

**BRIEFING ON MEETINGS AT &
REPORTS BY THE
65th & 66th UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

2011

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SGAC

*Space Generation Advisory Council
in support of the
United Nations Programme on Space Applications*

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1 RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

1.1 UN DOCUMENTS A/65/L.67 & A/RES/65/271¹

United Nations A/65/L.67 (Passed Resolution A/RES/65/271)

Sixty-fifth Session

Agenda item 50: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Introduced by Russia

Delegates from Hungary, China, Brazil, Italy, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Viet Nam, India, USA, Belarus, Armenia, Mongolia and Moldova spoke.

Brazil's representative listed some of the benefits associated to human space flight:

- weather forecasting
- disaster mitigation
- environmental protection
- provision of humanitarian aid
- controlling epidemics
- facilitating long-distance education
- supporting sustainable development
- generation of new products and services in communication and navigation

Cuba's representative, however, warned that there was an arms race being conducted by some countries in outer space, and said that international cooperation must be strengthened to make sure that space technology served all countries and their development.

USA's representative said that today the cold war "space race is over and we have all won". The representative of Hungary noted that Europe, in partnership with the Russian Federation, USA, Japan and Canada, was participating in the International Space Station (ISS). Working through the European Space Agency (ESA), Europe was also responsible for the Columbus Laboratory and the Automated Transfer Vehicle (ATV), two key Station elements.

**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly
65/271. International Day of Human Space Flight**

The General Assembly,

Attaching great importance to international cooperation in peaceful space activities, for which the United Nations (UN) should continue to provide a focal point,

Recalling that 12 April 1961 was the date of the first human space flight, and acknowledging that this historic event opened the way for space exploration for the benefit of all mankind,

Declares 12 April as the International Day of Human Space Flight to celebrate each year at the international level the beginning of the space era for mankind, reaffirming the important contribution of space science and technology in achieving sustainable development goals and increasing the well-being of States and peoples, as well as ensuring the realization of their aspiration to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes.

¹ All documents are available online at: <http://documents.un.org/mother.asp>

1.2 UN DOCUMENT A/RES/65/68

United Nations A/RES/65/68

Sixty-fifth Session
Agenda item 97 (y)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the First Committee (A/65/410)]

65/68. Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that the prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger to international peace and security,

Convinced that further measures should be examined in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space, including the weaponization of outer space,

Recalling the need for increased transparency and the importance of confidence-building measures as a means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Recalling also the report of the Secretary-General (SG) of 15 October 1993 to the General Assembly (GA) at its forty-eighth session, the annex to which contains the study by governmental experts on the application of confidence-building measures in outer space,

1. *Takes note* of the final report of the SG containing concrete proposals from Member States on international outer space transparency and confidence-building measures;
2. *Requests* the SG to establish, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, a group of governmental experts to conduct a study, commencing in 2012, on outer space transparency and confidence-building measures, making use of the relevant reports of the SG, including the final report, submitted to the GA at its sixty-fifth session, and without prejudice to the substantive discussions on the prevention of an arms race in outer space within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament (CD), and to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report with an annex containing the study of governmental experts;
4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities".

1.3 UN DOCUMENT A/RES/65/44

United Nations A/RES/65/44

Sixty-fifth Session
Agenda item 95

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the First Committee (A/65/408)]

65/44. Prevention of an arms race in outer space

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,

Recalling the obligation of all States to observe the provisions of the Charter of the UN regarding the use or threat of use of force in their international relations, including in their space activities,

Reaffirming paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the GA, in which it is stated that in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,

Emphasizing the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space,

Considering that wide participation in the legal regime applicable to outer space could contribute to enhancing its effectiveness,

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space continued the examination and identification of various issues, existing agreements and existing proposals, as well as future initiatives relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, 3 and that this contributed to a better understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various positions,

Emphasizing the mutually complementary nature of bilateral and multilateral efforts for the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and hoping that concrete results will emerge from those efforts as soon as possible,

Stressing that the growing use of outer space increases the need for greater transparency and better information on the part of the international community,

Conscious of the benefits of confidence- and security-building measures in the military field,

Recognizing that negotiations for the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space remain a priority task of the CD and that the concrete proposals on confidence-building measures could form an integral part of such agreements,

Noting with satisfaction the constructive, structured and focused debate on the prevention of an arms race in outer space at the CD in 2009 and 2010,

