

Fourth Committee of the General Assembly at its Sixty-ninth Session  
Item 49: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

BACKGROUND STATEMENT ON DRAFT RESOLUTION  
A/C.4/69/L.2

By  
CHAIR OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE WHOLE

Distinguished Delegates,

The draft omnibus resolution **A/C.4/69/L.2** before you follows the same structure as last year's resolution 68/75. A non-paper by the Secretariat has been circulated with proposed amendments to last year's resolution marked in track changes. I will now present this draft resolution and concentrate on the main updates.

The draft omnibus resolution this year follows the same enhanced format as was successfully introduced since 2009, and contains several improvements from earlier resolutions. Several paragraphs of the draft amendment to last year's resolution 68/75 on activities and achievements of the Committee and related to the use of space applications for global development, which will be reviewed by our working group, are grouped together in order to make the text of the resolution more clear, focused and easy to follow.

Distinguished Delegates,

The Preamble remains mainly the same as in last year's resolution with some substantive changes, including the following:

**Preambular paragraph 1** has been updated with references to previous resolutions. Resolution 68/50 on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities has been added in view of the mandates given through that resolution which concern the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

In **preambular paragraph 2** the former text has been made more clear and substantive. The main part of the proposed new text is taken verbatim from paragraph 5 of the Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of Human Space Flight and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as contained in the annex to Assembly resolution 66/71. Elements from last year's resolution have been retained and combined with the new text to make this first substantive preambular paragraph of this year's resolution an overall introduction to the outer space agenda.

In **preambular paragraph 9** there has been added elements also taken from the 2011 Declaration (resolution 67/71, para. 11) in order to make this paragraph more substantive. This is made in order to obtain a better explanation to why space tools are important for the global development processes.

Likewise, **preambular paragraph 10** and earlier 11 have been combined to make the disaster management perspectives more unified in the Preamble. **Preambular paragraph 11** has also been made more clear.

Distinguished Delegates,

The operative part of the draft resolution is clustered in six main parts:

CLUSTER I deals with the agendas of the Committee and its two Subcommittees (paragraphs 1-7);

CLUSTER II deals with main activities and achievements of the Committee (paragraphs 8-13);

CLUSTER III deals with the trust fund of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the UN Programme on Space Applications, UN-SPIDER and ICG (paragraphs 14-17);

CLUSTER IV deals with the Regional Centres, and regional and inter-regional cooperation and coordination (paragraphs 18-21);

CLUSTER V deals with benefits of space applications in meeting global agendas for development, including inter-agency coordination of space activities (paragraphs 22-26); and

CLUSTER VI deals with administrative and procedural matters of the Committee, including composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its Subcommittees for the period 2014-2015 and membership and observer status (paragraphs 27-32).

Distinguished Delegates,

I will now guide you through the proposed changes to the operative paragraphs.

**Operative paragraphs 1-7** have been updated to reflect this year's reports of the Committee and its Subcommittees and have not been changed in substance.

**Operative paragraph 8** on the Near-Earth object (NEO) recommendations has been updated and certain important elements have been added. Since the NEO-recommendations were welcomed last year, we needed to revise this particular operative paragraph, and we chose to add important substantive elements of interest to all countries. For comparison see STSC report A/AC.105/1065, paras. 163 and 167.

**Operative paragraph 12** is not changed in substance, only moved. The reason is to give this important long-standing paragraph a better placement in the resolution, and also to lead in to the new **operative paragraph 13** which is entirely new this year and with substance taken from the COPUOS report A/69/20, paras. 372-373. This mandate on the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities given by the Committee is important for the consideration under the item "Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes".

**Operative paragraphs 14-17** have been updated, strengthened, and made more clear. There was a need to modernize operative paragraph 16 on UN-SPIDER and in operative paragraph 15 we have made more clear why States should contribute to activities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. In operative paragraph 17 we have made a regular update on the annual ICG meeting, but also referred to the role of the ICG executive secretariat.

**Operative paragraphs 18-21** bring attention to the important work of the Regional Centres on Space Science and Technology Education, affiliated to the United Nations. This cluster of paragraphs also brings to attention the overarching importance of major regional cooperation and coordination mechanisms. The central role of these initiatives and mechanisms, as a whole, is clearly being retained in this year's draft resolution.

**Operative paragraphs 22-26** cover efforts of the Committee in meeting the global development agenda and modifications have been made from last year's resolution to keep the message as clear and focused as possible. In **operative paragraph 23 and 24** we have used elements from the COPUOS report (A/69/20) paras. 303 and 304. The request to OOSA as articulated in **operative paragraph 25** is needed for the Office's activities in this context, and the role of UN-Space, as addressed in **operative paragraph 26**, is equally important in view of actions under that coordination mechanism, with due regard to the mandates of different United Nations entities.

In connection with **operative paragraph 27**, the model used for reflecting nominations is similar to resolution 67/113 from 2012 (paras. 27-29 in that past resolution) and is needed to establish the procedures correctly by using the agreed administrative model from the past when we had a similar situation with recorded and pending nominations for the bureux.

I would like to recall for your information the following nominations covered by the draft resolution as endorsed by the respective regional groups for the period 2016-2017:

- Mr. David Kendall of Canada, to serve as Chair of the Committee, as noted by the Committee at its fifty-seventh session;
- Mr. Vinay Kumar Dadhwal of India and Ms. Chikai Mukai of Japan, to serve as Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for 2016 and 2017 respectively, as communicated to all States members of the Committee in Note verbal OOSA/2014/11 of 15 September 2014; and
- Mr. Hellmut Lagos Koller of Chile, to serve as the Chair of the Legal Subcommittee, as noted by the Committee at its fifty-seventh session.

In **operative paragraph 30** the Assembly decides that Luxembourg shall become a member of the Committee, and in **operative paragraph 31**, the Assembly endorses the recommendation of the Committee to grant permanent observer status to the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment. The same model is used as in past resolutions.

In **operative paragraph 32**, the word "active" has been inserted in order to emphasize the desirability of enhanced participation in the work of the Committee.

Distinguished Delegates,

This concludes my review of draft resolution A/C.4/69/L.2. I thank you for your attention.