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Summary record of the 16th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 1 November 2019, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Bacher (Vice-Chair) . . . . . (Austria)
later: Mr. Bahr Aluloom . . . . . (Iraq)

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19-18940 (E)

In the absence of Mr. Bahr Aluloom (Iraq), Ms. Bacher (Austria), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 49: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*continued*) (A/74/20 and A/C.4/74/L.7)

(a) International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Mohsin** (Pakistan) said that, as a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) since 1973 and party to the five core treaties on outer space, his country was committed to the principles of universal and equal access to outer space without discrimination and irrespective of States' level of scientific, technical or economic development; non-appropriation of outer space through a claim of sovereignty, use, occupation or other means; and its use exclusively for peaceful purposes as a common heritage of humankind.

2. COPUOS had a vital role to play in assisting developing countries to take part in the exploration and use of outer space for their socioeconomic development. It was the ideal platform for promoting technical assistance and technology transfer to developing countries in space-related activities. Given the importance of utilizing space-based assets to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, Pakistan had contributed to deliberations on the development of the "Space2030" agenda. COPUOS should continue to focus on its core mandate relating to the peaceful uses of outer space and help countries to build their knowledge and experience of space applications.

3. International cooperation was key to developing technology and ensuring that the rule of law prevailed in order to maintain peace in outer space activities. His country was an active member of the International Astronautical Federation, the Committee on Space Research, the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization and the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum. It hosted the regional support office of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), the mission control centre of the International COSPAS-SARSAT Programme and the Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology. It was also participating in projects under bilateral and multilateral space cooperation agreements with international organizations.

4. The growing number of objects being launched into orbit brought with it a heightened risk of collision and interference with the operations of outer space objects. The Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of COPUOS needed to be implemented, and all spacefaring nations should take space debris mitigation measures. Reports that debris had been created by the irresponsible testing of an anti-satellite weapon in early 2019 were a source of concern. The procedures for removing or destroying space objects should be thoroughly debated at the United Nations, to ensure the effectiveness of such measures and their acceptability to stakeholders. Space debris issues should be addressed in a way that did not penalize the space programmes of developing nations.

5. Gaps in international space law must be addressed to prevent the militarization of outer space. The deployment of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in outer space was prohibited under the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (Outer Space Treaty). The Treaty was, however, silent on the placement in outer space of other types of weapons and did not prohibit the use of force against outer space objects from Earth. Those issues needed to be addressed in a comprehensive treaty on the prevention of an arms race in outer space. To reflect their joint commitment not to use or threaten to use force in outer space, Pakistan and the Russian Federation had recently signed a joint statement on no first placement of weapons in outer space; other responsible spacefaring nations should follow suit.

6. Pakistan supported efforts to strengthen existing mechanisms and seek new ways of preserving outer space for peaceful purposes, and acknowledged the work done by COPUOS to increase transparency and the confidence-building measures taken by Member States in the framework of international space laws. COPUOS played a major role in developing the global legal regime and governance framework for outer space. Indeed, the definition and delimitation of outer space was a key issue that required a legally binding, consensus-based international framework.

7. **Mr. Islam** (Bangladesh) said that COPUOS was the prime intergovernmental platform for promoting cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space and on technical assistance to developing countries in space-related activities. His country had always advocated the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. There was a growing need to exploit space-related activities and technology in the service of sustainable economic growth and development in all countries. The use of space technology and its applications in areas such as telemedicine, tele-education, disaster management and environmental protection applications could

contribute greatly to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the goals of global initiatives such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

8. His country, which was exposed to frequent natural disasters, was aware of the potential benefits of investing in space research and remote sensing and had therefore launched its first satellite, *Bangabandhu I*, in May 2018, thus joining the ranks of spacefaring nations. The satellite was helping to improve communications for development and a range of services in remote areas. The Government was already working on the launch of the country's next satellite.

9. States with major space capabilities should help to prevent an arms race in outer space. His country was in favour of negotiating a legally binding, international instrument to that end in the Conference on Disarmament. Major spacefaring nations should refrain from activities that could stoke tension in outer space. Transparency and confidence-building measures played an important role in promoting security in space and the sustainability of space activities. Space debris mitigation required international cooperation, and major spacefaring nations that had thus far contributed most to damaging the outer space environment bore the prime responsibility for ensuring its safety. The exploration and use of outer space should be conducted transparently and in a manner that included all Member States equitably. The space technology divide between the developing and developed countries must be bridged, and the United Nations should remain a focal point for international cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space.