Taking note of the introduction by China and the Russian Federation at the CD of 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,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space and the readiness of all States to contribute to that common objective, in conformity with 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 (Outer Space Treaty);

2. *Reaffirms its recognition*, as stated in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, that the legal regime applicable to outer space does not in and of itself guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, that the regime plays a significant role in the prevention of an arms race in that environment, that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime and enhance its effectiveness and that it is important to comply strictly with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;

3. *Emphasizes* the necessity of further measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space;
4. *Calls upon* all States to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to refrain from actions contrary to that objective and to the relevant existing treaties in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation;
5. *Reiterates* that the CD, as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;
6. *Invites* the CD to establish a working group under its agenda item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" as early as possible during its 2011 session;
7. *Recognizes*, in this respect, the growing convergence of views on the elaboration of measures designed to strengthen transparency, confidence and security in the peaceful uses of outer space;
8. *Urges* States conducting activities in outer space, as well as States interested in conducting such activities, to keep the CD informed of the progress of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on the matter, if any, so as to facilitate its work;
9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

1.4 UN DOCUMENT A/RES/65/97

United Nations A/RES/65/97

Sixty-fifth Session

Agenda item 50

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/65/421)]

65/97. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Deeply convinced of the common interest of mankind in promoting and expanding the exploration and use of outer space, as the province of all mankind, for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, and also of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the UN should continue to provide a focal point,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and of the widest possible adherence to international treaties that promote the peaceful uses of outer space in order to meet emerging new challenges, especially for developing countries,

Seriously concerned about the possibility of an arms race in outer space,

Recognizing that all States should contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion and strengthening of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Recognizing also that space debris is an issue of concern to all nations,

Noting the progress achieved in the further development of peaceful space exploration and applications as well as in various national and cooperative space projects, which contributes to international cooperation, and the importance of further developing the legal framework to strengthen international cooperation in this field,

Convinced of the need to promote the use of space technology towards implementing the UN Millennium Declaration (MD),

Seriously concerned about the devastating impact of disasters,

Desirous of enhancing international coordination and cooperation at the global level in disaster management and emergency response through greater access to and use of space-based services for all countries and facilitating capacity-building and institutional strengthening for disaster management, in particular in developing countries,

Deeply convinced that the use of space science and technology and their applications in areas such as telemedicine, tele-education, disaster management, environmental protection and other Earth observation applications contribute to achieving the objectives of the global conferences of the UN that address various aspects of economic, social and cultural development, particularly poverty eradication,

Taking note of the fact that the 2005 World Summit recognized the important role that science and technology play in promoting sustainable development,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) on the work of its fifty-third session,

2. *Agrees* that the COPUOS, at its fifty-fourth session, should consider the substantive items recommended by the Committee at its fifty-third session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

4. *Agrees* that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fiftieth session, should consider the substantive items and reconvene the working groups recommended by the Committee, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

5. *Urges* States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties in accordance with their domestic law, as well as incorporating them in their national legislation;

7. *Agrees* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its forty-eighth session, should consider the substantive items and reconvene the working groups recommended by the Committee, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

8. *Notes with appreciation* that some States are already implementing space debris mitigation measures on a voluntary basis, through national mechanisms and consistent with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee and with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the COPUOS endorsed by the GA in its resolution 62/217;

9. *Invites* other States to implement the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the COPUOS;

10. *Considers* that it is essential that States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including those with nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, calls for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, also considers that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and agrees that international cooperation is

needed to expand appropriate and affordable strategies to minimize the impact of space debris on future space missions;

11. *Urges* all States to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

12. *Endorses* the UN Programme on Space Applications for 2011, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications and endorsed by the Committee;

13. *Welcomes* the continuous progress made by the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) towards achieving compatibility and interoperability among global and regional space-based positioning, navigation and timing systems and in the promotion of the use of GNSS and their integration into national infrastructure, particularly in developing countries, and notes with satisfaction that the International Committee held its fifth meeting in Turin, Italy, from 18 to 22 October 2010, which was jointly organized by Italy and the European Commission, and notes with satisfaction that the International Committee held its sixth meeting in Tokyo from 5 to 9 September 2011;

14. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made within the framework of the UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency response (UN-SPIDER) in the implementation of the workplan of the UN-SPIDER programme for the biennium 2010–2011 in particular the work of the UN-SPIDER office in Bonn, Germany, which is establishing a systematic compilation of relevant information with respect to disasters and making it accessible to all end-users, as well as the work of the UN-SPIDER staff in Vienna who are coordinating all the programme activities, including the work of the regional support offices, and encourages Member States to provide all necessary support, on a voluntary basis, to UN-SPIDER, including financial support, to enable it to carry out the workplan;

15. *Welcomes with appreciation* the establishment of the UN-SPIDER Beijing office, and welcomes the fact that regional support offices have been established in several countries to support the implementation of the activities of the UN-SPIDER programme;

16. *Agrees* that the Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA) should ensure, within existing resources, the coordination of the UN-SPIDER SpaceAid framework with mechanisms and initiatives that are making space-based information available to support responses to emergency events, thus avoiding duplication of efforts;

17. *Notes with appreciation* that the African regional centres for space science and technology education in the French and English languages, located in Morocco and Nigeria, respectively, as well as the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean, affiliated to the UN, have continued their education programmes in 2010, and agrees that the regional centres should continue to report to the Committee on their activities;

18. *Emphasizes* that regional and interregional cooperation in the field of space activities is essential to strengthen the peaceful uses of outer space, assist States in the development of their space capabilities and contribute to the achievement of the goals of the UN MD and to that end fosters interregional dialogue on space matters between Member States, and requests relevant regional organizations to offer the assistance necessary so that countries can carry out recommendations of regional conferences;

19. *Recognizes* the important role played by conferences in strengthening regional and international cooperation among States, such as the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization and the Space Conference of the Americas;

20. *Notes with appreciation* that since the adoption of the Declaration of San Francisco de Quito by the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas in July 2006, more States in the Latin American and Caribbean region have set up national space entities of a civilian nature, thus laying the foundation for enhanced regional cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and recalls that in the Declaration, States in the Latin American and Caribbean region were invited to, inter alia, “set up national space entities to lay the foundation for a regional entity for cooperation”;

21. *Welcomes with appreciation* the organization by the Government of Mexico of the Sixth Space Conference of the Americas, to be held in Pachuca, Mexico, from 15 to 19 November 2010, and notes with satisfaction that the proposed results will be aimed towards strengthening the participation of the academic, public and private sectors, as well as youth and non-governmental organizations (NGO), in regional and international programmes and projects using space science and technology to support the economic, social, cultural and scientific development of the region;

23. *Emphasizes* the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, including mitigation of the consequences of disasters, in particular in the developing countries;

24. *Notes* that space science and technology and their applications make important contributions to economic, social and cultural development and welfare, as indicated in the resolution entitled “The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development”, its resolution 59/2 and the Plan of Action of the COPUOS on the implementation of the recommendations of the Third UN Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III);

25. *Notes with satisfaction* that a number of the recommendations set out in the Plan of Action have been implemented and that satisfactory progress is being made in implementing the outstanding recommendations, and that Member States continue to contribute to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III through national and regional activities and by supporting and participating in the programmes established in response to those recommendations;

26. *Urges* all Member States to continue to contribute to the Trust Fund for the UN Programme on Space Applications to enhance the capacity of the OOSA to provide technical and legal advisory services in accordance with the Plan of Action, while maintaining the priority thematic areas agreed by the Committee;

27. *Reiterates* that the benefits of space technology and its applications should continue to be brought to the attention, in particular, of the major UN conferences and summits for economic, social and cultural development and related fields and that the use of space technology should be promoted towards achieving the objectives of those conferences and summits and for implementing the UN MD;

28. *Notes with satisfaction* that the working paper by the Chair of the COPUOS for the period 2008–2009 entitled “Towards a UN space policy” will be considered by the Committee at its fifty-fourth session;

29. *Welcomes* the increased efforts to strengthen further the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, notes with satisfaction that the open informal meetings, held in conjunction with the annual sessions of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, provide a constructive mechanism for an active dialogue between the entities of the UN system and Member States, and encourages entities of the UN system to participate fully in the work of the Inter-Agency Meeting;

30. *Urges* entities of the UN system, particularly those participating in the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, to continue to examine, in cooperation with the Committee, how space science and technology and their applications could contribute to implementing the UN MD on the

development agenda, particularly in the areas relating to, inter alia, food security and increasing opportunities for education;

31. *Agrees* that the Director of the OOSA should continue to participate in the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development to raise awareness and promote the benefits of space science and technology for sustainable development;

