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General and complete disarmament: transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities

Australia, Japan, Malawi, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: revised draft resolution

Advancing transparency and confidence-building measures for outer space activities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [60/66](#) of 8 December 2005, [61/75](#) of 6 December 2006, [62/43](#) of 5 December 2007, [63/68](#) of 2 December 2008, [64/49](#) of 2 December 2009, [65/68](#) of 8 December 2010, [68/50](#) of 5 December 2013, [69/38](#) of 2 December 2014, [70/53](#) of 7 December 2015, [71/42](#) of 5 December 2016, [71/90](#) of 6 December 2016, [72/56](#) of 4 December 2017 and [73/72](#) of 5 December 2018, as well as its decision 66/517 of 2 December 2011,

Recalling also the report of the Secretary-General of 15 October 1993 to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, the annex to which contains the study by governmental experts on the application of confidence-building measures in outer space,¹

Reaffirming the right of all countries to explore and use outer space in accordance with international law,

Reaffirming also that promoting stability and security in outer space is in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and is an essential condition for the promotion and strengthening of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Noting the desire of all countries to reduce the risk to space-system operations in order to create the conditions for a safe, stable and operationally sustainable space environment,

Recalling, in this context, its resolutions [45/55 B](#) of 4 December 1990 and [48/74 B](#) of 16 December 1993, in which, inter alia, it recognized the need for

¹ [A/48/305](#) and [A/48/305/Corr.1](#).



increased transparency and confirmed the importance of confidence-building measures,

Noting the constructive debates that the Conference on Disarmament has held on this subject and the views expressed by Member States,

Welcoming the discussions in 2018 in the working group of the Disarmament Commission on the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, with the goal of the prevention of an arms race in outer space,²

Recognizing that the work within the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and its Legal Subcommittee, including the promotion of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, has a fundamental role to play in enhancing transparency and confidence-building among States and in ensuring that outer space is maintained for peaceful purposes,

Welcoming the adoption by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space of the preamble and 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities,³

Noting the contribution of Member States that have submitted to the Secretary-General concrete proposals on international outer space transparency and confidence-building measures pursuant to paragraph 1 of resolution 61/75, paragraph 2 of resolution 62/43, paragraph 2 of resolution 63/68 and paragraph 2 of resolution 64/49,

Welcoming the work done in 2012 and 2013 by the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities, which was convened by the Secretary-General, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, to conduct a study on outer space transparency and confidence-building measures,

Recalling the consideration of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts,⁴ as well as views on the modalities of making practical use of the recommendations contained therein, as set out in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifty-eighth session, held in 2015,⁵ at which it found that the Committee had a fundamental role to play in enhancing transparency and confidence-building among States, as well as in ensuring that outer space is maintained for peaceful purposes,

Recalling also that, in its report, the Group of Governmental Experts recognized the value of the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in developing a set of voluntary, non-legally binding guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, some of which could be considered as potential transparency and confidence-building measures, while others could enhance the safety of outer space activities and thereby provide the technical basis for the further implementation of additional transparency and confidence-building measures,

Recalling further the special report by the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space) on the implementation of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities, and the recommendations contained therein, as submitted to the Committee at its fifty-ninth session, in 2016,⁶

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/73/42)*, para. 18.

³ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/74/20)*, para. 163 and annex II.

⁴ [A/68/189](#).

⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/70/20)*.

⁶ [A/AC.105/1116](#).

Welcoming International Telecommunication Union resolution 186 on strengthening the role of the Union with regard to transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, adopted by the 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference of the Union, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 20 October to 7 November 2014, and revised at the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference of the Union, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 29 October to 16 November 2018,

1. *Stresses* the importance of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities,⁴ considered by the General Assembly on 5 December 2013;

2. *Encourages* Member States to continue to review and implement, to the greatest extent practicable, the proposed transparency and confidence-building measures contained in the report, through the relevant national mechanisms, on a voluntary basis and in a manner consistent with the national interests of Member States;

3. *Welcomes* the engagement of Member States with regional organizations and their member States to explore further the implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures and to examine standards of responsible behaviour in outer space and best practices for space activities;

4. *Encourages* Member States, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the report, with a view to promoting the practical implementation of voluntary, non-legally binding transparency and confidence-building measures, to hold regular discussions in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament on the prospects for their implementation, in accordance with the mandate of each forum;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to promote responsible behaviour in outer space, including the implementation of voluntary space debris mitigation guidelines through relevant national mechanisms;⁷

6. *Requests* the relevant entities and organizations of the United Nations system, to which, in accordance with its resolution 68/50, the report was circulated, to assist in effectively implementing the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, as appropriate;

7. *Encourages* the relevant entities and organizations of the United Nations system to coordinate, as appropriate, on matters related to the recommendations contained in the report;

8. *Calls upon* the relevant entities and organizations of the United Nations system to support, within existing resources, the implementation by Member States of the proposed transparency and confidence-building measures contained in the report, through the relevant national mechanisms, on a voluntary basis and in a manner consistent with the national interests of Member States;

9. *Welcomes* the joint ad hoc meetings of the First and Fourth Committees, held on 22 October 2015, 12 October 2017 and 31 October 2019, on possible challenges to space security and sustainability, convened in accordance with the report and its resolutions 69/38, 71/90 and 73/72, and the substantive exchanges of opinions on various aspects of security in outer space that took place during the meetings;

10. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities in the United Nations system,

⁷ See resolution 62/217, paras. 26–27.

which contains summaries of the submissions received from Member States giving their views on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities;⁸

11. *Invites* Member States to continue to submit, within the relevant forums, information on the specific unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities implemented in accordance with the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, within existing resources, to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session a report on the coordination of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities in the United Nations system, with an annex containing submissions from Member States giving their views on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities”.

⁸ A/72/65 and A/72/65/Add.1.