

6. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the work of the Scientific Committee and for the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and non-governmental organizations, and invites them to increase their cooperation in this field;

8. *Invites* Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about doses, effects and risks from various sources of radiation, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports of the Scientific Committee to the General Assembly.

75th plenary meeting  
10 December 1993

#### 48/39. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 47/67 of 14 December 1992,

*Deeply convinced* of the common interest of mankind in promoting the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and in continuing efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived therefrom, and also of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations 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,

*Concerned* about the possibility of an arms race in outer space,

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

*Considering* that space debris is an issue of concern to all nations,

*Noting* the progress achieved in the further development of peaceful space exploration and application as well as in various national and cooperative<sup>4</sup> space projects, which contribute to international cooperation, and the importance of further international cooperation in this field,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General<sup>5</sup> on implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,<sup>6</sup>

*Having considered* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its thirty-sixth session,<sup>7</sup>

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

2. *Invites* States that have not yet become parties to the international treaties governing the uses of outer space<sup>8</sup> to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties;

3. *Notes* that, at its thirty-second session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in its working groups, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/67;<sup>9</sup>

4. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee that the Legal Subcommittee, at its thirty-third session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries, should:

(a) Continue, through its working group, its consideration of the question of early review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space;<sup>10</sup>

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

(c) Continue, through its working group, its consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries;

5. *Notes* that deliberations on the question of the geostationary orbit have been undertaken by the Legal Subcommittee, as reflected in its report,<sup>9</sup> on the basis of recent proposals which might provide a new and enhanced basis for future work;

6. *Endorses* the recommendations and agreements concerning the organization of work in the Legal Subcommittee;<sup>11</sup>

7. *Notes* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its thirtieth session, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/67;<sup>12</sup>

8. *Welcomes* the decision of the Committee to consider the matter of space debris, and in this regard endorses the recommendation of the Committee that a new item, entitled "Space debris", should be added to the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee beginning with its next session;

9. *Endorses* the agreement of the Committee that, under this item, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would consider scientific research relating to space debris, including relevant studies, mathematical modelling and other analytical work on the characterization of the space debris environment;

10. *Also endorses* the recommendations of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its thirty-first session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries, should:

- (a) Consider the following items on a priority basis:
  - (i) United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system;
  - (ii) Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;<sup>6</sup>
  - (iii) Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including, *inter alia*, applications for developing countries;
  - (iv) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space;
- (b) Consider the following items:
  - (i) Space debris;
  - (ii) Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space;
  - (iii) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including, *inter alia*, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries;
  - (iv) Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine;
  - (v) Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth's environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme;
  - (vi) Matters relating to planetary exploration;
  - (vii) Matters relating to astronomy;
  - (viii) The theme fixed for special attention at the 1994 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: "Space applications for disaster prevention, warning, mitigation and relief"; the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation, in liaison with Member States, should be invited to arrange a symposium, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the Subcommittee's session, to complement discussions within the Subcommittee on the special theme;

11. *Considers*, in the context of paragraph 10 (a) (ii) above, that it is particularly urgent to implement the following recommendations:

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

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

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

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

12. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should reconvene, at its thirty-first session, the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to continue its work;

13. *Also endorses* the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, as endorsed by the Committee and as contained in the report of the Working Group of the Whole;<sup>13</sup>

14. *Decides* that, during the thirty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space should be reconvened, and invites Member States to report to the Secretary-General on a regular basis with regard to national and international research concerning the safety of nuclear-powered satellites;

15. *Endorses* the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 1994, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications;<sup>14</sup>

16. *Emphasizes* the urgency and importance of implementing fully the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

17. *Reaffirms its approval* of the recommendation of the Conference regarding the establishment and strengthening of regional mechanisms of cooperation and their promotion and creation through the United Nations system;

18. *Expresses its appreciation* to all Governments that have made or expressed their intention to make contributions towards carrying out the recommendations of the Conference;

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

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

21. *Invites* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;

22. *Notes* that, pursuant to the request of the General Assembly contained in paragraph 20 of its resolution 47/67, the Committee discussed the possibility of holding a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the future, and requests the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to continue these discussions at its thirty-first session with a view to promoting an early conclusion on the matter by the Committee;

23. *Agrees* that the most important step is to define a set of sharply focused objectives for such a conference and that details such as organization, venue, timing and funding should also be considered;

24. *Notes* that the goals set for such a conference might also be achieved through other means, including intensification of work within the Committee;

25. *Recognizes* the contribution of the Second Space Conference of the Americas, held at Santiago in 1993, and the Asia-Pacific Workshop on Multilateral Cooperation in Space Technology and Applications, held at Beijing in 1992, towards promoting regional cooperation in space activities, as well as the meetings mentioned in paragraph 13 of the report of the Secretary-General<sup>5</sup> on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and calls upon the regional commissions to support these initiatives;

26. *Recommends* that more attention be paid to all aspects related to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment;