10. **Mr. Umar** (Nigeria) said that the importance of the scientific advances resulting from space exploration and their contribution to sustainable development and people's well-being underlined the fact that outer space and celestial bodies should be safeguarded as the common heritage of all humankind, and that space activities should be carried out only for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all countries, irrespective of the degree of their economic or scientific development. States with major space capabilities bore particular responsibility in that regard and for preventing a space arms race.

11. Bearing in mind the role of space technology and its applications in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the "Space2030" agenda should include a long-term vision for implementing such United Nations initiatives as the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement. Specific measures should be outlined as part of the "Space2030" agenda to address the divide between advanced and emerging spacefaring nations. His country stood ready to work with other Member States to use space technology to achieve the Goals. The exploration and use of outer space should not be restricted to a privileged few. Guidelines were needed to frame the crucially important participation of developing countries. The proposal to establish a standing, rather than a time-bound, working group to build on the 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities was welcome.

12. With a view to using its growing space science capabilities in the service of development, his country had embarked on a range of projects, including preparation of an index to measure environmental sensitivity to desertification, demographic analysis and carbon emission assessment. It was vital that the United Nations promote equal and non-discriminatory access to outer space. The United Nations Programme on Space Applications had proved beneficial to developing countries in terms of capacity-building.

13. UN-SPIDER had been highly beneficial in Nigeria and West Africa, and his country's space agencies had collaborated with its Nigeria-based regional support office to develop an effective national disaster management system. Climate change, one of the agents of natural disasters such as the dramatic shrinking of Lake Chad, had inhibited economic growth in his country, triggering social conflict, crime, disease, mass migration from hard-hit areas like the Lake Chad basin, and the resulting cross-border conflict. His Government was working with regional and international partners to revitalize the ecosystem of the basin and monitor it using remote sensing, and hence recognized the imperative principle of non-discrimination in the availability of geospatial data, so crucial for sustainable development in such areas.

14. His delegation supported the applications for membership of COPUOS submitted by the Dominican Republic, Rwanda and Singapore.

15. **Mr. Ilnytskyi** (Ukraine) said that COPUOS played a key role in shaping international standards for space activities and efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space. His country shared the idea of building stronger partnerships and promoting international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space at all levels and among actors of the broader space community, and stood ready to share its broad experience with other countries. Ukraine was a party to four United Nations treaties on outer space. States that had not done so should consider ratifying or acceding to those treaties. The provisions of international space law,

which should be codified in a comprehensive convention, required improvement in order to address current challenges.

16. Space science and technology and their applications provided an indispensable tool for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and monitoring progress in that regard. His country would contribute to the work of the Working Group on the "Space2030" Agenda and welcomed the fact that the vision of the Working Group went beyond the outcomes of the fiftieth anniversary commemoration of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE+50). The Secretary-General should ensure that the Office for Outer Space Affairs was provided with sufficient resources.

17. COPUOS should not be used as a platform for legitimizing dialogue with individuals, businesses and officials from aggressor States. Owing to the ongoing foreign military aggression and temporary occupation of Crimea, his country had lost control of its space facilities on the Crimean Peninsula, including the NIP-16 facility, which had in the past been used to track space probes to Venus and Mars and which, prior to that aggression against his country, had been operated by the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. The aggressor State was now planning to incorporate the facility into its own network by 2020. That State viewed outer space as strategically important for enhancing its military capabilities on Earth and had turned Crimea into a huge military base that threatened the security of the entire Black Sea region. The restoration of his country's space and rocket science capabilities was a key priority for his Government.

18. **Mr. Bourgel** (Israel) said that in spite of the challenges it faced, Israel saw an exciting future in the discovery of space, which it considered the new frontier for innovation and global cooperation. In that connection, it had, among other achievements, had launched its first satellite in 1988, sent its first astronaut into space in 2003 and launched its *Beresheet* spacecraft into lunar orbit in 2019. The Israel Space Agency was also ready and hoping to contribute to the peaceful use of outer space. Space exploration opened up opportunities for bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Areas in which shared knowledge could be expanded included science and cosmos exploration and remote credible navigation. The work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the sole United Nations body committed to preserving the peaceful uses of outer space and implementing the United Nations treaties on outer space, was commendable. The 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and progress made on the "Space2030" agenda and its implementation plan were welcome developments.

