

## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

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**2776 (XXVI). International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 2733 (XXV) of 16 December 1970,

*Having considered* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,<sup>1</sup>

*Reaffirming* the common interest of mankind in furthering the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

*Continuing to believe* that the benefits deriving from space exploration can be extended to States at all stages of economic and scientific development if Member States conduct their space programmes in a manner designed to promote maximum international co-operation, including the widest possible exchange of information in this field,

<sup>1</sup>Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/8420).

*Convinced* of the need for continued international efforts to promote practical applications of space technology,

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

2. *Invites* States which have not yet become parties to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies and the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space to give early consideration to ratifying or acceding to those agreements so that they may have the broadest possible effect;

3. *Reiterates* the importance of the goal of making satellite communications available to States on a worldwide and non-discriminatory basis, as expressed in General Assembly resolution 1721 D (XVI) of 20 December 1961;

4. *Takes note* of the agreements relating to space communications recently concluded between a number of States and of the desirability of keeping the United Nations currently informed concerning activities and developments in this field;

5. *Notes* the action taken by the International Telecommunication Union, through the World Administrative Radio Conference for Space Telecommunications held in June and July 1971, to allocate frequencies and to adopt administrative procedures for all kinds of space communications, and recommends that the Union and its specialized bodies, as well as the members of the Union, should apply these provisions with a view to promoting the use of space communications for the benefit of all countries in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

6. *Welcomes* the progress achieved by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in its efforts to encourage international programmes to promote practical applications of space technology for the benefit of all countries and commends to the attention of Member States, specialized agencies and interested United Nations bodies the programme contained in the report of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee;<sup>2</sup>

7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the valuable work carried out by the Secretary-General within the framework of the programme for promoting the application of space technology in accordance with the relevant recommendations of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and resolutions of the General Assembly;

8. *Endorses* the resolution contained in paragraph 15 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and recommends the continuation and development of the programme for promoting the practical applications of space technology taking into account the needs of the developing countries;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts of a number of Member States to share with other interested Member States the practical benefits that may be derived from programmes in space technology;

10. *Welcomes* the progress achieved in international co-operation among Member States in space research and exploration, including the exchange and analysis of lunar material on a broad international

basis and studies of the development of compatible rendezvous and docking systems for manned spacecraft;

11. *Welcomes also* the action of a number of States and of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in promoting international co-operation in education and training in the peaceful uses of outer space and endorses the appeal made to other States by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for similar contributions to international education and training in this field;

12. *Approves* continuing sponsorship by the United Nations of the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in India and the CELPA Mar del Plata Station in Argentina, expresses its satisfaction at the work being carried out at these ranges in relation to the use of sounding rocket facilities for international co-operation and training in the peaceful and scientific exploration of outer space, and recommends that Member States continue to give consideration to the use of these facilities for appropriate space research activities;

13. *Welcomes* the efforts of Member States to keep the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space fully informed of their space activities and invites all Member States to do so;

14. *Notes* that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1721 B (XVI) of 20 December 1961, the Secretary-General continues to maintain a public registry of objects launched into orbit or beyond on the basis of information furnished by Member States;

15. *Takes note with appreciation* of the activities of the World Meteorological Organization during the past year, as reported to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,<sup>3</sup> in particular the measures taken in implementation of General Assembly resolution 2733 D (XXV) recommending that the World Meteorological Organization mobilize technical resources in order to discover ways and means of mitigating the harmful effects and destructive potential of tropical storms;

16. *Takes note* of the programmes currently being undertaken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Telecommunication Union in satellite broadcasting for the purpose of contributing to the advancement of education and training, and draws attention to the fact that questions relating to the legal implications of space communications are also on the agenda of the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, with which the two agencies should co-ordinate their activities in this field;

17. *Requests* the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency to continue, as appropriate, to provide the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with progress reports on their work relating to the peaceful uses of outer space and to examine and report to the Committee on the particular problems which arise or may arise from the use of outer space in the fields within their competence and which should, in their opinion, be brought to the attention of the Committee;

18. *Endorses* the recommendations contained in paragraph 38 of the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space concerning the future work of its Legal Sub-Committee;

<sup>2</sup> A/AC.105/95 and Corr.1, sect. I.

