



# General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
**Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**  
**Fifty-fifth session**  
Vienna, 29 January–9 February 2018

## **Draft resolution on space as a driver of sustainable development**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. In its resolution [72/79](#), on the consideration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the General Assembly emphasized the significance of the high-level segment of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50), to be held on 20 and 21 June 2018 during the sixty-first session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which will be open to all States Members of the United Nations.
2. The Assembly also emphasized that concrete deliverables and outcomes are to be concluded at UNISPACE+50 for presentation to the Assembly in the form of a resolution to be considered at its seventy-third session, including on the “Space2030” agenda and its implementation plan for strengthening the contribution of space activities and space tools to the achievement of the global agendas addressing long-term development concerns of humankind based on the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.
3. The Assembly requested the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to submit a draft resolution on the outcomes of UNISPACE+50 for the consideration of the General Assembly, in plenary meeting, at its seventy-third session.
4. Preliminary text for the draft resolution, prepared by the Secretariat for consideration by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fifty-fifth session (see [A/72/20](#), para. 324 (d)), is set out below.



## Draft resolution on space as a driver of sustainable development

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 2453 A (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, [37/90](#) of 10 December 1982, [54/68](#) of 6 December 1999, [59/2](#) of 20 October 2004 and [72/79](#) of 7 December 2017,

*Recognizing* the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50) as a unique opportunity to consider the current status of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and determine its future contribution to the global governance of outer space activities,

*Noting with satisfaction* that the Committee, in preparation for UNISPACE+50, assessed its past, present and future role, as well as those of its subcommittees and the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, within the cross-cutting areas of governance, capacity-building, resiliency, interoperability and space for sustainable development, and noting with satisfaction also that that assessment provided the basis for the selection of the thematic priorities of UNISPACE+50,<sup>1</sup>

*Emphasizing*, in that regard, that the following seven thematic priorities of UNISPACE+50 represent a comprehensive strategy for addressing key areas that together determine core objectives for the future work of the Committee and its subcommittees and the Office:

- (a) Global partnership in space exploration and innovation (thematic priority 1);
- (b) Legal regime of outer space and global governance: current and future perspectives (thematic priority 2);
- (c) Enhanced information exchange on space objects and events (thematic priority 3);
- (d) International framework for space weather services (thematic priority 4);
- (e) Strengthened space cooperation for global health (thematic priority 5);
- (f) International cooperation towards low-emission and resilient societies (thematic priority 6);
- (g) Capacity-building for the twenty-first century (thematic priority 7);

*Noting with appreciation* the work of the Committee and its subcommittees and the Office in the implementation of the seven thematic priorities of UNISPACE+50,<sup>2</sup> including the related objectives and mechanisms, and taking note with appreciation of the notes by the Secretariat on the thematic priorities and reports on events organized in preparation for UNISPACE+50,<sup>3</sup>

*Recognizing* that the UNISPACE+50 high-level segment, held in Vienna on 20 and 21 June 2018, represented the first United Nations space summit of the twenty-first century for the purpose of strengthening the contribution of space activities and space tools to the achievement of the global agendas addressing long-term development concerns of all humanity,

<sup>1</sup> See [A/AC.105/L.297](#) and [A/AC.105/1137](#).

<sup>2</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/71/20)*, para. 296.

<sup>3</sup> [A/AC.105/1168](#), [A/AC.105/1169](#), [A/AC.105/1170](#), [A/AC.105/1171](#), [A/AC.105/1172](#), [A/AC.105/1173](#) and [A/AC.105/1174](#); [A/AC.105/1129](#), [A/AC.105/1160](#), [A/AC.105/1161](#), [A/AC.105/1162](#), [A/AC.105/1163](#), [A/AC.105/1164](#), [A/AC.105/1165](#), [A/AC.105/1175](#) and [A/AC.105/1181](#) [to be updated].

*Convinced* that the fulfilment of the aims of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change require stronger space governance and supporting structures at all levels, including improved access to space-based data and space infrastructure,

*Mindful*, in that regard, of the need to reduce the divide in access to space, which threatens growth, increases inequalities between States and hinders universal, safe and equitable access to the benefits of space as the scientific, technological, economic and cultural heritage of humankind,

*Convinced*, therefore, that the continuous growth and diversification of space activities should be attributed to combined and sustained efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels to foster international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, in particular within the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as the main international platform facilitating that cooperation at the global level, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs,

*Affirming* that, as a comprehensive blueprint, the “Space2030” agenda is set around four pillars, namely, space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy, and that those pillars are representative of broad, cross-cutting and strategic areas in which space is seen as a main driver and contributor to overarching development goals and strengthened international cooperation, in particular for the benefit of developing countries,