19. Space science and technology, and their applications, could contribute significantly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. His Government was taking active steps in that regard, including in the fields of environmental protection, land and water management, climate change, disaster risk reduction and emergency response, seismic monitoring, natural resources management, biodiversity, agriculture and food security. The increased involvement of women in the field of space technology was a key priority for his country and, in conjunction with the Office for Outer Space Affairs, it had established and was funding platforms to provide girls and women with more opportunities to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

20. Israel, which was participating in a number of space exploration initiatives called on the international community to join it in those endeavours. For instance, it had signed a cooperation agreement with the European Space Agency to participate in the Agency's projects, and agreements with the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration on the use of the AstroRad, a radiation protection vest developed by an Israeli company, and on nanoscience and nanotechnology, which were areas of Israeli expertise. His country was also keen to invest in sustainability in order to improve quality of life for all its citizens.

21. **Mr. Pindják** (Slovakia) said that his country had established a national registry of space objects in 2016, in compliance with the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space and, in 2017, had duly registered the launch of its first satellite into space. In 2018, an interministerial working group had been set up to prepare legislation on outer space; deliberations in that regard took into account the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, all the relevant United Nations treaties, conventions and resolutions, and the recently adopted guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. In 2019, his Government had adopted a conceptual framework for space activities, which contained a vision for 2020 and beyond for development of the space sector in Slovakia, in particular in cooperation with the European Space Agency, and reaffirmed the country's commitment to international cooperation and responsible behaviour in the peaceful use of outer space, in line with international law. In recent years, his country had focused on developing its space industry, strengthening its scientific and research institutions, establishing new academic programmes and engaging with non-governmental organizations.

22. International cooperation in outer space had great potential to benefit humanity, contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and mitigate and prevent natural disasters and conflicts. Significant investments in commercial activity in space, new technological concepts, enhanced access to space technology and data, and the growing congestion of Earth orbits made it vital that all States, even small countries and emerging spacefaring nations, commit themselves to promoting a secure and sustainable outer space environment. The adoption of the preamble and 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities was therefore an important step towards building confidence and fostering responsible behaviour in outer space.

23. **Mr. El Mezouaghi** (Morocco) said that COPUOS, its subcommittees and the Office for Outer Space Affairs played a central part in fostering international cooperation with regard to the peaceful use of outer space, the study of outer space activities, the promotion of space research and consideration of the legal aspects of space exploration, and the exploration and use of outer space. His country attached great importance to international cooperation and capacity-building in space activities, universal access to outer space, improvement of mechanisms provided for in treaties and conventions to ensure its peaceful use, and the principle of non-appropriation of outer space.

24. As part of its capacity-building assistance for African countries, his country organized an annual introductory course on international space law at its African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education. The Royal Centre for Remote Sensing promoted the use of applications deriving from space technology in various socioeconomic fields. It also promoted international cooperation and capacity-building in space-related areas, which were crucial for developing countries. Space technology played a vital role in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and could contribute to the protection of the environment, the management of water resources and the development of agriculture. His country remained committed to the peaceful use of outer space in the pursuit of scientific, technological and socioeconomic objectives.

25. **Mr. Rivero Rosario** (Cuba) said that, in the light of the ongoing development of space weaponry and the growing threat of a new arms race, his delegation welcomed the fact that safeguarding the peaceful exploration and use of outer space remained a priority for the Fourth Committee. It remained opposed to the militarization of outer space, and thus considered the establishment of the United States Space Force a serious threat to the security of all and to the future of humanity. The presence of weapons in space would hamper its peaceful use. A further source of concern was the use of space technology to the detriment of global security, including through the dense network of spy satellites that, aside from being a threat to peace and development, continued to clog up the geostationary orbit with space debris.

26. Use of the geostationary orbit should be compatible with the legal framework established in the relevant United Nations treaties on outer space, bearing in mind the contribution that space activities could make to sustainable development and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. There was an urgent need to strengthen the legal framework through the adoption of a multilateral treaty on the prevention and prohibition of the placement of weapons in outer space. Such an instrument could be developed through constructive dialogue between COPUOS, and in particular its Legal Subcommittee, and the Conference on Disarmament, which had a prime role to play in elaborating an international treaty on the prevention of the militarization of outer space. The Chinese-Russian draft treaty on the subject represented a solid basis for negotiations.