32. *Calls upon* the UN University (UNU) and other institutions of the same nature, within the framework of their mandates, to provide training and to carry out research in the areas of international space law and, in particular, matters relating to disasters and emergencies;

33. *Requests* the relevant regional organizations to offer the assistance necessary so that countries can carry out recommendations of regional conferences;

34. *Requests* the Committee to continue to consider ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the GA at its sixty-sixth session, and agrees that during its consideration of the matter the Committee could continue to consider ways to promote regional and interregional cooperation based on experiences stemming from the Space Conferences of the Americas, the African Leadership Conferences on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development and the role space technology could play in the implementation of recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

40. *Endorses* the decision of the Committee to grant permanent observer status to the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety;

41. *Notes* that each of the regional groups has the responsibility for actively promoting the participation in the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies of the member States of the Committee that are also members of the respective regional groups, and agrees that the regional groups should consider this Committee-related matter among their members;

42. *Notes with satisfaction* that a panel discussion on space and emergencies was held at UN Headquarters on 12 October 2010, and agrees that a panel discussion should be held at the sixty-sixth session of the GA on a topic to be selected by the Committee, taking into account the panel discussions held on climate change, food security, global health, and emergencies;

43. *Requests* the entities of the UN system, other international organizations and the SG to continue and, where appropriate, to enhance their cooperation with the Committee and to provide it with reports on the issues dealt with in the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, and to address the issues covered by the panel discussions held in conjunction with sessions of the GA;

1.5 UN DOCUMENT A/C.4/66/L.2

United Nations A/C.4/66/L.2 (very similar to previous United Nations A/RES/65/97)

Sixty-sixth Session

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Item 50 of the provisional agenda (A/66/150): International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Romania² draft resolution

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

² In its capacity as Chair of the COPUOS.

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the extraordinary achievements made over the past fifty years in human space flight and space exploration for peaceful purposes, and recalling the unique platform at the global level for international cooperation in space activities represented by the COPUOS,

18. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Sixth Space Conference of the Americas was hosted by the Government of Mexico and held in Pachuca, Mexico, from 15 to 19 November 2010, and that the Government of Mexico has assumed the pro tempore secretariat of the Conference for the period 2011-2013; that the fourth meeting of the Council of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization was held in Pattaya, Thailand, on 26 and 27 January 2011; that the Fourth African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development was hosted by the Government of Kenya and held in Mombasa, Kenya, from 26 to 28 September 2011; and that the eighteenth session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum will be jointly organized by the Government of Singapore and the Government of Japan and held in Singapore from 6 to 9 December 2011;

28. *Endorses* the decision of the Committee to grant permanent observer status to the Association of Remote Sensing Centres in the Arab World;

30. *Notes with satisfaction* that a panel discussion will be held at UN Headquarters on 11 October 2011 on the topic of the contribution of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012, with attention given to the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development and taking into account the previous panel discussions held on climate change, food security, global health and emergencies;

34. *Adopts* the Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of Human Space Flight and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the COPUOS, set forth in the Annex to the present resolution.

Annex to A/C.4/66/L.2

Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of Human Space Flight and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the COPUOS

We, the States Members of the UN, in commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of human space flight and the fiftieth anniversary of the COPUOS,

1. *Recall* the launch into outer space of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik I, on 4 October 1957, thus opening the way for space exploration;

2. *Also recall* that on 12 April 1961, Yuri Gagarin became the first human to orbit the Earth, opening a new chapter of human endeavour in outer space;

3. *Further recall* the amazing history of human presence in outer space and the remarkable achievements since the first human spaceflight, in particular Valentina Tereshkova becoming the first woman to orbit the Earth on 16 June 1963, Neil Armstrong becoming the first human to set foot upon the surface of the Moon on 20 July 1969, and the docking of the Apollo and Soyuz spacecrafts on 17 July 1975, being the first international human mission in space, and recall that for the past decade humanity has maintained a multinational permanent human presence in outer space aboard the International Space Station;

4. *Respectfully recall* that the human exploration of outer space has not been without sacrifice, and remember the men and women who have lost their lives in the pursuit of expanding humanity's frontiers;

5. *Emphasize* the significant progress in the development of space science and technology and their applications that has enabled humans to explore the universe, and the extraordinary

achievements made over the past fifty years in space exploration efforts, including deepening the understanding of the planetary system and the Sun and the Earth itself, in the use of space science and technology for the benefit of all humankind and in the development of the international legal regime governing space activities;