<sup>3</sup> See A/AC.105/PV.100.

19. *Requests* the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to continue its work as set out in the present resolution and in previous resolutions of the General Assembly and to report to the Assembly at its twenty-seventh session.

*1998th plenary meeting,  
29 November 1971.*

## 2777 (XXVI). Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the importance of international co-operation in the field of the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, and of promoting the law in this new field of human endeavour,

*Desiring* that the rights and obligations pertaining to liability for damage as laid down in the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies should be elaborated in a separate international instrument,

*Recalling* its resolutions 1963 (XVIII) of 13 December 1963, 2130 (XX) of 21 December 1965, 2222 (XXI) of 19 December 1966, 2345 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2453 B (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, 2601 B (XXIV) of 16 December 1969 and 2733 B (XXV) of 16 December 1970 concerning the elaboration of an agreement on the liability for damage caused by the launching of objects into outer space,

*Recalling also* that in resolution 2733 B (XXV) it urged the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to reach early agreement on a draft convention on liability, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session, embodying the principles of a full measure of compensation to victims and effective procedures which would lead to prompt and equitable settlement of claims,

*Having considered* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,<sup>4</sup>

*Taking note with appreciation* of the work accomplished by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and in particular that of its Legal Subcommittee,

1. *Commends* the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the depositary governments to open the Convention for signature and ratification at the earliest possible date;

3. *Notes* that any State may, on becoming a party to the Convention, declare that it will recognize as binding, in relation to any other State accepting the same obligation, the decision of the Claims Commission concerning any dispute to which it may become a party;

4. *Expresses its hope* for the widest possible adherence to this Convention.

*1998th plenary meeting,  
29 November 1971.*

## ANNEX

### Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects

*The States Parties to this Convention,*

*Recognizing* the common interest of all mankind in furthering the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

*Recalling* the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,

*Taking into consideration* that, notwithstanding the precautionary measures to be taken by States and international intergovernmental organizations involved in the launching of space objects, damage may on occasion be caused by such objects,

*Recognizing* the need to elaborate effective international rules and procedures concerning liability for damage caused by space objects and to ensure, in particular, the prompt payment under the terms of this Convention of a full and equitable measure of compensation to victims of such damage,

*Believing* that the establishment of such rules and procedures will contribute to the strengthening of international co-operation in the field of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

*Have agreed* on the following:

#### ARTICLE I

For the purposes of this Convention:

(a) The term "damage" means loss of life, personal injury or other impairment of health; or loss of or damage to property of States or of persons, natural or juridical, or property of international intergovernmental organizations;

(b) The term "launching" includes attempted launching;

(c) The term "launching State" means:

(i) A State which launches or procures the launching of a space object;

(ii) A State from whose territory or facility a space object is launched;

(d) The term "space object" includes component parts of a space object as well as its launch vehicle and parts thereof.

#### ARTICLE II

A launching State shall be absolutely liable to pay compensation for damage caused by its space object on the surface of the earth or to aircraft in flight.

#### ARTICLE III

In the event of damage being caused elsewhere than on the surface of the earth to a space object of one launching State or to persons or property on board such a space object by a space object of another launching State, the latter shall be liable only if the damage is due to its fault or the fault of persons for whom it is responsible.

#### ARTICLE IV

1. In the event of damage being caused elsewhere than on the surface of the earth to a space object of one launching State or to persons or property on board such a space object by a space object of another launching State, and of damage thereby being caused to a third State or to its natural or juridical persons, the first two States shall be jointly and severally liable to the third State, to the extent indicated by the following:

(a) If the damage has been caused to the third State on the surface of the earth or to aircraft in flight, their liability to the third State shall be absolute;

(b) If the damage has been caused to a space object of the third State or to persons or property on board that space object elsewhere than on the surface of the earth, their liability to the third State shall be based on the fault of either of the first two States or on the fault of persons for whom either is responsible.

<sup>4</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/8420).