27. All States had a right to explore and use outer space for peaceful purposes but for most developing countries that was an impossible dream. All States should enjoy their legitimate right to equal access to outer space without discrimination and enjoy the benefits of cooperation in terms of capacity-building and the transfer of space technology and its applications. More must be done to promote broader and more effective participation by developing countries in space activities.

28. In spite of the economic, trade and financial embargo imposed on his country by the United States, Cuba attached growing importance to space science and its applications, and was ramping up research and development in the use of space technology in the field of meteorology, in particular for forecasting natural disasters, and in risk assessment. The United Nations and COPUOS had a special role to play in promoting cooperation on space activities, especially with a view to addressing climate change, food security, natural resource and disaster management and the mitigation of the impact of natural disasters.

29. **Mr. Ngouambe Wouaga** (Cameroon) said that the great strides made in recent years in science and technology in the field of space exploration and use had contributed to the economic, social and cultural development of all countries. Space technology was increasingly being used in such areas as telemedicine, satellite navigation, remote sensing, disaster

management, environmental monitoring and weather forecasting. The availability of reliable and comprehensive geospatial information was key to tackling climate change and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

30. However, with the militarization of space and the proliferation of space debris, that promising outlook was becoming increasingly bleak. The international community should seriously consider ways to ensure the safe and sustainable use of space and how best to exploit it peacefully for the benefit of humanity. Strengthening international, regional and interregional cooperation, ensuring the rule of law, including the development of relevant regulations on space, and safeguarding peace in outer space were crucial to ensuring that space activities would continue to benefit all peoples, regardless of their level of economic or scientific development.

31. In that regard, Cameroon welcomed United Nations efforts to establish an international legal regime incorporating and developing the concepts contained in the Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space. COPUOS should continue working to consolidate and strengthen that legal regime in order to ensure the peaceful, just and equitable use of space technology. All countries had the right to reap the benefits of outer space activities and developing countries should receive assistance from the international community to develop their own space capabilities, thus enabling them to tackle their pressing economic and social challenges.

32. **Mr. Azizan** (Malaysia) said that, as a growing number of States embarked on space exploration programmes, it was imperative that outer space continue to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes, thereby contributing to collective security, well-being and prosperity. The adoption of the preamble and 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities had been a welcome development in that regard. The protection of outer space and prevention of its militarization were in the common interest.

33. The aims of his country's space policy were to improve governance; develop space science, technology and expertise; focus on significant technologies, infrastructure and applications; contribute to the country's economy and well-being; and strengthen international cooperation. To improve governance of space activities, two agencies had been merged to form the Malaysian Space Agency. Its task was to harness satellite data for use in food security, natural resources, environmental and climate change management; disaster management; and national security. It would share data with researchers and the private sector to stimulate the creation of intellectual property and economic growth, and promote the more effective use of existing space infrastructure. It was anticipated that national space legislation would be enacted by the end of 2020. Thereafter, his Government would proceed to ratify and accede to the relevant space-related international instruments, including the Outer Space Treaty.

34. Continued international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space was in the world's best interests and helped States, especially developing ones, to benefit from the potential of space. His country welcomed any opportunity to work with other States, bilaterally and multilaterally, to develop its space capabilities.

35. **Ms. González López** (El Salvador) said that outer space should be viewed as a zone of peace and development. International cooperation for human development should take the form of technical and human resources capacity-building and the sharing of information on scientific advances so that all countries might benefit from the exploration and use of outer space. Her Government remained committed to the principles and agreements governing the space activities of States, which should be based on common and equitable use, peaceful purposes and international cooperation and solidarity.

36. The importance of international cooperation and the vital contribution that space science, technology and activities could make to sustainable development and quality of life on Earth had been reaffirmed by UNISPACE+50. The "Space2030" agenda and its implementation plan would help to foster the peaceful use of space applications for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and implementing the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework. The agenda would mark an important milestone for the international space community and provide it with an opportunity to discuss and agree on measures to strengthen the role and renew the priorities of COPUOS, its subsidiary bodies and the Office for Outer Space Affairs. Outer space activities could stimulate socioeconomic development, especially in developing countries. Capacity-building and technical assistance were therefore needed to acquaint personnel with the know-how developed in more advanced spacefaring nations.

