



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fifth session

Agenda item 51

### **International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space**

#### **Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)**

*Rapporteur:* Mr. Jassim Sayar **Al-Maawda** (Qatar)

#### **I. Introduction**

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2020, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-fifth session the item entitled “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space” and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).
2. The Fourth Committee considered the item during its joint general debate on agenda items 50 to 61 at its 2nd to 9th meetings, from 14 to 16 and on 20, 22 and 23 October and on 3 and 4 November 2020. The Committee took action on item 51 at its 9th meeting, on 4 November. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee’s consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.<sup>1</sup>
3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the decisions and actions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee taken by written procedure ([A/75/20](#)).
4. At its 1st meeting, on 8 October, the Committee decided to establish a Working Group of the Whole on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, to prepare proposals to be submitted under the item.
5. At the 2nd meeting, on 14 October, the Committee elected Marius-Ioan Piso (Romania) as Chair of the Working Group of the Whole on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.
6. Taking into account the prevailing conditions relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the working arrangements of the Fourth Committee at the

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<sup>1</sup> [A/C.4/75/SR.2](#), [A/C.4/75/SR.3](#), [A/C.4/75/SR.4](#), [A/C.4/75/SR.5](#), [A/C.4/75/SR.6](#), [A/C.4/75/SR.7](#), [A/C.4/75/SR.8](#) and [A/C.4/75/SR.9](#).



seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly and the available technological and procedural solutions, the Committee held an informal virtual meeting on 12 October 2020 (see annex).

## **II. Consideration of draft resolution [A/C.4/75/L.5](#)**

7. At the 16th meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Romania, on behalf of the Chair of the Working Group of the Whole, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Continuity of the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies” ([A/C.4/75/L.5](#)).

8. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

9. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.4/75/L.5](#) without a vote (see para. 10).

### III. Recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

10. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

#### **Continuity of the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution [74/82](#) of 13 December 2019,

*Expressing concern* that the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic presents a grave threat to human health and well-being and that it has had unprecedented and multifaceted effects,

*Recalling* that the regular annual cycle of sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees was disrupted in 2020 owing to the pandemic,

*Having considered* the decisions and actions by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee taken by written procedure,<sup>1</sup>

1. *Endorses* the decisions and actions by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee taken by written procedure;

2. *Agrees* that the Committee, at its sixty-fourth session, in 2021, should consider the substantive items and convene the working group recommended by the Committee,<sup>2</sup> including holding intersessional consultations as necessary, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

3. *Also agrees* that the Legal Subcommittee, at its sixtieth session, in 2021, should consider the substantive items and reconvene the working groups recommended by the Committee,<sup>3</sup> including holding intersessional consultations as necessary, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

4. *Notes* that, at its fifty-seventh session, in 2020, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continued its work,<sup>4</sup> as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution [74/82](#);

5. *Agrees* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fifty-eighth session, in 2021, should consider the substantive items and reconvene the working groups recommended by the Committee,<sup>5</sup> including holding intersessional consultations as necessary, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries;

6. *Notes* that, in accordance with the agreement reached by the Committee at its forty-sixth session on the measures relating to the future composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies,<sup>6</sup> on the basis of the measures

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/75/20).*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 32 and 37.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 28–29; see also para. 11.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 18, see also [A/AC.105/1224](#).

<sup>5</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/75/20)*, paras. 22–23; see also [A/AC.105/1224](#).

<sup>6</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/58/20)*, annex II, paras. 5–9.

relating to the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies,<sup>7</sup> the Eastern European States have nominated their candidate for the office of Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur of the Committee for the period 2022–2023;<sup>8</sup>

7. *Urges* the African States, the Asia-Pacific States, the Latin American and Caribbean States and the Western European and other States to nominate their candidates for the offices of Chair of the Legal Subcommittee, Chair of the Committee, Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and First Vice-Chair of the Committee, respectively, for the period 2022–2023, before the next session of the Committee, to be held in 2021.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/52/20)*, annex I; and *ibid.*, *Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/58/20)*, annex II, appendix III.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/75/20)*, para. 35.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 36.

**Annex****Informal virtual meeting of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)**

1. On 12 October 2020, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) held an informal virtual meeting convened by the Chair of the Fourth Committee (Botswana) on agenda item 51.
  2. At the meeting, the representative of Romania, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, introduced the document containing the decisions and actions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee taken by written procedure ([A/75/20](#)).
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