6. *Recall* the entry into force of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies on 10 October 1967, which establishes the fundamental principles of international space law;

7. *Also recall* the first meeting of the permanent COPUOS, convened on 27 November 1961, which facilitated the adoption of GA resolutions 1721 A to E (XVI) of 20 December 1961, including resolution 1721 A, in which the first legal principles were commended to States for their guidance in space activities, and resolution 1721 B, in which the Assembly expressed its belief that the UN should provide a focal point for international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space;

8. *Recognize* that the COPUOS, assisted by the OOSA of the Secretariat, has for the past fifty years served as a unique platform at the global level for international cooperation in space activities and that the Committee and its subsidiary bodies stand at the forefront in bringing the world together in using space science and technology to preserve the Earth and the space environment and ensure the future of human civilization;

9. *Acknowledge* that significant changes have occurred in the structure and content of the space endeavour, as reflected in the emergence of new technologies and the increasing number of actors at all levels, and therefore note with satisfaction the progress made in strengthening international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space by enhancing the capacity of States for economic, social and cultural development and by strengthening the regulatory frameworks and mechanisms to that effect;

11. *Express our firm conviction* that space science and technology and their applications, such as satellite communications, Earth observation systems and satellite navigation technologies, provide indispensable tools for viable long-term solutions for sustainable development and can contribute more effectively to efforts to promote the development of all countries and regions of the world, to improve people's lives, to conserve natural resources in a world with a growing population that places an increasing strain on all ecosystems, and to enhance the preparedness for and mitigation of the consequences of disasters;

12. *Express our deep concern* about the fragility of the space environment and the challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, in particular the impact of space debris;

13. *Stress* the need to look more closely into how advanced space research and exploration systems and technologies could further contribute to meeting challenges, including that of global climate change, and to food security and global health, and endeavour to examine how the outcomes and spin-offs of scientific research in human space flight could increase the benefits, in particular for developing countries;

14. *Emphasize* that regional and interregional cooperation in the field of space activities is essential to strengthen the peaceful uses of outer space, assist States in the development of their space capabilities and contribute to the achievement of the goals of the UN MD;

15. *Confirm* the need for closer coordination between the COPUOS and other intergovernmental bodies involved in the global development agenda of the UN, including with respect to the major UN conferences and summits for economic, social and cultural development;

16. *Call upon* all States to take measures at the national, regional, interregional and global levels to engage in the common efforts to use space science and technology and their applications to preserve planet Earth and its space environment for future generations.

1.6 UN DOCUMENT A/66/20: REPORT OF THE UN COPUOS

Refer to Chapter II: Recommendations and decisions in A/66/20.

2 SPECIAL EVENTS

The following special events took place in 2011:

- **Special presentation on “Challenges and opportunities for the sustainability of outer space” (co-organized by the Permanent Mission of Canada and Space Security Index)** on *Thursday, 13 October 2011*; contact e-mail: roxane.milot@international.gc.ca
- **Special events organized by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)** on *Wednesday, 19 October 2011*; contact Ms. Tae Takahashi, UNIDIR, e-mail: ttakahashi@unog.ch

3 SGAC WRITTEN STATEMENT TO THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT MEETING

The NGO Branch of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) accepted the contribution [8] to the 2011 High Level Segment (HLS) Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) prepared by the SGAC people working on the project Youth for Global Navigation Satellite Systems (YGNSS).

The written statement prepared by the YGNSS team was distributed to all participants of the ECOSOC High Level Segment in Geneva, July 2011. The NGO Branch congratulated SGAC on its continuous efforts to contribute to the work of the ECOSOC.

The statement was later edited and translated into the six official UN languages and can now be viewed online³ labelled with symbol E/2011/NGO/106.

United Nations E/2011/NGO/106

Substantive session of 2011

Geneva, 4-29 July 2011

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda (E/2011/100)

High-Level Segment: Annual Ministerial Review

Statement submitted by Space Generation Advisory Council, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Statement

Investment in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education has the proven ability to develop and drive a nation's economy. While space technology has become ubiquitous in society, such as the use of the Global Positioning System (GPS), many believe all space-related education and technology is an expensive endeavour reserved mainly for developed nations. While the construction of a spacecraft requires expertise and hardware resources, there are many space technology applications and data that can be valuable to the growth of developing nations. It is recommended that nations collaborate with non-governmental organizations to pursue the best STEM educational partnerships available for their citizens. The Space Generation Advisory Council in Support of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (SGAC) is focused on cultivating the next generation of space leaders and increasing awareness of the educational and societal benefits of space technology.

