

derstanding 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 intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for its future activities of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly;

5. *Also 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-fifth session;

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 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 future reports of the Scientific Committee to the General Assembly.

78th plenary meeting
8 December 1989

44/46. International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 43/56 of 6 December 1988,

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 socio-

economic advancement of mankind, in particular that of the peoples of developing countries,

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 co-operative space projects, which contribute to international co-operation in this field,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General⁴ on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,⁵

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its thirty-second session,⁶

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 space⁷ to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties;

3. *Notes* that, at its twenty-eighth session, the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in its working groups, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in resolution 43/56;⁸

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

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

(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 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. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Legal Sub-Committee on the method of work concerning the agenda item referred to in paragraph 4 (c) above, and notes that the working group will be established in 1990 and convened in 1991 in accordance with paragraph 53 (c) of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee;

⁴ A/44/469.

⁵ 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).

⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/44/20)*.

⁷ 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).

⁸ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/44/20), sect. II.C.*

6. *Calls upon* Member States to respond promptly to the requests issued by the Secretary-General in connection with paragraphs 53 (a) and (b) of the report of the Legal Sub-Committee;

7. *Notes* that, at its twenty-sixth session, the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in resolution 43/56;⁹

8. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, at its twenty-seventh 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 special attention at the 1990 session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee: "The use of space technology in terrestrial search and rescue and in disaster relief activities"; 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;

9. *Considers*, in the context of paragraph 8 (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;

10. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should reconvene, at its twenty-seventh 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;

11. *Also endorses* the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole, as endorsed by the Committee and as contained in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the report of the Working Group of the Whole;¹⁰

12. *Decides* that, during the twenty-seventh 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 Sub-Committee;

13. *Endorses* the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 1990, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications,¹¹ and urges all States to make voluntary contributions to the Programme in order to enhance its effectiveness;

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 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. *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;

⁹ *Ibid.*, sect. II.B.

¹⁰ A/AC.105/429, annex II.

¹¹ See A/AC.105/421, sect. I.

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

20. *Endorses* the initiative of international scientific organizations and bodies to designate 1992 as International Space Year;

21. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that international co-operation should be promoted through the International Space Year, which should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries, and that, in that context, the training and educational capabilities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should be utilized to bring about a meaningful role for the United Nations, through voluntary contributions by Member States and without any impact on the regular budget of the United Nations or the existing programme of work of the Programme;

22. *Recommends* that more attention should 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;

23. *Considers* that it is essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions with space debris and other aspects of space debris, and calls for the continuation of national research on that question;

24. *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 uses of outer space for peaceful purposes;

25. *Takes note* of the views expressed and documents circulated during the thirty-second session of the Committee and during the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly concerning ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes;

26. *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-fifth session;

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

28. *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;

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

30. *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-fifth session, including its views on which subjects should be studied in the future.

44/47. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

A

ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINE REFUGEES

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 43/57 A of 6 December 1988 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 1988 to 30 June 1989,¹²

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),¹³ 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 1990;

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;

¹² Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 13 and corrigendum and addendum (A/44/13 and Corr.1 and Add.1).

¹³ See A. 44/497, annex.