*Emphasizing*, in this context, that under the “Space2030” agenda there is a need to build stronger partnerships and international cooperation and coordination in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space at all levels and among actors of the broader space community, in order to enhance the utility of space for the well-being of all peoples,

*Having considered* the note by the Secretariat on the “Space2030” agenda and the global governance of outer space activities,<sup>4</sup>

1. *Declares*, as the nucleus of the “Space2030” agenda, with a view to strengthening the mandates of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the following:

(a) Space economy constitutes the full range of activities and the use of resources that create and provide value and benefits to the world population in the course of exploring, understanding and utilizing space, and is aimed at addressing the economic benefits of the space sector and strengthening its role as a major driver for a dynamic economy, and in this regard in strengthening space-derived economic benefits, actions should be taken:

(i) To establish a global space partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals to serve as a comprehensive coordination mechanism under the leadership of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in order to facilitate the optimal service delivery of existing space assets and foster partnerships for developing innovative systems and space solutions to support countries in monitoring and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

(ii) To establish a global compact for space to serve as the main mechanism for collaboration between the Office and industry and the private sector and as an entry point for private sector entities, in support of the implementation of the “Space2030” agenda;

(iii) To establish a global space fund for development, as a voluntary trust fund maintained by the Office, in order to support the coordination and implementation of activities of the global space partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals for the implementation of a broader range of space solutions

<sup>4</sup> A/AC.105/1166.

for sustainable development, including public-private partnerships, and for the purpose of supporting the wider application of space solutions;

(b) Space society implies a society carrying out its core functions while making the best use of space technologies and space-based services and applications for improving the quality of life, and in this regard in advancing societal benefits of space-related activities, actions should be taken:

(i) To foster partnerships among the research community in the development, extension and provision of visibility for space-based data, services, applications and standards for a wider user base, for which the Office for Outer Space Affairs should work with partners to promote education in astronomy, space science and other subjects related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics, in particular in developing countries, and for the empowerment of women as part of the Space for Women project of the Office, aimed at widening possibilities for women to pursue space-related education and careers;

(ii) To strengthen institutional arrangements between the Office and the World Health Organization for effective collaboration on the wider application of space solutions for global health;

(iii) To strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) of the Office, in order to assist it in fully delivering its mandate to provide access to space-based data and services for disaster risk reduction and emergency response, including in relation to the impacts of climate change, and as essential resources for sustainable development;

(iv) To strengthen the international and regional presence of the Office by building upon its existing global networks, including the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, and the UN-SPIDER regional support offices, and through the possible establishment of new regional centres for space science and technology education and centres of excellence, following proposals by Member States;

(v) To strengthen the capacity of the Office to support key actors in the development, design and implementation of the Space Climate Observatory as a critical mechanism towards low-emission and resilient societies, and as part of the global space partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals;

(vi) To strengthen preparedness in case of a potential near-Earth object impact through strengthened planetary defence efforts and increased awareness among Member States, in particular those that have no capabilities in this area, for which the Office should work jointly with the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group and the International Asteroid Warning Network, including through its UN-SPIDER programme;

(c) Space accessibility ensures that all Member States can enjoy socioeconomic benefits and make equal use of space science and technology applications and space-based data, information and products, and space spin-offs and technologies have been adapted to improve the overall quality of life on Earth, and in this regard in enhancing access to space for all countries, actions should be taken:

(i) To implement the objectives of the Open Universe Initiative, for which the Office for Outer Space Affairs, together with its partners, should work towards promoting and facilitating open and transparent access to astronomy and space science data, in particular through their online availability;

(ii) To develop a space for development profile and space solutions compendium under the leadership of the Office as key tools for assessing the strengths and weaknesses at the country level regarding the development of space capabilities and for providing space solutions to enhance national capabilities in space activities;

(iii) To strengthen the activities of the Office in pursuing open and inclusive access to space and provide assistance to Member States in developing space capabilities, thereby reducing the space divide, with regard to which the space for development profile and space solutions compendium should provide a basis for targeted capacity-building, in particular for the benefit of developing countries, including by taking advantage of a triangular cooperation on long-term capacity-building and strengthened South-South cooperation, including through cooperation with space agencies and private sector entities;

(iv) To strengthen the spaceflight portfolio of the Office, as part of its Human Space Technology Initiative, including through a wide range of opportunities made available to developing countries for launch, ground and in-orbit space experiments, such as on drop tower, space stations and low-orbit free-flying vehicles, as well as through design, manufacture and operation of small satellites;

(v) To establish an alliance of the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, to strengthen delivery of services and coordination among existing regional centres, including possible new centres, upon proposals by Member States;

