to begin", by the observers for Three Country – Trusted Broker;

(c) "European Space Policy Institute research on international space debris mitigation instruments: key findings", by the observer for ESPI.

1. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law

191. The Committee noted the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law and the role of such organizations in the development, strengthening and furtherance of the understanding of international space law.

192. The Committee agreed that it was important to continue to exchange information on recent developments in the area of space law with international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and that such organizations should once again be invited to report to the Subcommittee, at its sixty-fourth session, on their activities relating to space law.

2. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity-building, to promote their implementation

193. The Committee had before it a document entitled “Draft report on the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space” (A/AC.105/C.2/L.331).

194. The Committee welcomed with appreciation the growing number of States parties to the five United Nations treaties on outer space and encouraged those States that had not yet become parties to the treaties to consider doing so.

195. Some delegations expressed the view that States parties should bear responsibility at the international level for ensuring, including through their national legal frameworks, that their national activities in outer space were in conformity with the provisions set out in the Outer Space Treaty, in order to ensure the sustainability of outer space activities. They could also consider reviewing their national legal frameworks as necessary.

196. The Committee noted that various actions had been taken by member States to review, strengthen, develop or draft national space laws and policies, and to reform or establish the governance of national space activities.

197. The view was expressed that, given the growth of space activities, there was a need to continuously improve international and national regulations on space activities, which included considering the transformation of non-legally binding instruments, such as recommendations, into obligations.

198. Some delegations expressed the view that it was important to enhance the practice of registration, in particular with regard to large constellations and megaconstellations, and noted with appreciation the adoption by the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space of the recommendations concerning the submission of registration information on space objects forming part of a satellite constellation.

199. The Committee noted that the implementation of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty was important in enhancing transparency among member States and welcomed the work of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, which focused on the exchange of views on the implementation of that article and had been reconvened under the chairmanship of Franziska Knur (Germany).

200. At its 822nd meeting, on 21 June, the Committee endorsed the report of the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, contained in annex II to the present report.

201. Some delegations expressed the view that the development of a template as a voluntary tool for submitting information to the Secretary-General was important and may provide a valuable opportunity to explore ways to benefit from article XI.

202. The view was expressed that the creation of alternative forums for discussion was concerning, since shifting the discussion of relevant issues to such forums, such as the open-ended working group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours, undermined the mandate of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

203. The Committee agreed that capacity-building, training and education in space law were of paramount importance to national, regional and international efforts to further develop the practical aspects of space science and technology, in particular in developing countries, and to increase knowledge of the legal framework within which space activities were carried out. That would encourage States to ratify the five United Nations treaties on outer space and support the implementation of those treaties and the establishment of national institutions, and would make international space law more accessible and better known by all sectors of civil society.

204. The Committee noted with appreciation that a number of national, regional and international efforts to build capacity in space law were being undertaken by governmental and non-governmental entities.

205. The Committee noted with appreciation the activities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to enhance understanding of space law, including the United Nations Conference on Space Law and Policy, the Space Law for New Space Actors project, the Registration Project and a project on awareness-raising and capacity-building related to the implementation of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

206. The Committee also noted capacity-building efforts such as the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, studies conducted as part of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum National Space Legislation Initiative, the establishment of the Space Law Alliance, led by APSCO, and the annual space law symposium by IISL and the European Centre for Space Law.

207. The Committee welcomed the ongoing work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to develop an online registration portal to ensure the efficiency of registration submissions.

208. The Committee noted that the Office would update its publication on United Nations instruments on space law in 2024 and planned to produce a publication on registration of space objects launched into outer space in the biennium 2025–2026.

209. The Committee noted that the Office had updated the directory of educational opportunities in space law (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.7), including the information on available fellowships and scholarships, and agreed that the Office should continue to update the directory. In that connection, the Committee invited member States to encourage contributions at the national level for the future updating of the directory.

210. The Committee agreed that it was important to continue to regularly exchange information on developments in the area of national space-related regulatory frameworks. In that regard, the Committee encouraged member States to continue to submit to the secretariat the texts of their national space laws and regulations and to provide updates and inputs for the schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities.

211. The Committee recommended that States members and permanent observers of the Committee inform the Subcommittee, at its sixty-fourth session, of any action taken or planned at the national, regional or international levels to build capacity in space law.

3. Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and 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

212. The Committee noted that, pursuant to the agreement of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space in 2021 (A/AC.105/1243, annex II, para. 6), the Working Group had not met in 2024, but would meet again at the sixty-fourth session of the Legal Subcommittee, in 2025, and that, as per the agreement reached in 2023 (A/AC.105/1285, annex II, paras. 8 and 9), new documentation would also be prepared by the secretariat for the sixty-fourth session.

213. Some delegations expressed the view that the definition and delimitation of outer space remained an important topic that should be kept on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, and that more work should be done in order to establish the legal regime applicable to airspace and outer space.

214. Some delegations expressed the view that the geostationary orbit was not to be subject to national appropriation, by means of use, repeated use or occupation, or by any other means, and that its utilization was to be governed by applicable international law.

215. Some delegations expressed the view that the geostationary orbit needed to be used rationally, efficiently and economically, in conformity with the provisions of the international space laws and relevant regulations, so that countries or groups of countries could have equitable access to those orbits and frequencies, taking into account the special needs of developing countries and the geographical situation of particular countries.

216. The view was expressed that the geostationary orbit, as a limited natural space resource, should be regulated by a sui generis regime.

217. The view was expressed that the rational use of the geostationary orbit contributed to fostering social and educational projects and, therefore, it was necessary to develop a juridical regime that promoted equitable access to orbital slots that gave special attention to satellite projects pursuing social benefits, while taking into consideration and respecting the role of ITU.

4. Future role and method of work of the Committee

218. The Committee noted that the Subcommittee had considered the item on the future role and method of work of the Committee.

219. Some delegations expressed the view that guidelines on procedural methods of work of the Committee should be developed to prevent procedural disagreements that could hinder the adoption of reports of the Committee and its subcommittees.

5. General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources

220. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Draft report of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities (A/AC.105/C.2/L.332);

(b) Report on the International Conference on Space Resources, including the results of the expert meeting collecting preliminary inputs for consideration at the international conference in Vienna in 2024 (A/AC.105/C.2/122).

221. At its 822nd meeting, the Committee endorsed the report of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, contained in annex III to the present report.

222. The Committee noted with appreciation the International Conference on Space Resources and the expert meeting collecting preliminary inputs for consideration at the international conference in Vienna in 2024, co-hosted by Belgium and Luxembourg and organized in cooperation with the Office for Outer Space Affairs, which had provided important contributions to the work of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities in addressing the multifaceted nature of the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources and in assessing the benefits of further development of a framework for such activities.

223. Some delegations welcomed the progress made in the Working Group and reiterated their call for greater coordination at the international level to ensure the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space, the Moon and other celestial bodies and the conduct of space resource activities in accordance with international law and for the benefit of all.

224. Some delegations expressed the view that legal guidance was necessary to ensure that space resource activities were carried out in accordance with international law and in a safe, sustainable, rational, transparent and peaceful manner. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that a legal or normative framework should be developed multilaterally under the Legal Subcommittee, and that the Working Group was the appropriate forum in which to hold discussions on the matter.

225. Some delegations expressed the view that the information collected from stakeholders at the International Conference on Space Resources about the legal framework for space resource activities, together with the preliminary inputs collected at the expert meeting, should be considered by the Working Group in the development of an initial set of recommended principles for space resource activities.

226. The view was expressed that the basic principles set forth in the Outer Space Treaty, including the peaceful uses of outer space, the pursuit of activities for the benefit and in the interests of all humankind, non-appropriation, international cooperation, due regard, and compliance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, should be applied to space resource activities. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that the preliminary principles developed by the Working Group should be based on existing international space law and emphasize the interpretation and application of outer space law to space resource activities, in particular that the conduct of space resource activities for scientific purposes should not be unduly affected by the conduct of such activities for commercial purposes; that coordination among actors should be strengthened; that the principle of mutual assistance should be implemented; that the development of space resource activities should be safe and orderly; that regulation of the space resource activities of non-governmental entities should be strengthened to ensure the effective implementation of the obligations of States under the Outer Space Treaty; and that full consideration should be given to the sustainability of resources on the Moon and other celestial bodies in order to achieve intergenerational equity.

227. The view was expressed that equal access to all material and non-material space resources should be ensured by providing fair opportunities to utilize space resources jointly with other countries or through international collaboration. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that the regulatory framework should be completed before the actual exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources.

228. The view was expressed that international cooperation and multi-stakeholder dialogue were indispensable for creating an environment conducive to the conduct of space resource activities, and that the principle of adaptive governance should be applied so that emerging issues could be incrementally addressed on the basis of ever-evolving technology and practices.

229. The view was expressed that the technical mandate of the Committee and its subcommittees should be strictly preserved, also with respect to the discussions on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources. The delegation expressing that view also stated that as maritime law and “airspace” law had different dynamics and were regulated by different regimes and instruments that were not on “outer space”, they were outside the scope and mandate of the Committee and should, therefore, be precluded.

230. The view was expressed that the legal aspects of space resource exploration, exploitation and utilization must be regulated by international law. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that past legal experience in that respect included the administration of the international seabed by the International Seabed Authority established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the frequency spectrum management regime of ITU and the legal regime governing Antarctica, and that that long-established, solid international legal practice, adopted within the framework of the United Nations system of which the Committee was also part, could serve as an inspirational tool and guide in the development of a legal framework for space resource activities.

231. Some delegations expressed the view that regulations developed by the Working Group must be binding in order to guarantee the preservation of outer space from the harmful methods of exploitation promoted by humanity throughout history, guarantee their long-term sustainability, favour developing countries and protect the Earth’s biosphere from the entry of space material that could affect its delicate ecosystem.

