

1. *Commends* the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution it has been making in the course of the past thirty-three years, since its inception, to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of atomic radiation and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgement;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the continued and growing scientific co-operation between the Scientific Committee and the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important co-ordinating activities, to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources;

4. *Endorses* the Scientific Committee's intentions and plans for its future activities of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly;

5. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue at its next session the review of the important problems in the field of radiation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the Scientific Committee's work 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 co-operation 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 the Scientific Committee's future reports to the General Assembly.

*71st plenary meeting  
6 December 1988*

#### **43/56. International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 42/68 of 2 December 1987,

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Taking note also* of the report of the Secretary-General<sup>4</sup> on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,<sup>5</sup>

*Having considered* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its thirty-first session,<sup>6</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>7</sup> to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties;

3. *Notes* that the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its twenty-seventh session, in its working groups, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/68;<sup>8</sup>

4. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Legal Sub-Committee at its twenty-eighth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries, should:

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

(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) Consider 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. *Urges* the Legal Sub-Committee at its twenty-eighth session, in the context of paragraph 4 (c) above, to pursue, with a view to finalizing, its consideration of the question

<sup>4</sup> A/43/562.

<sup>5</sup> See *Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 9-21 August 1982 (A/CONF.101/10 and Corr.1 and 2)*.

<sup>6</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/43/20)*.

<sup>7</sup> Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 2222 (XXI), annex); Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 2345 (XXII), annex); Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex); Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex); Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 34/68, annex).

<sup>8</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/43/20), sect. C.*

of the establishment of a working group under this agenda item in order to ensure a satisfactory outcome of the substantive deliberations under this item;

6. Notes that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its twenty-fifth session continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/68;<sup>9</sup>

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

- (a) Consider the following items on a priority basis:
  - (i) United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the co-ordination of space activities within the United Nations system;
  - (ii) Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;
  - (iii) Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites including, *inter alia*, applications for developing countries;
  - (iv) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space;
- (b) Consider the following items:
  - (i) Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space;
  - (ii) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its 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;
  - (iii) Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine;
  - (iv) Progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme; the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation should be invited to present reports and arrange a special presentation on this subject;
  - (v) Matters relating to planetary exploration;
  - (vi) Matters relating to astronomy;
  - (vii) The theme fixed for the special attention of the 1989 session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee: "Space technology as an instrument for combating environmental problems, particularly those of developing countries" (the theme relates to problems such as desertification, deforestation, floods, erosion and pest infestation that are of particular interest to developing countries); the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation should be invited to arrange a symposium, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the Sub-Committee's session, after the adjournment of its meetings, to complement discussions within the Sub-Committee;

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

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

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

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

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

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

10. Endorses the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole, as endorsed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and as contained in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report of the Working Group of the Whole;<sup>10</sup>

11. Endorses the decision of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to consider at its thirty-second session the advisability of the General Assembly declaring 1992 as international space year, as well as its request that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee consider recommendations regarding possible activities that might be undertaken during an international space year, including those of interest for developing countries, taking note of the major contributions of the relevant international organizations planning an international space year;

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

13. Endorses the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 1989, as proposed to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space by the Expert on Space Applications;<sup>11</sup>

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

15. Reaffirms its approval of the recommendation of the Conference regarding the establishment and strengthening of regional mechanisms of co-operation and their

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, sect. B.

<sup>10</sup> A/AC.105/409 and Corr.1, annex II.

<sup>11</sup> A/AC.105/396 and Corr.1, sect. III.

promotion and creation through the United Nations system;

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

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

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

19. *Takes note* of the views expressed and documents circulated during the thirty-first session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and during the forty-third session of the General Assembly concerning ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes;

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

21. *Requests* the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to consider at its thirty-second session a new agenda item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status";

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

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

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference;

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

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

71st plenary meeting  
6 December 1988

#### 43/57. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

A

##### ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINE REFUGEES

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 42/69 A of 2 December 1987 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 1987 to 30 June 1988,<sup>12</sup>

1. *Notes with deep regret* that repatriation or compensation of the refugees as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) has not been effected, that no substantial progress has been made in the programme endorsed by the Assembly in paragraph 2 of its resolution 513 (VI) of 26 January 1952 for the reintegration of refugees either by repatriation or resettlement and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continues to be a matter of serious 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 private organizations for their valuable work in assisting the refugees;

3. *Reiterates its request* that the headquarters of the Agency should be relocated to its former site within its area of operations as soon as practicable;

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>13</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 1989;

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

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

7. *Calls upon* all Governments, as a matter of urgency, to make the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the Agency, particularly in the light of the budgetary deficit projected in the report of the Commissioner-General, and therefore urges non-contributing Governments to contribute regularly and contributing Governments to consider increasing their regular contributions.

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<sup>12</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 13 and addendum (A/43/13 and Add.1).

<sup>13</sup> See A/43/582, annex.