27. *Considers* that it is essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including 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, and also considers that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee;

28. *Takes note with interest* of the analytical report prepared by the Secretariat<sup>15</sup> on the role that the Committee could play in view of the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and agrees that it could make an important contribution to the Committee's future work in this area;

29. *Requests* the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to review the report at its next session and consider further how the Committee might best promote the effective use of space technology, on the basis of international cooperation, for environmental monitoring and sustainable development;

30. *Requests* the Secretariat to provide the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee with updated information on the implementation of Agenda 21<sup>16</sup> by the United Nations system, with information on activities of the United Nations Programme

on Space Applications related to environment and development, and with suggestions as to how the activities of the Programme on Space Applications in this area might be expanded;

31. *Recommends* that permanent observer status to the Committee be granted to the Association of Space Explorers, on the understanding that, in accordance with the agreement of the Committee at its thirty-third session concerning observer status for non-governmental organizations,<sup>17</sup> the Association would apply for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;

32. *Notes* that, in accordance with the decisions of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General, the Office for Outer Space Affairs has been relocated to the United Nations Office at Vienna and that, as part of that restructuring, the Office for Outer Space Affairs will be responsible for servicing the Committee, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee and their subsidiary bodies;

33. *Endorses* the agreement of the Committee that the meetings of the Committee and of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should be held at Vienna in accordance with the headquarters rule contained in General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, that the thirty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee should be held at Vienna and that the venue for its subsequent meetings should be reviewed in the light of the 1994 session;

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

35. *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 the socio-economic advancement of humanity, in particular that of the peoples of the developing countries;

36. *Takes note* of the views expressed during the thirty-sixth session of the Committee and during the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly concerning ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes;

37. *Requests* the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;

38. *Also requests* the Committee to continue to consider, at its thirty-seventh session, its agenda item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status";

39. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other international organizations to continue and, where appropriate, enhance their cooperation with the Committee and to provide it with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;

40. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in space activities for enhancing security in the post-cold-war era<sup>18</sup> and calls upon the competent bodies to take into account its contents;

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

75th plenary meeting  
10 December 1993

**48/40. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East**

**A**

**ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINE REFUGEES**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 47/69 A of 14 December 1992 and all its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948,

*Taking note* of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993,<sup>19</sup> and, in particular, of the hope expressed by the Commissioner-General "that this report covers an era which is gone forever",

*Welcoming* the signature by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, including its Annexes and its Agreed Minutes, at Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993,<sup>20</sup>

1. *Notes with regret* that repatriation or compensation of the refugees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), has not yet been effected and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continues to be a matter of concern;

2. *Expresses its thanks* to the Commissioner-General and to all the staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, recognizing that the Agency is doing all it can within the limits of available resources, and also expresses its thanks to the specialized agencies and to private organizations for their valuable work in assisting the refugees;

3. *Requests* that the headquarters of the Agency be transferred as soon as practicable to its area of operations;

4. *Notes with regret* that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has been unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III),<sup>21</sup> and requests the Commission to exert continued efforts towards the implementation of that paragraph and to report to the Assembly as appropriate, but no later than 1 September 1994;

5. *Notes* that the new context created by the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government, including its Annexes and its Agreed Minutes, signed by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization will have major consequences for the activities of the Agency, which is

henceforth called upon, within the framework of strengthened cooperation with the specialized agencies and the World Bank, to make a decisive contribution towards giving a fresh impetus to the economic and social stability of the occupied territories, and notes also that the functioning of the Agency remains essential throughout its area of operations;

6. *Welcomes* the results of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, held in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993, concerning urgent financial and economic assistance in support of the Israeli-Palestinian accord, and urges all Member States to extend aid and assistance with a view to the economic development of the occupied territories;

7. *Directs attention* to the continuing seriousness of the financial position of the Agency, as outlined in the report of the Commissioner-General;

8. *Notes with profound concern* that, despite the commendable and successful efforts of the Commissioner-General to collect additional contributions, the increased level of income to the Agency is still insufficient to cover essential budget requirements in the current year and that, at the currently foreseen levels of contributions, deficits will recur each year;

9. *Calls upon* all Governments, as a matter of urgency, to make the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the Agency, and therefore urges non-contributing Governments to contribute regularly and contributing Governments to consider increasing their regular contributions.

75th plenary meeting  
10 December 1993

**B**

**WORKING GROUP ON THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 2656 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2728 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, 2791 (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, 47/69 B of 14 December 1992 and the previous resolutions on this question,

*Recalling also* its decision 36/462 of 16 March 1982, by which it took note of the special report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,<sup>22</sup>

*Having considered* the report of the Working Group,<sup>23</sup>

*Taking into account* the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993,<sup>19</sup>

*Deeply concerned* about the critical financial situation of the Agency, which has affected and affects the continuation of the provision of the necessary Agency services to the Palestine refugees, including the emergency-related programmes,

*Emphasizing* the continuing need for extraordinary efforts in order to maintain, at least at the current minimum level, the