232. The view was expressed that guidelines for upcoming missions to the Moon and deep space were necessary in order to establish a regulatory framework that promoted international cooperation and ensured the fair and equitable exploration and exploitation of space resources and that the benefits of such exploration were widely shared.

6. General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation and remediation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

233. The Committee had before it a conference room paper entitled “Through a glass darkly – how four good ideas are inhibiting remediation of orbital debris”, prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information received from Three Country – Trusted Broker (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.16).

234. The Committee noted with satisfaction that some States had taken measures to implement internationally recognized guidelines and standards relating to space debris, including the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee, through relevant provisions in their national legislation.

235. The Committee agreed that States members of the Committee and international intergovernmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee should be invited to contribute further to the compendium of space debris mitigation standards adopted by States and international organizations by providing or updating information on any legislation or standards adopted with regard to space debris mitigation using the template provided for that purpose. The Committee also agreed that all other States Members of the United Nations should be invited to contribute to the compendium and encouraged States with such regulations or standards to provide information on them.

236. Some delegations expressed the view that the capacities of developing countries in detecting and responding to falling space debris should be strengthened, and that launching States should give advanced, proper, prompt and adequate notification to other States, in particular developing countries, located along the drop zones of falling space debris, to ensure that those States were sufficiently prepared to mitigate and respond to such incidents.

237. The view was expressed that new binding instruments to regulate space activities should be created, using as a reference the practice and some elements of the non-binding instruments related to space debris and the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

238. Some delegations expressed the view that addressing space debris required urgent and collective efforts in terms of both debris mitigation and remediation measures, including active debris removal, and that it was necessary to accelerate discussions on the legal framework for space debris mitigation and remediation under the framework of the Committee.

239. The view was expressed that leading spacefaring nations bore significant responsibility for addressing the growing problem of space debris and that it was necessary to foster a cooperative environment that would not impede the rights of developing countries to partake in the exploration and use of outer space.

7. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space

240. The Committee took note of the compendium on mechanisms adopted by States and international organizations in relation to non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space, which was available on a dedicated page on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and encouraged States members of the Committee and international intergovernmental organizations having permanent

observer status with the Committee to continue to share information on their practices related to non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space.

241. Some delegations highlighted the importance of developing further non-legally binding United Nations instruments that complemented and supported the existing United Nations treaties on outer space and that were responsive to new developments in space activities and contributed to further enhancing the safety, security and sustainability of outer space activities.

242. Some delegations expressed the view that while it was important to further develop non-legally binding United Nations instruments, it was equally important to develop legally binding international treaties and agreements in a number of areas related to space activities in order to keep pace with their rapid development; that immense responsibility lay with the Legal Subcommittee.

243. The view was expressed that non-legally binding United Nations instruments played an important role in shaping national space policies and laws, contributing significantly to international cooperation and capacity-building efforts.

8. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management

244. The Committee had before it a conference room paper entitled “Proposal for a study group on perspectives for space traffic management”, submitted by Germany (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.21).

245. Some delegations welcomed the proposal by Germany to establish a study group on perspectives for space traffic management as an important step towards advancing understanding of the topic in the Legal Subcommittee, and expressed the view that the organization by Argentina, Germany and Japan of informal consultations during the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee had supported transparency and outreach, allowing a more in-depth examination of the proposal.

246. Some delegations expressed the view that it was crucial to implement existing instruments of global governance of outer space activities and to establish frameworks for space traffic management and space debris disposal and removal activities.

9. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities

247. The Committee noted that the item continued to be on the agenda of the Subcommittee and agreed that its retention contributed to addressing and raising awareness of issues relating to the use of small satellites.

248. The Committee noted that activities involving small satellites should be carried out in compliance with existing international frameworks, including the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space, the ITU Constitution and Convention and the ITU Radio Regulations, and non-binding instruments such as the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Affairs of the Committee, which should be implemented in national legislation.

249. The Committee recalled the joint ITU/Office for Outer Space Affairs document providing guidance on space object registration and frequency management for small and very small satellites and the background paper prepared by the Secretariat, entitled “Registration of large constellations and megaconstellations” (A/AC.105/C.2/L.322).

10. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its sixty-fourth session

250. On the basis of the procedural report of the Subcommittee on its sixty-third session (A/AC.105/1311, para. 16), the Committee agreed that the following

substantive items should be considered by the Subcommittee at its sixty-fourth session:

Regular items

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Statement by the Chair.
3. General exchange of views.
4. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law.
5. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity-building, to promote their implementation.
6. Matters relating to:
   (a) The definition and delimitation of outer space;
   (b) 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.
7. Future role and method of work of the Committee.

Items under workplans

8. General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources.

   (Work for 2025 as reflected in the multi-year workplan of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities (A/AC.105/1260, para. 206, and annex II, appendix))

Single issues/items for discussion

9. General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation and remediation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
10. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space.
11. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management.
12. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities.

New item

13. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its sixty-fifth session.

251. The Committee agreed that the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space and the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities should be reconvened at the sixty-fourth session of the Subcommittee.

252. The Committee, recalling the agreement by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-eighth session, in 2019, to provisionally suspend the item on “Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space” pending the outcome of the work of the Working Group on the Use of

Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, and noting the Working Group's new five-year workplan (A/AC.105/1307, annex III, para. 6), agreed to continue to suspend consideration of the item until the completion of work under the new workplan.

253. The Committee agreed that IISL and the European Centre for Space Law should again be invited to organize a symposium, to be held during the sixty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, with due account to be taken of equitable geographical and gender representation among the participants in order to reflect a broad range of opinions, and that the organizers should seek the cooperation of interested academic entities for that purpose.

254. The Committee noted that the secretariat had tentatively scheduled the sixty-fourth session of the Subcommittee to be held from 5 to 16 May 2025.

D. Space and sustainable development

255. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled "Space and sustainable development", in accordance with General Assembly resolution 78/72.

256. The representatives of Austria, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under the item. The observers for APSCO, IAU and SGAC also made statements. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the agenda item were also made by other member States.

257. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report on the United Nations/Austria World Space Forum 2023: Space for our common future (A/AC.105/1314);

(b) Conference room paper entitled "Promoting the role of women in space for the benefit of all", submitted by Canada (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.24);

(c) Conference room paper entitled "Protection of astronomy and science on the Moon", submitted by IAU, IAA, the Open Lunar Foundation, SWF and For All Moonkind (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.14/Rev.1);

(d) Conference room paper entitled "Towards an intergenerational pact for space sustainability", submitted by SGAC (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.15).

258. The Committee heard the following presentations:

(a) "Overview of Brazil's space resources plans, activities and interests", by the representative of Brazil;

(b) "Space sustainability – ANATEL's participation in the work of the International Telecommunication Union", by the representative of Brazil;

(c) "National space centre, a new space for space development in the region", by the representative of Chile;

(d) "National space policy update process", by the representative of Chile;

(e) "China's remote sensing promotes global disaster mitigation and response", by the representative of China;

(f) "Development of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System", by the representative of China;

(g) "Space sustainability: a perspective from a French data services provider", by the representative of France;

(h) “Space sustainability: a perspective from a French operator”, by the representative of France;

(i) “Space sustainability: a space logistics perspective”, by the representative of France;

(j) “Empowering development: JICA’s space cooperation with emerging nations”, by the representative of Japan;

(k) “Creation of space-based applications across disciplines and regions”, by the representative of Japan;

(l) “Astra Carta: a road map for sustainability in space, and using space for sustainability on Earth”, by the representatives of the United Kingdom;

(m) “Making space for the SDGs: NASA Earth science to action”, by the representative of the United States;

(n) “An invitation to use the environment-vulnerability-decision-technology (EVDT) systems engineering framework to apply satellite Earth observation for the sustainable development goals”, by the representative of the United States;

(o) “State space monitoring in Uzbekistan”, by the representative of Uzbekistan.

259. The Committee reiterated its acknowledgement of the significant role of space science and technology and their applications in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals; in the realization of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030; and in the fulfilment by States parties of their commitments to the Paris Agreement on climate change.

260. The Committee noted the value of space technology and applications, as well as that of space-derived data and information, to sustainable development, including in improving the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes of action relating to environmental protection, land and water management, urban and rural development, marine and coastal ecosystems, health care, climate change, disaster risk reduction and emergency response, energy, infrastructure, navigation, seismic monitoring, natural resource management, snow and glaciers, biodiversity, agriculture and food security.

261. The Committee took note of the information provided by States on their efforts to integrate cross-sectoral activities at the national, regional and international levels and to incorporate space-derived geospatial data and information into all sustainable development processes and mechanisms.

262. The Committee also took note of the information provided by States on their actions and programmes aimed at building capacity through education and training, at increasing awareness and understanding in society of the applications of space science and technology for meeting development needs, and at increasing interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

263. The Committee noted the value of international cooperation and partnerships for the realization of the full potential of space science, technology and applications for sustainable development.

264. The Committee noted that the United Nations/IAF Workshop on Space Technology for Socioeconomic Benefits, on the theme “Challenges and capacity-building opportunities for emerging space nations”, had been held in Baku from 29 September to 1 October 2023 (A/AC.105/1301).

265. The Committee noted that the World Space Forum held in Vienna from 12 to 14 December 2023 had addressed the theme “Space for our common future”, and that the theme of the World Space Forum to be held from 3 to 5 December 2024 in Bonn, Germany, would be “Sustainable space for sustainability on Earth”.

266. The Committee noted that the fourth United Nations/Canada Space for Women expert meeting had been held in Montreal, Canada, from 30 October to 3 November 2023, and that the fifth Space for Women expert meeting would be held in Nairobi from 27 to 29 November 2024.

267. The Committee was informed of the publication of the *Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit for the Space Sector*.

268. The Committee noted the need to promote equal opportunities in the space sector by encouraging young people and women to consider careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

269. Some delegations welcomed the development of the *Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit for the Space Sector*, which would support gender mainstreaming across public and private institutions.