Within SGAC, the project Youth for Global Navigation Satellite Systems (YGNSS) aims to present to youth the benefits of global navigation satellite systems and how various such systems applications are able to benefit a nation's economy and society. Through participation in Working Group C (information dissemination and capacity-building) of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG), YGNSS has supported the educational outreach of global navigation satellite systems applications by developing a brochure on them, conference papers, and informational notices for the SGAC network. YGNSS spreads the word that global navigation satellite systems can be used for precision timing, agricultural and disaster management, and a

³ Available online (<http://documents.un.org/mother.asp>) with document symbol E/2011/NGO/106.

wide variety of items that need accurate positioning, navigation, and timing. The YGNSS group recommends that the international community continue to foster the education of global navigation satellite systems and the utilities of space technology. Young people are a key demographic in mastering tools and programmes that have stemmed from space technology and that will help improve their towns, regions and countries for years to come.

Investment in future knowledge is key. The Space Generation Advisory Council is committed to providing a network for university students and young professionals in the international space sector to collaborate and contribute their international knowledge and skills to foster development.

4 IAF GEOSS WORKSHOP REPORT⁴

Climate monitoring is based on the availability of time series of observation data, covering at least several decades, and continuity of consistent, calibrated observations, especially for the Essential Climate Variables⁵ (ECV), is the major requirement. Calibration and inter-calibration of the time series of observation data and validation of their derived products is an absolute pre-requisite for the consistency and efficient use of these data.

Satellite, airborne and in situ data are required to effectively monitor, characterize and predict changes in the Earth system, and particularly in the climate. While in situ measurements are essential and measure what cannot be measured from satellites, Earth Observation (EO) satellites are the only realistic means to obtain the necessary global coverage. With well-calibrated measurements, e.g. using in situ data, space-based sensors will become a critical contribution to global observations for climate.

Needs for climate data and information have been frequently expressed by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Parties. Both Parties and international organizations have addressed the needs and priorities in relation to observations, in particular in developing countries, as UNFCCC noted limited progress in filling in situ observation gaps in these countries. The agents involved agree that:

- Data should be:
 - Free (part of infrastructure, accessible to all): Taking into account relevant international instruments and national policies, data should be fully and openly accessible at the minimum cost and available with the minimum time delay. Data for research and education should be free or provided for the cost of reproduction.
 - Frequent (drawn from available satellite systems).
 - Useful (standardized and robust data, ready-to-use).
- It is critical that decision-makers have high confidence in the integrity of the information and in its origin. For this purpose, traceability indicators describing the information and its origin in terms of requirements, data, processing methods and models, should be defined, and benchmarking approaches should be applied.
- Transparency should be granted through data access policies in agreement with Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) Data Sharing Principles.

Finally, while UNFCCC calls for support to programmes, networks, and organizations in defining, conducting, assessing, and financing research, systematic observations and strengthening of systematic observation and research capacity (in particular in developing countries), GEOSS supports the development of observational capabilities for ECVs identified by the international scientific community affiliated with Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) as necessary to understand climate change.

⁴ Report from the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) Workshop, *Space Sensors for Climate Monitoring*, UNESCO, Paris (France), 23 March 2010. The report and the workshop agenda along with briefings can be found online:

http://www.iafastro.org/docs/2010/2010_GEOSS.pdf

[http://www.iafastro.org/index.html?title=Space Sensors for Climate Monitoring](http://www.iafastro.org/index.html?title=Space+Sensors+for+Climate+Monitoring)

⁵ The Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) ECV are based on a priority list of variables to be observed systematically, in order to properly monitor the climate change. There are 45 ECV organized in categories of atmospheric, oceanic and terrestrial (Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) Earth Observation Handbook, 2009).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

No relevant differences are observed or identified after perusal of the space-related resolutions and documents issued by the UN System between 2010 and 2011. The most remarkable statements remain virtually unchanged in this time period. For instance, the UN GA recognizes the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and reaffirms that these shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of development. Also, the growing use of outer space increases the need for greater transparency and better information on the part of the international community.