37. A strengthened COPUOS was needed in order to address issues relating to the use of outer space, avoid any threat to its preservation, ensure its long-term sustainability, support development and promote international cooperation. One of the main goals of that Committee should be to promote the sustainability of outer space activities so as to ensure that future generations could also benefit from access to space.

38. El Salvador, which was environmentally vulnerable, wished to participate more actively in the use of space science and technology in order to adapt to climate change and prevent, mitigate and eliminate its susceptibility to natural and human-induced phenomena, in particular in the areas of water resources, agriculture, forestry and coastal habitats. With a view to harnessing space science and technology for disaster management, environmental protection, telemedicine and tele-education, his Government had set up an inter-agency team composed of representatives of the various ministries to serve as a counterpart to COPUOS. The work of the latter should be intensified and proper funding for it ensured. Ongoing cooperation and technical assistance were needed to sustain the work of COPUOS and initiatives connected with the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

39. **Mr. Attelb** (Egypt) said that his country had realized early on the urgent need to participate in space activities and had therefore developed a forward-looking vision based on international cooperation between scientific, research and technological institutions for peaceful development in the service of all humanity. It had established its satellite programme and a space research council in 1998, and had launched its first satellite wholly manufactured in Egypt in 2017 and another in 2019. The Egyptian Space Agency had been established in 2016 to define the country's space strategies and build the necessary infrastructure for the manufacture of remote sensing and communications satellites. The Agency would serve as the umbrella organization for a space science academy, a satellite assembly plant and a satellite image reception and processing centre. In a joint venture with China, his country had set up the Arab region's first satellite assembly and testing centre in 2012 under the Egypt Space Programme of the National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences. The Authority was charged with developing national satellite technology, ground stations and applications for satellite data and their use in a broad range of development processes. It would also provide training opportunities for people in the region to work on satellite assembly.

40. Since 2014, his country had been hosting the annual meetings of the preparatory committee working on the elaboration of the African Space Policy and Strategy.. Moreover, Egypt had been selected to host the African Space Agency. His delegation was pleased that the establishment of the Agency had been noted in the draft resolution on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (A/C.4/74/L.7). Egypt adhered to the provisions of the Outer Space Treaty and the principle of preventing the weaponization of outer space. It was vital to begin negotiations on a much-needed treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space or the use of force or threat of the use of force against satellites or other space objects.

41. **Mr. Xu** Chi (China) said that his country had, over the previous year and in the spirit of mutually beneficial cooperation, continued to make substantial advances in the peaceful uses of outer space. In January 2019, the Chang'e 4 probe had successfully landed on the far side of the Moon, carrying payloads developed by a range of countries, including Germany, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and Sweden. The China Space Station was due to become operational around 2022. In June 2019, nine projects from 17 countries had been selected for participation in the United Nations/China Cooperation on the Utilization of China Space Station programme. Experiments would be conducted on space life science, microgravity fluid physics and more. Development of the Beidou Global Navigation and Positioning System was proceeding apace, with 41 satellites already in orbit. In June 2019, China had successfully tested its first carrier rocket launch from the sea. Such launches would help to meet the demand for launching payloads into different orbits.

42. His country was sharing its achievements in outer space development openly with the international community through the United Nations, thereby promoting and enhancing outer space capacity-building. The Belt and Road Initiative had become a multi-stakeholder platform for international cooperation, and China was committed to putting its space technology at the service of countries taking part in the initiative. It would work with them to build a Belt and Road space information corridor. It had provided meteorological, navigation and disaster relief services for participating countries and territories through the Beidou satellite navigation system and the Fengyun 2H meteorological satellite system. China had also provided satellite data services to countries affected by natural disasters.

43. The draft resolution endorsed by member States at the UNISPACE+50 high-level segment encapsulated their consensus on a vision for the future in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. The role of COPUOS as the primary platform for cooperation and rules-setting should be enhanced, and the Office for Outer Space Affairs should be provided with the resources it needed to carry out its mandate fully. The "Space2030" agenda should reflect the concerns and aspirations of countries with different space capabilities and its implementation plan should facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. His country encouraged Member States to implement the agreed preamble and 21 voluntary guidelines for the

long-term sustainability of outer space activities. They should also endeavour, through the related intergovernmental platform, to formulate new guidelines to maintain security in outer space.