270. Some delegations expressed the view that the Space for Women project should focus exclusively on empowering women and girls in the space sector, and concern was raised about the *Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit for the Space Sector*.

271. The Committee was informed that the meeting of heads of space agencies of Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) had been held in Moscow on 23 and 24 May 2024.

272. Some delegations welcomed the level of attention that would be devoted to outer space issues at the Summit of the Future and acknowledged the need for the international community to discuss ways and means of reinforcing space governance in the interest of maintaining the sustainability of outer space activities.

E. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status

273. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 78/72.

274. The representatives of France, Indonesia, Mexico, the Russian Federation and the United States made statements under the item. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

275. The Committee heard a technical presentation by the representative of Chile entitled “Space technology development – challenges and opportunities”.

276. The Committee noted that the publication entitled “Spinoff 2024”, issued by NASA, was available on the Administration’s website. The Committee expressed its gratitude to NASA for the “Spinoff” publication series, which had been made available to delegations every year since the forty-third session of the Committee, in 2000.

277. The Committee took note of innovations in numerous areas, such as commercial hydrogen fuel cell development; agriculture; acreage estimation; sustainable water and natural resource management; forestry monitoring and wildfire detection; geology; geophysics; ecosystem preservation; sea wave height, lake level monitoring and dam management; the identification and development of arable land; industrial fishing and aquafer fishery management; smart buoys; public and individual health; medicine; wireless arthroscopic surgical cameras; biology; chemistry; fundamental physics experiments; material sciences and space-based testing for resilience; the environment; tele-education and telemedicine; electronics; communication; navigation and timing; wearable tracking devices; materials applications, including advanced, large-scale 3D metal printing; energy storage; road development, information corridor systems and oil and gas transportation systems; commercial aviation safety; Internet access; artificial intelligence and machine learning; automatic identification systems; earthquake and seismic monitoring; solar-terrestrial

system monitoring; disaster management and emergency response and search and rescue services; flood area mapping; landslide early warning systems; and climate change monitoring. In addition, it noted that many of the technologies developed for space applications and licensed by space agencies had been transferred to industries and had led to practical applications in society.

278. Some delegations expressed the view that space technology was a driving force behind productive economic sectors and the benefits of its applications contributed to international cooperation, and that such technology, along with space agencies' technology transfer programmes, facilitated economic development in various industries and economic sectors, which, together with the creation of a large, highly skilled and highly paid workforce through specialized training, made available to entrepreneurs, companies, academia and government agencies, resulted in innovations that increased the overall quality of life of citizens. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that that technology and those programmes had contributed to strategic initiatives to create an integrated international space ecosystem that fostered private sector growth and industrial self-reliance, attracted foreign business investment and encouraged international collaboration.

F. Space and water

279. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled "Space and water", in accordance with General Assembly resolution 78/72.

280. The representatives of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under the item. The observer for PSIPW also made a statement under the item. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the agenda item were also made by other member States.

281. The Committee heard the following presentations:

(a) "Harnessing space technology for water resources and water-related disaster management in Indonesia", by the representative of Indonesia;

(b) "Space-based applications and pilot projects for water resource sustainable management", by the representative of Italy;

(c) "Monitoring coastal habitats and water quality with remote sensing data", by the representative of Singapore.

282. The Committee was informed of water-related cooperation activities carried out through national programmes and of bilateral, regional and international cooperation activities that demonstrated the beneficial effects of international cooperation and policies on the sharing of remote sensing data.

283. The Committee noted that water and related issues were becoming some of the most critical environmental issues of the twenty-first century and that, in order to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, it was important to make use of space technologies and applications, practices and initiatives enabled by space-based observations of water.

284. The Committee noted that a large number of space-borne platforms addressed water-related issues and that space-derived data were used extensively in water management. The Committee also noted that space technology and applications, combined with non-space technologies, played an important role in addressing many water-related issues, including the observation and study of sea levels; the monitoring of sea and ocean temperatures; the mapping of seawater intrusion; global water cycles and unusual climate patterns; the mapping of surface water bodies, watercourses and basins, including the mapping of their seasonal and annual variabilities; the monitoring of water volume levels in dam reservoirs; the assessment of sedimentation processes in reservoirs and rivers; river run-off; the monitoring of evapotranspiration;

estimated values for water quality parameters; the estimation of snowmelt run-off; the monitoring of groundwater resources; the planning and management of reservoirs and irrigation projects; early warning with regard to hydrological disasters; the monitoring and mitigation of the effects of floods, droughts, typhoons, cyclones, landslides and glacial lake outburst floods; the monitoring of soil moisture; the reuse of agricultural drainage water; the harvesting of rain; the identification of prospective zones of groundwater development; the improvement of the timeliness and accuracy of forecasts; and the identification of emergency situations, such as fires, pollution, salinization, water blooms, pipeline accidents and oil spills.

285. The Committee noted that Sustainable Development Goal 6, on clean water and sanitation for all, could not be achieved without the successful implementation and monitoring of integrated water resource management.

286. The Committee noted that the third Space4Water stakeholder meeting had been held in Vienna on 24 and 25 October 2023 (see A/AC.105/1300).

287. The Committee noted that the United Nations/Costa Rica/PSIPW sixth Conference on the Use of Space Technology for Water Management had been held in San José from 7 to 10 May 2024.

288. The view was expressed that space agencies and organizations were called upon to join the alliance of space agencies and organizations for the ocean, to be launched at the 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, which was aimed at sharing ocean-related data, in particular with small island developing States in order to help them develop and implement responses to the main challenges they faced, such as illegal fishing, pollution and the protection of marine conservation areas in support of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and to participate in the definition of and contribute to the ocean health indicator currently being prepared by the International Panel for Ocean Sustainability.

289. The view was expressed that the One Water Summit, to be held on the sidelines of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, would be an opportunity for the Space Climate Observatory and its members to reaffirm their commitment to public policies relating to water resource management.

290. The view was expressed that the World Water Quality Portal of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was made available to nations sharing cross-border basins to promote peaceful cooperation and diplomacy between those nations.

291. The Committee noted the proposal by Uzbekistan to host the seventh conference on the use of space technology for water management in Uzbekistan in 2027, and that the agenda for that conference would address the Aral Sea crisis, its impact and innovative solutions for better management to achieve a water-secure future.

292. The Committee noted that in May 2024, the Office for Outer Space Affairs had organized, with the support of PSIPW, two training courses hosted by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and held back to back with the United Nations/Costa Rica/PSIPW Conference, focusing on Earth observation information for monitoring water quality and on the streamflow services of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts.

293. The Committee noted the value of the Space4Water portal of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, supported by PSIPW, and highlighted the role of the portal in the dissemination of information on the use of space technology for water-related purposes.

294. Some delegations emphasized the connection between climate change and water, as could be seen from the increasing number and intensity of water-related

extreme climate events in particular, and stressed the importance of space-based monitoring of both climate and water.

G. Space and climate change

295. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “Space and climate change”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 78/72.

296. The representatives of Austria, Canada, China, Colombia, Ecuador, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States made statements under the item. The observer for SGAC also made a statement. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

297. The Committee had before it the report on the United Nations/Austria Symposium on Space for Climate Action held in Graz, Austria (online), from 12 to 14 September 2023 (A/AC.105/1299).

298. The Committee heard the following presentations:

(a) “Models of public funding for the Brazilian space sector”, by the representative of Brazil;

(b) “An innovative satellite-based approach to urban heat islands in cities”, by the representative of Italy;

(c) “Earth observation for the study of the impacts of climate change on water resources and agriculture in Morocco”, by the representative of Morocco;

(d) “Supporting voluntary carbon markets by monitoring greenhouse gas emissions from tropical peatlands”, by the representative of Singapore.

299. The Committee underscored the importance of collective action to mitigate and adapt to climate change as one of the most pressing global challenges of the time. In that regard, the Committee noted the growing value of space-based technology and space-based observations for scientific research on and a better understanding of climate change and its impacts, and, consequently, for producing actionable data in support of decision-making and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 13, on climate action, as well as for monitoring the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

300. The Committee noted the growing number of efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels in developing and operating satellites for observing atmospheric conditions.

301. The view was expressed that the Space Climate Observatory would continue to develop in order to encourage the creation of projects geared towards the needs of people on the front line of climate change by involving the space sector and civil society.

302. The Committee also noted the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and actions that tackled climate change by utilizing space-based observations and technologies, and the importance of supporting international cooperation in Earth observation, including through long-established organizations and bodies such as the World Meteorological Organization, CEOS, the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites, the Global Climate Observing System, the Group on Earth Observations and APSCO.

303. The view was expressed that Member States should support rapid national and global action to reduce short-lived climate pollutants so as to continue to advance the collective commitment made under the Global Methane Pledge at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26).

304. The Committee noted the growing international collaboration among international partner agencies and organizations in joining and contributing to the efforts of the Space for Climate Observatory, of which France was currently serving as the secretariat. To date, there were 47 signatories to the Charter of the Observatory, which had entered into force on 1 September 2022, making the Observatory part of the landscape of multilateral networks dedicated to combating climate change and supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

305. The Committee noted with appreciation that the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would be held in Baku from 11 November to 22 November 2024 under the presidency of Azerbaijan.

306. The Committee noted with appreciation the efforts made by the United Arab Emirates to embed the topic of space in the work of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the topic should continue to be integrated into the thematic pillars of future sessions of the Conference.

307. The Committee noted that the United Nations/Austria Symposium on Space for Climate Action had been held from 12 to 14 September 2023 on the theme "Space for climate action: space applications and technologies for sustainability on Earth" and that the next symposium, on the theme "Climate action: transforming space-based technology projects into sustainable services that support policy-making", would be held in Graz, Austria, on 17 and 18 July 2024 in a hybrid format.

