

economic and social development, respect for human rights and many other aspects of civilization and culture,

Considering also that political and economic decisions have a decisive effect on the direction of scientific research and the use of the results obtained thereby,

Affirming that it is necessary to promote greater awareness among scientists world wide of the usefulness of science to increase international peace, security and co-operation, the social and economic development of mankind, the promotion of human rights and the protection of the environment,

Affirming, in particular, the need for scientists to establish a free and open dialogue between one another, and with political leaders and the public in general, with regard to scientific developments and their present and potential implications for our civilization,

Considering the importance of encouraging scientists to work towards constructive objectives, to improve the climate for arms control and disarmament, and to promote a dialogue on important topics in connection with the positive contributions that scientific knowledge can make to peace, security and ecological balance,

Considering also that the celebration each year of a special week of action devoted to the topic "Science and peace" is an important means of generating and increasing public interest in this topic,

Noting with appreciation the joint efforts made by scientists and members of other professional groups to promote the achievement of those aims through the holding of the First International Week of Scientists for Peace from 10 to 16 November 1986 and every year since then during the week in which 11 November falls,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General on the observance of the International Week of Science and Peace in 1989 and the wide variety of activities that took place in connection with this event;²

2. *Urges* Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to encourage universities and other institutions of advanced study, scientific academies and institutes, and professional associations and individuals in the scientific community to hold, during that Week, lectures, seminars, special debates and other activities conducive to the study and dissemination of information on the links between progress in science and technology and the maintenance of peace and security;

3. *Urges* Member States to promote international co-operation among scientists by facilitating exchanges of experts and information;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to draw the attention of Member States and interested organizations to the importance of the International Week of Science and Peace and invite them to report to him on their activities and initiatives in connection with this event, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

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11 December 1990

² A/45/601, sect. II.

45/71. Effects of atomic radiation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, including resolution 44/45 of 8 December 1989, in which, *inter alia*, it requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation,³

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which man is exposed,

Conscious of the continued need to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on man and his environment,

Bearing in mind the decision of the Scientific Committee to submit, as soon as the relevant studies are completed, shorter reports with supporting scientific documents on the specialized topics mentioned by the Committee,⁴

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-five 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 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-sixth 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;

³ A/45/319.

⁴ A/38/142, para. 5

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.

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45/72. International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/46 of 8 December 1989,

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-General⁵ on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,⁶

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its thirty-third session,⁷

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 space⁸ to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties;

3. *Notes* that, at its twenty-ninth 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 44/46;⁹

4. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee that the Legal Sub-Committee, at its thirtieth 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 with the aim of finalizing the draft set of principles;

(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. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee concerning the organization of work in the Legal Sub-Committee;

6. *Notes* that, at its twenty-seventh 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 its resolution 44/46;¹⁰

7. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, at its twenty-eighth 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;

⁸ 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).

⁹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/45/20)*, sect. II.C.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, sect. II.B.

⁵ A/45/589.

⁶ 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)*.

⁷ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/45/20)*.