(vi) To establish a capacity-building network, under the leadership of the Office, open to participation by any entity wishing to obtain membership, in particular universities, museums and other institutions, non-governmental organizations and governmental entities, with the aim of promoting the use of space and providing space-related educational opportunities, emphasizing those supporting the Sustainable Development Goals;

(vii) To create a universal space heritage sites programme, as part of the planned capacity-building network and its envisaged broader composition, as a tool to promote space-related education, contribute to capacity-building and increase public awareness, with a specific focus on sites of special relevance on the Moon and other celestial bodies;

(viii) To establish a space information and training centre as a facility of the Office, intended to create possibilities for trainers and educators, in particular those from countries in which infrastructure for space-related education is poor or non-existent;

(ix) To establish mechanisms, such as massive online open courses, to provide greater access to the online resources generated by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in promoting the benefits of space science and technology and their applications, and to create new content adapted to the needs identified by the Office, with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

(d) Space diplomacy builds on existing norms and negotiated treaties, refers to cooperation among Member States to engage with each other on an equal footing and with mutual respect, with the overall goal of addressing common challenges facing humanity and building constructive, knowledge-based partnerships, and in this regard in strengthening existing mechanisms and forging new ones in the area of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space activities, actions should be taken:

(i) To enhance global governance of outer space activities in the twenty-first century, including the strengthening of the unique role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees, supported by the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as the prime intergovernmental platform for international space cooperation and the negotiation of instruments pertaining to space activities, and continued work towards further increasing its membership;

(ii) To strengthen the coordination and interrelationship between the Committee and its subcommittees by addressing agenda items in a

comprehensive, cross-cutting manner, combining scientific, technical, legal, policy and decision-making dimensions;

(iii) To restructure the overall agenda of the Committee and its subcommittees in order to address in a comprehensive manner the use and utility of space as a driver of sustainable development and to enhance the safety, security and sustainability of outer space activities;

(iv) To include a new item on the agenda of the Committee on the topic of space exploration and innovation, in order to consider issues that relate to humanity's horizons in space and that further objectives dealing with exploration and innovation;

(v) To include a new item on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the topic of space and global health, under a multi-year workplan, with a working group to examine and propose actions, to be further determined, on the future uses of space technology, applications, practices and initiatives in support of global health needs in the wider context of sustainable development on Earth;

(vi) To consider, under a multi-year workplan of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee under the item on space weather, the establishment of an international coordination group for space weather as the basis for strengthened international coordination;

(vii) To consider, at the level of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the issue of critical space infrastructures and the protection of space systems, including with a view to studying cybersecurity issues related to space activities;

(viii) To request, with a view to strengthening the implementation of the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space, the Office for Outer Space Affairs to enhance its capacity-building activities and technical assistance in the field of international space law, policy and space-related institutional capacity-building, including for policymakers and decision makers and by engaging the diplomatic community, as a means of promoting the universality of the United Nations treaties on outer space;

(ix) To enhance the role of the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space, entrusted to the Office for Outer Space Affairs, by implementing improvements to existing registration practices and information exchange on the basis of existing mandates, including measures taken by the Office to increase transparency and improve the efficiency of the registration mechanism and conduct regular technical advisory missions to promote transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities;

(x) To recommend, in strengthening cooperation with the United Nations entities dealing with space, in line with the United Nations system-wide efforts to increase coherency and deliver as one, that the Office should expand partnerships under the overall framework of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space), including through bilateral cooperation, with other United Nations entities in a wide range of space-related areas under their respective mandates;

(xi) To strengthen the presence of the Office in New York and Geneva in order to create synergy in the space-related work of the United Nations system and support enhanced delivery and services of the United Nations in meeting the needs of Member States;

(xii) To establish the High-level Forum on space as a driver for socioeconomic sustainable development as a regular annual meeting for strengthened partnerships among all relevant stakeholders, as it serves as a crucial driver for dialogue among Governments, international organizations, industry, the private

sector, academia and civil society, and for facilitating partnerships to deliver on the “Space2030” agenda;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take action to implement the present resolution;

3. *Recognizes* the role of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in implementing the “Space2030” agenda, and requests the Secretary-General to allocate sufficient resources to the Office, starting in 2019, to ensure that the actions listed in paragraph 1 above can be carried out successfully;

4. *Agrees* that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should make an evaluation of the implementation of the “Space2030” agenda and report to the General Assembly in 2025;

5. *Decides* that the year 2025 is declared “International Year of Space” to ensure that the broad societal benefits of space as an area of innovation, inspiration, interconnectedness, integration and investment continue beyond the landmark year 2030 towards an inclusive global vision for space as a driver of sustainable development.

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