308. The Committee noted the efforts of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, through its UN-SPIDER programme and its network of currently 28 regional support offices, to build capacity and increase access to and the use of space-based solutions for disaster management, inter alia, in relation to climate change-related natural disasters, and to facilitate the activation of the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters, a worldwide collaboration through which satellite data are made available to help countries with disaster relief efforts.

309. Some delegations expressed the view that making space-based data more accessible, available and usable would enhance collective efforts to respond to climate change and that there was an urgent need for capacity-building in utilizing space solutions to address challenges arising from climate change.

H. Use of space technology in the United Nations system

310. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled "Use of space technology in the United Nations system", in accordance with General Assembly resolution 78/72.

311. The representatives of France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico and Pakistan made statements under the item. The observer for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific also made a statement. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

312. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Special report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on developments within the United Nations system related to space debris (A/AC.105/1317);

(b) Report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on its forty-second session and its nineteenth open session (A/AC.105/1318).

313. The Committee heard the following presentations:

(a) "From space to Earth: the vital role of the X-band frequency for downlinking Earth observation data", by the representative of Germany;

(b) “Peaceful uses of Earth observation: use cases across the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia member States”, by the observers for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia;

(c) “Re-entry of space debris into the atmosphere”, by the observer for the International Civil Aviation Organization;

(d) “Marine environmental effects of jettisoned waste from commercial spaceflight activities”, by the observer for the International Maritime Organization;

(e) “United Nations Global Service Centre Analytics and Location Intelligence Unit: remote sensing analytics for environment, transhumance and groundwater”, by the observers for the United Nations Global Service Centre.

314. The Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs informed the Committee that the forty-second session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities had been held on 17 and 18 October 2023 in Brindisi, Italy, in collaboration with the Service for Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies of the United Nations Global Service Centre. The Director also informed the Committee that, following a needs assessment (see A/AC.105/1291), a day for the demonstration of technologies and for training on tools had been introduced into the session for the first time in 2023.

315. The Committee noted with appreciation that the nineteenth open session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, which was focused on the theme “Earth observation and integrated applications for disaster risk management and sustainable development”, had been held on 19 October 2023, also in Brindisi, in collaboration with the Service for Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies of the United Nations Global Service Centre and the Italian Space Agency (ASI). The session had brought together representatives of Member States, United Nations entities and the private sector, providing them with the opportunity to learn about each other’s work and explore possible synergies. During the session, special consideration had been given to case studies from the broader Italian space community and, specifically, from the Apulia region.

316. The Committee welcomed the special report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on developments within the United Nations system related to space debris (A/AC.105/1317), to which 10 United Nations entities had contributed and which emphasized the need for a multifaceted approach to address the challenges posed by space debris. That approach should involve not only technical but also regulatory, policy, legal and cooperative measures.

317. The Committee noted with appreciation the joint efforts by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Office for Outer Space Affairs towards a publication, to be made available in 2024, on the topic of leveraging space technology for agricultural development and food security.

318. The Committee noted that the secretariat of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities was making arrangements to hold the forty-third session of Meeting in New York in October 2024. The Committee was also informed that the secretariat was working with NASA, through the framework of CEOS, and the Capacity Development and Operational Training Service of the Department of Operational Support to incorporate an educational component into the session once again.

319. The Committee noted with appreciation efforts to utilize space technology and equitably share the benefits of space technology by operationalizing the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030) of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

320. The Committee noted with appreciation submissions made to the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification regarding the need to prioritize areas that needed immediate action to combat land degradation.

321. The Committee noted with appreciation action taken to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, in particular within the framework of UN-SPIDER, facilitating the use of space-based technologies for disaster management and emergency response.

322. The Committee noted with appreciation that the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 had been held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

323. The view was expressed that the introduction of mobile telecommunications systems into frequency bands that were used by Earth observation and meteorological satellites was likely to cause harmful interference to the operation of such satellites, which could have significant consequences for the space community and its ability to study the Earth from space. The delegation expressing that view encouraged Member States to study the potential impact of such an allocation of frequencies to mobile telecommunications systems on their Earth observation systems in order to inform discussions at the upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference in 2027.

324. The Committee encouraged entities of the United Nations system to participate, as appropriate, in the coordination efforts of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities.

I. Future role and method of work of the Committee

325. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “Future role and method of work of the Committee”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 78/72.

326. The representatives of Argentina, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under the item. The representative of the European Union, in its capacity as permanent observer, made a statement on behalf of the European Union and its member States. The observer for SWF also made a statement. The representative of the Office for Outer Space Affairs also made a statement. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

327. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report on the United Nations/Portugal Conference on the Management and Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (A/AC.105/1315);

(b) Conference room paper entitled “Draft mandate, terms of reference and methods of work for an Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation”, submitted by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania and Switzerland (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.12/Rev.2);

(c) Conference room paper containing a working paper submitted by the Russian Federation (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.19);

(d) Conference room paper entitled “The Lisbon Declaration on Outer Space”, submitted by Portugal and co-sponsored by Australia, Austria, Belgium, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechia, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Italy, Morocco, the Philippines, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, the United States and Uruguay (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.25/Rev.1).

328. The Committee recalled the deliberations on the item as reflected in the report of the Committee on its sixty-sixth session (A/78/20, paras. 332–353) and the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its sixty-first session (A/AC.105/1307, paras. 184–213).

329. The Committee noted that the Committee and its subcommittees served as a unique platform for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

330. Some delegations expressed the view that overlap in the work of the Committee with the work of other United Nations bodies should be avoided.

331. The view was expressed that it was counterproductive to transfer the discussion of some issues under the purview of the Committee, such as orbital traffic management or space debris mitigation, to the United Nations disarmament forums.

332. Some delegations welcomed the efforts of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to use its unique convening ability to host additional discussions on space situational awareness and space traffic coordination; those discussions should feed into the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee.

333. Some delegations expressed the view that the Committee could benefit from the latest research, practical experience and scientific practice through wider engagement with non-State actors, including the private sector and the scientific community.

334. Some delegations expressed the view that, although non-governmental processes could benefit or supplement the work of the Committee in certain ways, such processes should not interfere with that work.

335. Some delegations expressed the view that the subcommittees should increase coordination, interaction and synergies on cross-cutting issues and pay greater attention to new developments and challenges in the peaceful uses of outer space.

336. Some delegations expressed the view that such cross-cutting issues might include the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, space debris, space traffic management, small satellites, megaconstellations, space resources, lunar space exploration and the prevention and resolution of conflicts arising from outer space activities.

337. The view was expressed that the Bureau of the Committee, assisted by the secretariat, should manage discussions according to the rules of procedure and should conduct sessions in a timely manner, allowing member States to fully express their views and to take steps to avert any destructive exchange of views not related to the agenda.

338. The view was expressed that the Committee could consider convening the next sessions of the Legal Subcommittee for eight working days and the next sessions of the Committee for 10 working days.

339. Some delegations expressed the view that the agenda of the Committee could be streamlined by merging the items of the Legal Subcommittee related to space traffic management, space debris mitigation and remediation and small satellite activities.

340. The view was expressed that the agenda of the Committee could be streamlined by merging the items “Space and water” and “Space and climate change” with the item “Space and sustainable development”.

341. Some delegations expressed the view that it was important to further deepen cooperation between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee within the framework of the Committee’s work, including in the context of cybersecurity issues related to outer space activities.

342. The view was expressed that persistent efforts should be made to achieve more diversified and institutionalized capacity-building, that continued support should be given to all regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, and that those centres should enhance their exchanges and cooperation with one another. The delegation expressing that view also expressed the view that, with the rapid development of private sector activities in outer space, commercial space entities were expected to shoulder more responsibilities in terms of capacity-building.

343. The view was expressed that the Committee should consider exploring options such as the possible adoption of mechanisms similar to those used in other

international forums, where qualified majority voting had proved to be effective at key moments.

344. The view was expressed that a more active debate in the framework of the Committee should be encouraged, for example, by allowing the working groups to have more time within the formal sessions with interpretation services for their deliberations.

345. Some delegations expressed the view that the forthcoming Pact for the Future should urge the Secretary-General to strengthen the Office for Outer Space Affairs in its role as secretariat to the Committee and its subcommittees and to ensure that the Office could fully and effectively implement its mandate.

346. The Committee noted with appreciation that the United Nations/Portugal Conference on the Management and Sustainability of Outer Space Activities had been held in Lisbon on 14 and 15 May 2024, preceded by two preparatory virtual symposiums focused on technical issues and policy matters in November 2023 and March 2024, respectively.

347. Some delegations welcomed the Lisbon Declaration on Outer Space (A/AC.105/1315, annex) in support of the Summit of the Future, which contained six paragraphs regarding the importance of the Committee and the peaceful use of outer space as a safe, sustainable and inclusive domain, the need for international coordination, the importance of youth participation in space activities, and initiatives to foster cooperation and coordination in outer space exploration and utilization.

348. The Committee welcomed efforts by the secretariat to organize the work of the Committee and subcommittees through the sequential consideration of agenda items.

349. The Committee noted the "space situational awareness training events" hosted by the Office for outer Space Affairs on 3 and 4 June 2024.

350. The Committee noted with appreciation a proposal to hold a fourth United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE IV) in 2027 and looked forward to further consultations on the proposal during the intersessional period and at the sixty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

351. The Committee agreed to establish the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation in accordance with the proposal submitted by Romania and co-sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, and Switzerland in conference room paper A/AC.105/2024/CRP.12/Rev.2, and noted with appreciation the efforts by those delegations. The Committee further noted that the secretariat would invite contributions from States members of the Committee on the bureau and workplan of the Action Team for endorsement by the Committee at its sixty-eighth session, in 2025.

352. The Committee further noted that the mandate, terms of reference and methods of work of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation were contained in annex IV to the present report.

353. Some delegations expressed the view that consultations on the item, including intersessional consultations, should continue, and Romania was encouraged to lead the process.