Again in 2011, the UN GA stated that it is deeply convinced of the important role that science and technology play in promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable development and that their use and applications in areas such as telemedicine, tele-education, disaster management, environmental protection and other EO applications, contribute to achieve the objectives in various aspects of economic, social and cultural development and welfare, particularly poverty eradication and mitigation of the consequences of disasters. It is necessary to continue to examine how space science and technology and their applications could contribute to achieve the UN MDG, since space tools are indispensable not only in areas linked to disasters, but also in climate change, food security, opportunities for education and global health.

In 2011, 12 April was declared as the International Day of Human Space Flight to celebrate each year at the international level the beginning of the space era for mankind, reaffirming the important contribution of space science and technology in achieving sustainable development goals and increasing the well-being of States and peoples, as well as ensuring the realization of their aspiration to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes.

We congratulate SGAC people working on the project YGNSS as their contribution [8] to the 2011 HLS AMR of the UN ECOSOC was accepted for distribution to all participants of the HLS in Geneva, July 2011. In this a written statement, the YNSS team informed the HLS AMR that SGAC “is focused on cultivating the next generation of space leaders and increasing awareness of the educational and societal benefits of space technology” and that “Within SGAC, the project YGNSS aims to present to youth the benefits of GNSS and how various such systems applications are able to benefit a nation’s economy and society”. Also, it is mentioned that “YGNSS has supported the educational outreach of GNSS applications”, that YGNSS has spread “the word that GNSS can be used for precision timing, agricultural and disaster management, and a wide variety of items that need accurate positioning, navigation, and timing”, that YGNSS has recommended “that the international community continue to foster the education of GNSS and the utilities of space technology”. Finally, the written statement informs that SGAC “is committed to providing a network for university students and young professionals in the international space sector to collaborate and contribute their international knowledge and skills to foster development”.

As per the report from the IAF GEOSS Workshop, *Space Sensors for Climate Monitoring* [9], it is worth noting that satellite data are required to effectively monitor, characterize and predict changes in the Earth system, and particularly in the climate. Earth Observation (EO) satellites are essential as they provide the only realistic means to obtain the necessary global coverage. With well-calibrated measurements, e.g. using in situ data, space-based sensors will become a critical contribution to global observations for climate.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AMR	Annual Ministerial Review
APRSAF	Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
ASG	Assistant Secretary-General
ATV	Automated Transfer Vehicle
CD	Conference on Disarmament
CEOS	Committee on Earth Observation Satellites
COPUOS	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ECV	Essential Climate Variable
EO	Earth Observation
ESA	European Space Agency
EU	European Union
GA	General Assembly
GCOS	Global Climate Observing System
GNSS	Global Navigation Satellite Systems
GEOSS	Global Earth Observation System of Systems
HLS	High Level Segment
IAF	International Astronautical Federation
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICG	International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems
ICT	International Criminal Tribunal
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
ISRO	Indian Space Research Organization
ISS	International Space Station
ISWI	International Space Weather Initiative
IYY	International Year of the Youth
LEO	Low Earth Orbit
MD	Millennium Declaration
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NLB	North Lawn Building
NYC	New York
OOSA	Office for Outer Space Affairs
R&D	Research and development
SC	Security Council
SG	Secretary-General
SPDC	Special Political and Decolonization Committee
SPIDER	Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNOV	United Nations Office at Vienna
UNU	UN University

REFERENCES

- [1] UN Document A/65/L.67: <http://documents.un.org/mother.asp>
- [2] UN Document A/RES/65/68: <http://documents.un.org/mother.asp>
- [3] UN Document A/RES/65/44: <http://documents.un.org/mother.asp>
- [4] UN Document A/RES/65/97: <http://documents.un.org/mother.asp>
- [5] UN Document A/C.4/66/L.2: <http://documents.un.org/mother.asp>
- [6] UN Document A/66/20: Report of the UN COPUOS: <http://documents.un.org/mother.asp>
- [7] UN Document A/RES/65/271: <http://documents.un.org/mother.asp>
- [8] UN Document E/2011/NGO/106 (SGAC written statement for the HLS AMR in Geneva, July 2011): <http://documents.un.org/mother.asp>
- [9] Report from the IAF GEOSS Workshop, *Space Sensors for Climate Monitoring*, UNESCO, Paris (France), 23 March 2010: http://www.iafastro.org/docs/2010/2010_GEOSS.pdf