J. Space exploration and innovation

354. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled "Space exploration and innovation", in accordance with General Assembly resolution 78/72.

355. The representatives of Belarus, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States made statements under the item. The observers for APSCO and SGAC also

made statements. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the agenda item were also made by other member States.

356. The Committee had before it a conference room paper entitled “Reports of the Moon Village Association” submitted by the Moon Village Association (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.22).

357. The Committee heard the following presentations:

(a) “Lunar mineral resources and international challenges in their exploration, exploitation and utilization”, by the representative of the Russian Federation;

(b) “Lessons learned for safe and sustainable lunar exploration: The case of KPLO operations”, by the representative of the Republic of Korea;

(c) “Smart lander for investigating Moon (SLIM): results from the Moon landing”, by the representative of Japan;

(d) “The Italian approach to Moon exploration”, by the representative of Italy;

(e) “Space technologies as supporting tools for the mitigation of the disaster in Rio Grande do Sul”, by the representative of Brazil;

(f) “India’s space exploration road map”, by the representative of India;

(g) “Supervision shapes order, order brings development”, by the representative of China;

(h) “The second International Moon Day: results and outlook for 2024”, by the observer for the Moon Village Association;

(i) “Climate change and lunar exploration interaction”, by the observer for the Moon Village Association.

358. The Committee recalled the origin of the present agenda item and the work of the Action Team on Exploration and Innovation, which had produced the first-ever United Nations report emphasizing the importance of human space exploration beyond low Earth orbit (see A/AC.105/1168).

359. The Committee noted with appreciation that delegations had, at the current session, shared information and updates on space exploration and innovation endeavours, including details of national activities, programmes and achievements, as well as examples of related bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation. These included, inter alia, the following:

(a) The achievement of the Russian cosmonaut, Oleg Kononenko, whose total period of working time in outer space exceeded 1,000 days;

(b) The space flight of Marina Vasilevskaya, the first female Belarusian cosmonaut;

(c) The successful completion by the first Turkish astronaut, Alper Gezeravci, of his mission at the International Space Station in February 2024 and the recent completion by the second Turkish astronaut, Tuva Cihangir Atasever, of a suborbital flight; both conducted several experiments for the benefit of humankind;

(d) The launch in 2023 of the Human Space Flight Programme of Saudi Arabia, sending the first female Arab astronaut, Rayyanah Barnawi, and the male Arab astronaut, Ali Alqarni, to the International Space Station;

(e) The successful return of the Chinese Chang’e-6 probe, carrying the world’s first samples collected from the far side of the Moon;

(f) The first pinpoint lunar landing of the Japanese smart lander for investigating the Moon;

(g) The successful soft landing and roving of the Indian Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft near the lunar south pole and the successful reaching by Aditya-L1 of the Sun-Earth L1 point;

(h) The successful return of a sample from the asteroid Bennu to Earth from the United States OSIRIS-REx mission;

(i) The successful launch by Pakistan of the iCube-Qamar satellite and the multi-mission communication satellite, PakSat-MM1, in May 2024.

360. The Committee noted with appreciation that, in the course of the discussions, information had been provided on, inter alia, research and development activities; space object launches; developments in human space flight programmes; the use of probiotics and lactoferrin in foods for astronauts using 4D bioprinting; studies in gravitational physiology; activities and cooperation opportunities related to the International Space Station, including outreach through radio communications from the International Space Station to promote scientific education, carry out microgravity experiments on physiology, the brain and the nervous system, and build expertise in the construction of space station modules; the first successful crewed test flight of the NASA Starliner to the International Space Station; the move to normalized operation mode of the China Space Station; the deployment of new orbital stations; robotic exploration activities on near-Earth asteroids and other celestial bodies, including with miniaturized robotics and nanotechnology; numerous missions to the Moon, including many successful landings; the Moon to Mars initiative; the development of the Lunar Surface Habitation Module and Multi-Purpose Habitation Module; lunar polar exploration missions to investigate water ice and resource utilization; missions to Mars, including the release of global image maps of Mars, and the confirmation of liquid water on Mars, the search for life on Mars and the mapping of ice on Mars; missions to the moons of Mars and to Jupiter's icy moons; the Sun and monitoring solar radiation; missions to asteroids; data-sharing initiatives on numerous lunar and deep space missions; astronomical projects from Earth and the Moon, and X-ray observatory projects; the growing entrepreneurial space ecosystem and the transfer of mature technologies to drive innovation; the development of a lunar lander vehicle with an emphasis on interoperability; funding for accelerator projects for the development of new technologies; water purification challenges for technologies to support lunar and deep space missions; oxygen extraction from lunar regolith and in situ utilization of lunar resources; the collection and return of samples; the planned Lunar Gateway outpost; the planned International Lunar Research Station, and its growing number of international partners; position, navigation and timing on the Moon; long-duration power sources; systems for demonstrating in situ resource utilization; cloud seeding from low Earth orbit, with potential lessons for artificial rain on the Moon and Mars; a centre for innovation and space resources; a space resources challenge; a space resources week; public support for commercial start-ups in the field of space resources; education initiatives in space exploration; the development of spaceports and other essential infrastructure to support space flight; planetary protection initiatives; a China Space Day; successes of space start-up companies; efforts to foster entrepreneurship and innovation in the space sector; space farming; and the increasing human and financial resources being committed to space exploration and innovation.

361. The Committee noted the importance of collaboration among all stakeholders in space exploration and innovation activities, including Governments and government agencies, non-governmental entities, academic institutions, scientific and technical research centres, industry and the private sector.

362. The Committee noted with appreciation the organization of the first United Nations Conference on Sustainable Lunar Activities, which had been held on 18 June 2024, noting that representatives from international lunar programmes and missions had exchanged views about goals, priorities and approaches for safe and sustainable lunar exploration with a view to identifying common ground among all parties. The Committee further noted that, inspired by the foundational principles of the Outer Space Treaty, the Conference, through a think tank approach, had promoted constructive, insightful and inclusive exchanges, identifying the existence of common understanding in critical areas of international cooperation, information-sharing,

capacity-building, consultation, interoperability, long-term sustainability, due regard and scientific investigation.

363. Some delegations expressed the view that the Conference on Sustainable Lunar Activities had revealed common ground among signatories to the Artemis Accords and partners in the International Lunar Research Station that space activities should be conducted in accordance with international law and in a safe, sustainable and peaceful manner. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that the Conference had highlighted that information exchange was an important means for international cooperation and would be crucial for avoiding interference and enabling appropriate international consultations on lunar activities.

364. The Committee noted that the establishment of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation would be an important step towards facilitating international consultations in order to ensure that lunar activities were conducted in a safe, peaceful and transparent manner.

K. “Space2030” Agenda

365. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “‘Space2030’ Agenda”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 78/72.

366. The representatives of Austria, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Norway, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea made statements under the item. A statement was made by the observer for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

367. The Committee heard the following presentations:

(a) “Bioregenerative life-support systems: how space technologies will benefit agriculture and sustainability on Earth”, by the representative of Italy;

(b) “Measuring gender barrier perceptions in the space sector of the Republic of Korea”, by the representative of the Republic of Korea.

368. The Committee recalled that the “Space2030” Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development and its implementation plan, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 76/3, constituted a high-level political document that showcased the contribution of space activities and space tools to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the broad societal benefits of space activities and the essential role of space technologies and applications, and of space-derived data, in furthering economic growth and prosperity.

369. The Committee recalled that a midterm review of progress made in implementing the “Space2030” Agenda would be conducted at its sixty-eighth session, in 2025, and that Member States and observer organizations with the Committee would be invited to submit reports on their key activities in implementing the “Space2030” Agenda in support of Sustainable Development Goals and under the four overarching objectives of the “Space2030” Agenda, which are structured around the pillars of space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy.

370. The Committee noted with appreciation that the Office for Outer Space Affairs had made the “Space2030” Agenda and implementation plan available as a publication (ST/SPACE/88) and on its website in all official languages of the United Nations ahead of the midterm review, in order to increase the visibility of the “Space2030” Agenda, its impact in the broader international community and its linkages to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals.

371. The Committee noted that the success of the “Space2030” Agenda depended on the translation of the document into concrete actions, drawing on the partnerships and tools outlined in the implementation plan of the “Space2030” Agenda. In that regard,

the Committee noted that in implementing the "Space2030" Agenda, States contributed to and benefited from a number of space-related international and regional mechanisms, programmes, projects and platforms, and benefited from tools and initiatives that had been or were being developed by the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

372. The Committee noted that the implementation of the "Space2030" Agenda by countries and the international space community had demonstrated the important contribution of space technology and applications to achieving global agendas, namely, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Paris Agreement.

373. The Committee further noted that partnerships and cooperation among Member States, non-governmental organizations and the private sector were essential in implementing the "Space2030" Agenda.

374. The Committee noted that the World Space Forum 2024, organized in cooperation with Germany, Peru and the United Arab Emirates, on the theme "Sustainable space for sustainability on Earth", would be held in Bonn, Germany, from 3 to 5 December 2024 and would address, among other things, the implementation of the space-related sections of the Pact for the Future and the "Space2030" Agenda midterm review, with the broad involvement of space actors and an inclusive stakeholder dialogue.

375. The view was expressed that the full implementation of the overarching objectives of the "Space2030" Agenda, which highlighted the contributions of the space sector to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, required economic and financial prioritization, political commitment, technical prowess and international cooperation and solidarity. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that in order to promote the spirit of the "Space2030" Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, it was important to sustain and promote the principles of space as the province of humankind and the unimpeded access of all countries to space activities, including access to technology, the equitable use of orbits, access to space and benefit-sharing.

376. The view was expressed that the "Space2030" Agenda was important also because one of its aims was to promote and strengthen the use of outer space for sustainable ocean economies, which were of vital importance for several countries.

L. Other matters

377. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled "Other matters", in accordance with General Assembly resolution 78/72.

378. The representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru and the Russian Federation made statements under the agenda item. A statement was also made by the representative of the European Union, in its capacity as permanent observer, on behalf of the European Union and its member States. A statement was also made by Latvia in its capacity as an ad hoc observer. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

1. Composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2026–2027

379. The Committee recalled that the General Assembly, in paragraph 11 of its resolution 58/89, had endorsed the agreement reached by the Committee on the future composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies (A/58/20, annex II, paras. 5–9), on the basis of the measures relating to the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies (see A/52/20, annex I, and A/58/20,

annex II, appendix III), which had previously been endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 52/56.

380. The Committee noted that the established rotation scheme stipulated that the nominations by the regional groups for 2026–2027 should be made as follows:

Chair of the Committee: Western European and other States
First Vice-Chair of the Committee: Eastern European States
Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur of the Committee: African States
Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: Asia-Pacific States
Chair of the Legal Subcommittee: Latin American and Caribbean States

381. The Committee noted that the Western European and other States had endorsed the candidature of Teodoro Valente (Italy) for the office of Chair of the Committee for the period 2026–2027 (see A/AC.105/2024/CRP.13).

2. Membership of the Committee

382. The Committee noted the applications for membership received from Djibouti, as contained in conference room paper A/AC.105/2024/CRP.4, and from Latvia, as contained in conference room paper A/AC.105/2024/CRP.17.

3. Observer status

383. With regard to the applications of non-governmental organizations for the status of permanent observer with the Committee, the Committee recalled its agreement at its fifty-third session, in 2010 (A/65/20, para. 311), that observer status would be granted to non-governmental organizations on a provisional basis, for a period of three years, pending information on the status of their application for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, that the provisional observer status could be extended for an additional year, if necessary, and that it would grant permanent observer status to such non-governmental organizations upon confirmation of their consultative status with the Council.

384. The Committee took note of the application of the African Astronomical Society for permanent observer status with the Committee. The application and the relevant correspondence were before the Committee in conference room paper A/AC.105/2024/CRP.5.

385. The Committee decided to grant the African Astronomical Society the status of observer, on a provisional basis, for a period of three years, pending information on the status of its application for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

386. The Committee took note of the application of the Global Satellite Operators Association for permanent observer status with the Committee. The application and the relevant correspondence were before the Committee in conference room paper A/AC.105/2024/CRP.6.

387. The Committee decided to grant the Global Satellite Operators Association the status of observer, on a provisional basis, for a period of three years, pending information on the status of its application for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

388. The Committee took note of the application of the Outer Space Institute for permanent observer status with the Committee. The application and the relevant correspondence were before the Committee in conference room paper A/AC.105/2024/CRP.7.

389. The Committee decided to grant the Outer Space Institute the status of observer, on a provisional basis, for a period of three years, pending information on the status of its application for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

390. The Committee took note of the application of the Space Data Association for permanent observer status with the Committee. The application and the relevant

correspondence were before the Committee in conference room paper A/AC.105/2024/CRP.8.

391. The Committee decided to grant the Space Data Association the status of observer, on a provisional basis, for a period of three years, pending information on the status of its application for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

392. The Committee took note of the application of Space Renaissance International for permanent observer status with the Committee. The application and the relevant correspondence were before the Committee in conference room paper A/AC.105/2024/CRP.9.

393. The Committee decided to grant Space Renaissance International the status of observer, on a provisional basis, for a period of three years, pending information on the status of its application for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

4. Programme 5, “Peaceful uses of outer space”: proposed programme plan for the period 2025 and programme performance for 2023

394. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Conference room paper entitled “Programme 5, ‘Peaceful uses of outer space’: proposed programme plan for the period 2025” (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.3);

(b) Proposed programme budget for 2025 (A/79/6 (Sect.6)).

395. The Committee noted that the proposed programme plan for 2025 had been reviewed by the subsidiary organ of the General Assembly for planning, programming and coordination, the Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its sixty-fourth session, held from 13 May to 14 June 2024, and that the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination under programme 5 were contained in document E/AC.51/2024/L.4/Add.5.

396. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space took note of the presentation by the Deputy Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs on the proposed programme plan for 2025 and the information provided by the Office on key areas of work.

397. The Committee noted that, considering that the Committee for Programme and Coordination had already concluded its work, any input agreed upon by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at the present session would serve to inform future draft programme plans.

398. The view was expressed that the sessions of the Committee could be extended by two days, so that there would be a total of 10 working days per session.

399. The view was expressed that the sessions of the Legal Subcommittee could be reduced by two days, for a total of eight working days, and that those two days could be assigned to the sessions of the Committee, for a total of 10 working days per session.

400. The view was expressed that the duration of sessions of the Legal Subcommittee should remain 10 working days, considering its work schedule. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that before considering extending the duration of the Committee’s sessions, Member States should ensure the necessary budget to assist the current work schedule of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

401. Some delegations expressed the view that the Office for Outer Space Affairs was to be commended for its invaluable work, in particular in view of the wide breadth and ever-increasing scope of the delivery of space law capacity-building and technical advisory services that the Office provided to States members of the Committee, such as the Space Law for New Space Actors project, which had facilitated the efforts of numerous countries in becoming spacefaring nations and

represented a fundamental source of practical advice on the implementation of the global governance framework for outer space activities at the national level, which contributed greatly to the achievement of long-term sustainability of outer space activities for all, as well as for the crucial support provided by the Office in strengthening national capacity and resilience to mitigate the harmful effects of natural disasters in the context of UN-SPIDER.

402. Some delegations expressed the view that the lack of financial and human resources for the Office to fulfil its mandate was unacceptable and, in that regard, called for more resources to be made available to the Office, appealing to countries that were in a position to increase their voluntary contributions to do so without delay. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that appropriate action must be taken at United Nations Headquarters to strengthen the Office so that it could meet the needs of States members, in particular those that were developing countries, to access the manifold benefits that space had to offer.

5. Draft provisional agenda for the sixty-eighth session of the Committee

403. The Committee recommended that the following items be considered at its sixty-eighth session, in 2025:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Statement by the Chair.
4. General exchange of views.
5. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
6. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its sixty-second session.
7. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its sixty-fourth session.
8. Space and sustainable development.
9. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
10. Space and water.
11. Space and climate change.
12. Use of space technology in the United Nations system.
13. Future role and method of work of the Committee.
14. Space exploration and innovation.
15. “Space2030” Agenda.
16. Other matters.
17. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

M. Schedule of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

404. The Committee agreed on the following tentative timetable for its session and those of its subcommittees in 2025:

Body	*Date*	*Location*
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	3–14 February 2025	Vienna
Legal Subcommittee	5–16 May 2025	Vienna
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	25 June–4 July 2025	Vienna

Annex I

Draft resolution on a United Nations-designated international year of asteroid awareness and planetary defence in 2029

International Year of Asteroid Awareness and Planetary Defence, 2029

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the unique platform at the global level for international cooperation in space activities represented by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee and assisted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat,

Recalling the "Space2030" Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development[1] and its implementation plan, in which Member States acknowledged that the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space had enriched our collective knowledge and revolutionized life on Earth, that space science and technology had become intrinsic to our daily lives and brought an abundance of unique and fundamental benefits to Earth, and that, as the space community moved forward with its space exploration endeavours, space would continue to serve as a source of inspiration and innovation and to provide applications for the benefit of humankind,

Recalling also its resolution 54/68 of 6 December 1999 on the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), organized by the Committee, and the resolution adopted by the Conference entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development",[2] in which participating States called for, inter alia, improving the international coordination of activities related to near-Earth objects, harmonizing the worldwide efforts directed at identification, follow-up observation and orbit prediction, while at the same time giving consideration to developing a common strategy that would include future activities related to near-Earth objects,

Noting the establishment, in response to a recommendation of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,[3] of the Action Team on Near-Earth Objects of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and of the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, to consider international procedures for handling the near-Earth object impact hazard and to engage international stakeholders,

Recalling its resolution 68/75 of 11 December 2013, in which it welcomed with satisfaction the recommendations of the Working Group on Near-Earth Objects for an international response to the near-Earth object impact threat, which were endorsed by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fiftieth session and by the Committee at its fifty-sixth session,[4]

Recognizing the importance of information-sharing in discovering, monitoring and physically characterizing potentially hazardous near-Earth objects to ensure that all countries, in particular developing countries with limited capacity in predicting and mitigating a near-Earth object impact, are aware of potential threats, and

[1] Resolution 76/3.

[2] *Report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 19–30 July 1999* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.I.3), chap. I, resolution 1.

[3] Ibid.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/68/20), para. 144; and A/AC.105/1038, para. 198 and annex III.

emphasizing the need for capacity-building for effective emergency response and disaster management in the event of a near-Earth object impact,

Recalling its resolutions 70/82 of 9 December 2015 and 71/90 of 6 December 2016, in which it noted with satisfaction the establishment of and work carried out by the International Asteroid Warning Network and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group to implement the recommendations for an international response to the near-Earth object impact threat, with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, serving as the permanent secretariat of the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group,

Noting that near-Earth objects are asteroids and comets whose orbit brings them closer than 1.3 astronomical units, or approximately 195 million kilometres, to the Sun,

Noting also that potentially hazardous objects are a subset of the population of near-Earth objects with an Earth minimum orbit intersection distance of less than 0.05 astronomical units, or approximately 7.5 million kilometres, and a size larger than about 140 metres, indirectly inferred from the object's brightness,

Noting further the importance of awareness-raising with regard to asteroids and comets as celestial bodies that retain clues as to the early history and formation of the solar system and that could potentially pose an impact hazard to Earth, and recalling in this regard the proclamation, in its resolution 71/90, of 30 June as International Asteroid Day to observe each year at the international level the anniversary of the Tunguska impact event over Siberia, Russian Federation, on 30 June 1908 and to raise public awareness of the asteroid impact hazard,

Noting that, on 13 April 2029, the asteroid 99942 Apophis will pass safely but in very close proximity to the Earth, at about 32,000 kilometres above the surface of our home planet, thus inside the geostationary orbit, not posing any threat to the Earth, which in astronomical terms constitutes an extremely close approach, making the asteroid visible to billions of people with the naked eye in the clear night sky,

Noting also that this will be a once-in-a-millennium event and a unique occasion for a worldwide campaign to raise awareness with regard to asteroids, their scientific and resource value and the potential hazard they pose,

Reaffirming its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, in particular paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto, on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14 of the annex, stating that an international year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements necessary for its financing and organization have been made,

1. *Decides* to declare 2029 the International Year of Asteroid Awareness and Planetary Defence, in order to take advantage of the unique occasion of the close approach of 99942 Apophis in 2029 for a worldwide campaign to raise awareness regarding asteroids and to highlight the collaborative efforts being undertaken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to mitigate the potential hazard posed by the impact on the Earth of near-Earth objects, and as an excellent opportunity for a global educational campaign about near-Earth objects;

2. *Invites* Member States, space agencies, United Nations entities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, astronomers, local communities and academia, to observe the International Year, as appropriate, through activities such as astronomical observation and scientific awareness-raising with regard to asteroids, promoting widespread access to new knowledge and observing experiences of asteroids, inspiring young people and empowering science communities, in particular in developing countries, and assisting the citizens of the world in understanding the nature of near-Earth objects, and to strengthen existing

networks and facilitate new ones with a view to connecting amateur astronomers, educators, scientists and communications professionals with the public at large through local, regional, national and international activities;

3. *Invites* the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, mindful of the provisions contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to facilitate the implementation of the International Year, in collaboration with Governments, space agencies, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders;

4. *Stresses* that the costs of all the activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met through voluntary contributions, including from the private sector;

5. *Requests* the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, mindful of the provisions of paragraphs 23 to 27 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to inform the General Assembly at its eighty-fifth session regarding the implementation of the present resolution, including an evaluation of the International Year;

6. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders to make voluntary contributions and to provide other forms of support for the International Year.

Annex II

Report of the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space of the Legal Subcommittee

1. At its 1054th meeting, on 15 April, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space reconvened its Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, with Franziska Knur (Germany) as its Chair.

2. From 16 to 24 April, the Working Group held six meetings. The Working Group considered the following items:

(a) The name of the Working Group and its scope;

(b) The status of the five United Nations treaties on outer space;

(c) The set of questions of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space and the questionnaire on the application of international law to small-satellite activities;

(d) Exchange of views on the implementation of article XI 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;

(e) Future topics to be considered by the Working Group.

3. The Working Group had before it the following documents:

(a) Report on the United Nations Conference on Space Law and Policy: the Outer Space Treaty for the twenty-first century, held online from 28 to 30 November 2023 (A/AC.105/1322);

(b) Conference room paper on the status of international agreements relating to activities in outer space as at 1 January 2024 (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.3);

(c) Conference room paper containing the directory of educational opportunities in space law (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.7);

(d) Conference room paper containing responses to the set of questions provided by the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space received from Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Ghana, Morocco and Slovakia (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.8);

(e) Conference room paper containing a schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.10);

(f) Conference room paper entitled “Growth of the Committee membership and universalization of the five United Nations treaties on space law”, submitted by the Secure World Foundation (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.19);

(g) Conference room paper containing responses to the questionnaire on the application of international law to small-satellite activities received from Angola, Morocco and the Russian Federation (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.20);

(h) Conference room paper entitled “Sharing approaches of the United Kingdom to article XI implementation and notifications”, submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.21);

(i) Conference room paper entitled “United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs Stakeholder Study Report on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space”, submitted by the United Kingdom (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.22).

4. The Working Group agreed that its name would remain the “Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space” for

practical reasons, on the understanding that States members would be welcome to bring to the attention of the Working Group any issue related to any of the topics covered by the new agenda item entitled "Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity-building, to promote their implementation".

5. The Working Group noted the wealth of knowledge that had been generated by collecting comments on and responses to the set of questions provided by the Chair of the Working Group and the questionnaire on the application of international law to small-satellite activities, and agreed to suspend the invitation to States members and permanent observers of the Committee to provide comments on and responses to the questions, on the understanding that the Working Group could revisit and revise the questions and invite responses to them whenever it deemed fit.

6. The Working Group welcomed the launch of its dedicated web page developed by the secretariat as a useful means of following the discussions of and relevant documents considered by the Working Group.

7. The Working Group commenced its exchange of views on the implementation of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty, in which States agreed to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as the public and the international scientific community, to the greatest extent feasible and practicable, of the nature, conduct, locations and results of activities in outer space, including on the Moon and other celestial bodies. The Working Group took note of the following questions that were proposed by the Chair in the information circular dated 15 March 2024:

Section 1 – Purposes of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty:

1.1. How does the sharing of information on space activities promote international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space?

1.2. Does the implementation of article XI benefit the implementation of the United Nations instruments on international space law in general, and if so, to what extent?

Section 2 – Scope of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty:

2.1. What kind of information does article XI refer to?

2.2. When would such information be shared and in what format?

Section 3 – Means of implementation of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty:

3.1. In general, what are the means of implementing article XI?

3.2. How does your country implement or plan to implement article XI?

3.3. Would it be useful to have a specific article XI information-sharing mechanism and if so, what form should this mechanism take?

8. The Working Group agreed to use those questions to structure the exchange of views, following an initial stocktaking of member States' practices.

9. The Working Group noted that some States had sent formal notifications to the Secretary-General under article XI of the Outer Space Treaty, and that the submission of registration information to the Secretary-General on the basis of treaty obligations, as well as additional registration information as recommended by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/101, entitled "Recommendations on enhancing the practice of States and international intergovernmental organizations in registering space objects", facilitated the exchange of information on, inter alia, the nature, conduct and locations of activities in outer space (see A/AC.105/C.2/117, para. 43).

10. The Working Group also noted that several States made available information on space activities through national websites, through statements, reports and technical presentations delivered during sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees, and through other initiatives and practices.

11. The Working Group affirmed that information-sharing was a key means of promoting and facilitating international cooperation among member States and that article XI of the Outer Space Treaty had the potential to further enhance such cooperation and further contribute to capacity-building, access to space and space activities for the benefit of all countries. The Working Group also noted the importance of information exchange for transparency and confidence-building, as well as for coordination and the avoidance of harmful interference.

12. The view was expressed that the sharing of information under article XI of the Outer Space Treaty could not be regarded as a prerequisite for honouring commitments under article IX of the Treaty.

13. The Working Group underlined that the Secretary-General was already mandated to receive and disseminate information received under article XI of the Outer Space Treaty immediately and effectively.

14. Some delegations expressed the view that identifying the information that could be submitted to the Secretary-General could facilitate the implementation of article XI. The delegations expressing that view also expressed the view that owing to the variety of activities carried out, relevant key information might differ, and further discussion was needed as to whether that key information should be identified depending on the nature of activities.

15. The view was expressed that it would be useful to have all relevant information on one web page to help member States to understand the activities carried out in outer space.

16. Some delegations expressed the view that the development of a form or forms, depending on further discussion of the identification of key information, could facilitate more extensive use of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty and at the same time serve as guidance on what information could be provided to the Secretary-General.

17. Some delegations expressed the view that the model registration form to assist States and organizations developed by the Office for Outer Space Affairs pursuant to General Assembly resolution 62/101 facilitated the registration of space objects, in particular for emerging spacefaring nations, and also contributed to the drafting by those nations of national space legislation and regulations.

18. Some delegations expressed the view that while a form or forms might serve as guidance, they should not prevent member States from using their own template when submitting information under article XI of the Outer Space Treaty.

19. Some delegations expressed the view that tools could be developed to provide an easily accessible and searchable repository of the information submitted to the Secretary-General.

20. The Working Group welcomed a presentation given by the secretariat on how submissions related to treaty implementation, including submissions under article XI and for the registration of space objects, were handled and processed by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as well as on the ongoing work of the Office to develop an online registration portal to ensure the efficiency of registration submissions.

21. The Working Group was informed that member States had sent about 65 submissions to the Secretary-General under article XI, which included information on lunar missions, space objects and the safety of space objects with nuclear power sources on board.

22. The Working Group noted that the submission, processing and distribution of information by States under article XI of the Outer Space Treaty should not duplicate the work carried out in relation to the Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space maintained by the Office for Outer Space Affairs. In that regard, the Working Group requested the secretariat to develop a background paper on how the implementation of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty and the Register could be kept distinct, but at the same time foster synergies.

23. At its fifth meeting, on 22 April, the Working Group agreed on the following multi-year workplan:

2025 Continue the exchange of views on the implementation of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty, including by sharing additional information and updates on States' practices regarding how information on space activities has been or is planned to be shared with the Secretary-General, as well as the public and the international scientific community.

The Chair of the Working Group, with the support of the secretariat, will present a summary of views on the implementation of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty in all the official languages of the United Nations for consideration by the Working Group at the sixty-fourth session of the Subcommittee. Reference could also be made to the discussion questions used by the Working Group to structure its exchange of information during the sixty-third session.

Initiate the preparation of a template or model submission form that could be offered to States and international intergovernmental organizations as a voluntary tool, without prejudice to any other means of informing the Secretary-General, to submit information to the Secretary-General on the nature, conduct, locations and results of their activities in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies.

2026 Continue the exchange of views on the implementation of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty, including by sharing additional information and updates on States' practices regarding how information on space activities has been or is planned to be shared with the Secretary-General, as well as the public and the international scientific community.

The Chair of the Working Group will present a draft template for consideration by the Working Group.

Discuss possible additional tools and practices in order to enhance the exchange of information on space activities in accordance with article XI of the Outer Space Treaty and other relevant provisions of United Nations space law instruments, such as an easily accessible and searchable repository of such information, displayed in a uniform and easily comparable manner, which could be useful and serve as a voluntary tool for building transparency, confidence and capacity.

2027 Finalize the template and prepare the final report of the Working Group, incorporating the results of the activities undertaken under the present multi-year workplan.

24. At its sixth meeting, on 24 April, during the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee, the Working Group adopted the present report.

Annex III

Report of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities of the Legal Subcommittee

1. At its 1054th meeting, on 15 April 2024, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space reconvened its Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities established under the Legal Subcommittee's agenda item entitled "General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources", with Andrzej Misztal (Poland) as Chair and Steven Freeland (Australia) as Vice-Chair.

2. From 16 to 24 April 2024, the Working Group held six formal and four informal meetings. The Working Group considered the following items of its five-year workplan (A/AC.105/1260, annex II, appendix):

> "(a) Review additional responses received from States in the intersessional period and continue the collection of relevant information and exchange of views as set out under the work for 2023 above;
>
> "(b) Review and update the preliminary summary prepared by the Chair of the information collected and views expressed and consolidate any additional relevant information and views presented for submission to the Working Group for further consideration;
>
> "(c) Assess the benefits of further development of a framework for such activities including by way of additional international governance instruments;
>
> "(d) Convene the international conference, as mentioned above, preferably in conjunction with the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee, and open to Governments, invited academic and other stakeholders, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources. The report on the conference is to be prepared by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group, supported by the Secretariat, and submitted to the Working Group for further consideration."

3. The Working Group had before it the following documents:

(a) Updated summary by the Chair and Vice-Chair of views and contributions received on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities (A/AC.105/C.2/L.328);

(b) Conference room paper submitted by China containing its response to the invitation to provide information on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.5);

(c) Conference room paper entitled "Summary of the expert meeting collecting preliminary inputs for consideration at the international conference in Vienna in 2024" (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.15);

(d) Conference room paper submitted by the Republic of Korea containing its response to the invitation to provide information on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.17);

(e) Conference room paper entitled "Information on the International Conference on Space Resources of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities" (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.23);

(f) Conference room paper submitted by Australia entitled "Consideration of general themes and obligations, commitments or guidelines to an activity contributing to exploration and scientific investigation of the Moon" (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.24);

(g) Conference room paper submitted by Luxembourg containing a submission by the European Space Resources Innovation Centre on its views on the current status and priorities for selected key areas related to the utilization of space resources (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.29);

(h) Conference room paper submitted by Luxembourg and Belgium entitled "Expert meeting collecting preliminary inputs for consideration at the international conference in Vienna in 2024, held on 26 March 2024 in Luxembourg: Luxembourg and Belgium review" (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.31).

4. The Working Group noted with appreciation the holding of the International Conference on Space Resources on 15 April 2024, during the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee, as well the expert meeting collecting preliminary inputs for consideration at the international conference in Vienna in 2024, held on 26 March 2024, which was co-hosted by Belgium and Luxembourg and organized in cooperation with the United Nations. In that regard, the Working Group took note of the information made available about those two events in conference room papers A/AC.105/2024/C.2/CRP.15, A/AC.105/2024/C.2/CRP.23 and A/AC.105/2024/C.2/CRP.31 and noted that a single report on the outcomes of the International Conference, including the results of the expert meeting, would be made available at the sixty-seventh session of the Committee, in June 2024, in the six official languages of the United Nations (A/78/20, para. 233).

5. The Working Group noted that the further submissions by States members of the Committee had been valuable contributions to the work of the Working Group under its five-year workplan and the substantively rich discussions held in its meetings during the current session of the Subcommittee with a view to assessing the benefits of further development of a framework for space resource activities.

6. The Working Group noted that the discussions had been focused, among others, on the five topics agreed by the Working Group at the sixty-sixth session of the Committee, in June 2023 (A/78/20, para. 234), as a basis for the International Conference, namely, the implications of the legal framework for space resource activities; the role of governance, including information-sharing, in supporting space resource activities; the scope of future space resource activities; the environmental and socioeconomic aspects of space resource activities; and international cooperation in scientific research and technological development for space resource activities.

7. The Working Group noted a number of possible elements as well as questions that should be discussed in the course of the development of an initial set of recommended principles for space resource activities, in accordance with the workplan of the Working Group, including, but not limited to, the centrality of the provisions 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; the relationship with other existing United Nations treaties on outer space and with the principles of non-appropriation and the peaceful use of outer space; questions on definitions; matters related to the nature and purpose of space resources and their potential benefits, including for scientific research and economic development; the economic, environmental and equitable aspects of space resource activities; the protection of interests of current and future space actors; ethical, indigenous and intergenerational aspects; international coordination and consultation measures; licensing authority mechanisms; the role of the private sector and its supervision; the sharing of information; possible aspects related to investments and international trade; aspects of benefit-sharing; and interests of developing countries.

8. The Working Group agreed that, with a view to furthering the work of the Working Group in accordance with its workplan, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group were to invite States members and organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee to provide any further contributions they deemed relevant relating to the elements for an initial draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities, in their response to a letter of invitation, which would be

disseminated by the secretariat by the end of May 2024, with a deadline for contributions of 16 September 2024.

9. The Working Group further agreed that, on the basis of the discussions held in its meetings during the current session of the Subcommittee and the contributions received, the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Working Group would prepare an initial draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities that would be disseminated in a timely manner to States members of the Committee in early January 2025. The Working Group agreed to hold an online intersessional meeting by the end of January 2025 to start discussing the initial draft set of recommended principles.

10. The Working Group further noted that in accordance with its workplan, the activities of the Working Group undertaken thus far would be presented to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its sixty-second session under its agenda item on the future role and method of work of the Committee in a statement by the Chair and/or the Vice-Chair of the Working Group, and that in 2025, in accordance with its workplan, the Working Group would continue, among other things, to exchange views on the development of an initial draft set of recommended principles for such activities, taking into account the initial draft prepared by the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Working Group.

11. Some delegations expressed the view that while the five overarching topics addressed at the International Conference and the expert meeting represented a solid basis for an initial draft set of recommended principles, the development of such principles should not be based solely on those five topics.

12. The view was expressed that an initial draft set of recommended principles could consist of the main part, containing principles derived from the existing treaties of international space law, any other elements that enjoyed the widest support and terms that enjoyed a consensual common understanding, and annexes that comprised a list of terms and principles for which there were divergent views.

13. At its 6th meeting, on 24 April 2024, during the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee, the Working Group adopted the present report.

Annex IV

Mandate, terms of reference and methods of work of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation

I. Mandate

1. The Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation is to have focused, expert-level exchanges to develop recommendations aimed at improving consultations related to lunar activities, considering different options, including, for instance, whether to recommend the establishment of an international mechanism. The Action Team will aim to produce a final report containing recommendations for consideration by the Committee on the Peaceful uses of Outer Space at its seventieth session, in 2027, or at its seventy-first session, in 2028, as appropriate. Based on the progress of its work, the Action Team may present diverse proposals for consideration by the Committee, beginning from its sixty-ninth session, in 2026. Following the endorsement of the Action Team's report, the Committee will decide on the follow-up work to be carried out.

2. The Action Team may complement its proposals with priority topics relevant to its mandate that could subsequently be addressed under its proposed international mechanism. The Action Team will limit discussions on any substantive topics to what is necessary for the achievement of its mandate.

3. The work of the Action Team is to be without prejudice to the consultations stipulated in article IX 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 (Outer Space Treaty) and to relevant ongoing efforts within the framework of the Committee and its subcommittees, in particular the work of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities and the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, to promote informal collaboration and mutual exchange of information.

II. Terms of reference

4. Participation in the work of the Action Team is to be open to all States members of the Committee. Upon the establishment of the Action Team, the Office for Outer Space Affairs will invite States members interested in participating to appoint a maximum of four representatives, preferably with diverse backgrounds and expertise, without prejudice to the possibility of replacing them and appointing experts on an ad hoc basis to participate in specific meetings.

5. Organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee conducting work related to the mandate of the Action Team may be invited by the Action Team to participate in its meetings, either on a regular or an ad hoc basis. Organizations with permanent observer status that are invited to participate will be limited to having one representative. The Action Team may also, as necessary, invite recognized technical, policy and legal experts, and any other entity whose support is deemed useful for its work, to participate.

6. In order to avail itself of expert input and take into account diverse views, the Action Team may invite organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee, as well as industry, academic and civil society actors and recognized technical, policy and legal experts to submit written contributions on topics relevant to its mandate. These submissions should be a maximum of five pages in length.

7. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities and the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties will be kept informed of the work of the Action Team and consulted periodically to facilitate informal collaboration.

III. Methods of work

8. The Action Team is to be established under the framework of the Committee. It will work on the basis of consensus of States members of the Committee and report on the progress of its work at the sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees, under the agenda item “Future role and method of work of the Committee”.

9. The Action Team will meet to advance its work both on the margins of the sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees and during the intersessional period. Meetings of the Action Team will be held in an online format when within existing resources and in a hybrid format, including with interpretation services, as appropriate, when supported by extrabudgetary contributions, in order to allow for inclusive participation and maximize the use of the time available.

10. The Office for Outer Space Affairs will facilitate the work of the Action Team, including by providing substantive secretariat services and by convening and facilitating meetings and informal exchanges when supported by extrabudgetary contributions and at no cost to the regular budget of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. States members and non-governmental organizations, including in the private sector, may contribute financial and in-kind support in furtherance of the work of the Action Team.

11. Upon the establishment of the Action Team, and at the proposal of States members, the Committee will approve the Chair and Vice-Chair(s) of the Action Team. Thereafter, the Office for Outer Space Affairs will appoint a rapporteur and a secretary to support the work of the Action Team. The Action Team will then proceed to develop and approve its multi-year workplan and present it for endorsement by the Committee at its sixty-eighth session, in 2025.