44. His country supported the establishment of a working group within the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS to develop international rules for the exploitation of space resources on the basis of the legal framework and principles enshrined in the Outer Space Treaty and to address the entire spectrum of needs, such as encouraging the advancement of science and technology, supervising commercial exploitation and sharing outer space benefits. His delegation hailed the holding of the joint panel discussion between the First and Fourth Committees on the possible challenges to space security and sustainability. Peaceful uses of outer space and outer space security were increasingly interconnected, and the joint panel discussion had the potential to facilitate coordination between the two Committees and consensus among States on outer space security and sustainability. China would continue to work closely with all countries to promote the socioeconomic development through the peaceful uses of outer space.

45. **Mr. Garcia** (Philippines) said that outer space activities must not be the exclusive preserve of a small group of States. Rather, they should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries and based on the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and equity. Outer space could not be approached on “first come, first served” basis.

46. Under the Philippine Space Act, which provided for the establishment of the Philippine Space Agency, a comprehensive space policy was set forth to protect the country’s sovereignty and national interests and respond to regional developments, including the pursuit of space capabilities by neighbouring States. The national space policy framework was focused on six thematic areas: national security and development; hazard management and climate studies; space research and development; space industry capacity-building; space education and awareness; and international cooperation.

47. Since 1960, his country had worked to build space industry capacity, foster space education and awareness and cooperate with countries such as Japan. It continued to invest in space-related technology, infrastructure and capacity-building and had launched three satellites in 2014.

48. The role of COPUOS as the main platform for promoting international cooperation on technical assistance to developing countries in space-related activities should be strengthened, as should international cooperation on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space activities through space science and its applications. There was a need to bridge the space technology divide between developing and developed countries through capacity-building and outreach activities, with a view to implementing the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework. The voluntary implementation of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines should be stepped up and transparent confidence-building measures should be put in place to prevent an arms race in outer space.

49. **Mr. Baek** Yong Jin (Republic of Korea) said that his country attached great importance to the work of COPUOS and its subcommittees as a unique platform for governing outer space activities. It commended the Office for Outer Space Affairs for its role as a facilitator of international cooperation for the peaceful use of outer space. His delegation welcomed the adoption of the 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, which would go a long way to making equitable access to the benefits of outer space use a reality and to ensuring a safe, secure and sustainable outer space through the exchange of information and support for capacity-building. His Government would spare no effort to implement those guidelines and encouraged other countries to do the same. His delegation welcomed the joint panel discussion on outer space held by the First and Fourth Committees and hoped that it could be repeated at future sessions of the General Assembly.

50. In 2018, his Government had launched its third national space development basic plan, under which ways were being explored to use space technology and assets to address global challenges such as natural disasters and climate change and to enhance quality of life by ensuring a more secure and sustainable living environment. It was also working to share the benefits of space technology with the international community, in particular with emerging spacefaring nations. His country stood ready to ramp up its contribution to efforts to ensure that the exploration and use of outer space remained secure and sustainable.

51. **Mr. Sahraei** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his country abided by the universally agreed principle that outer space was the common heritage of all humanity and that it should be explored and used only for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all. All States should be able to explore and use outer space on an equal basis and the principle of non-appropriation must be respected. Non-discriminatory cooperation in outer space activities should be promoted and the principles of non-intervention and non-interference in the peaceful activities of States in outer space must be

observed. The "Access to Space for All" initiative of the Office for Outer Space Affairs would allow all Member States to enjoy the benefits of space technology and its applications. No part of outer space could be subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation or by any other means.

52. In September 2019, the United States Department of the Treasury, flouting international space law, had imposed illegal sanctions on the Iranian Space Agency, the Iranian Space Research Centre and the Iranian Aerospace Research Institute, all of which were civilian bodies focused on the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. His country was prone to natural disasters and one of the most seismically active in the world. Major fault lines covered 90 per cent of the country's land mass and 80 per cent of populated areas were vulnerable to flooding. His country must therefore endeavour to prevent such disasters and mitigate their impact through the peaceful application of space science and technology. That indeed was the purpose of the satellites it had recently launched.

53. The United States aimed to deter others from cooperating with Iranian space entities by exerting pressure and applying unlawful unilateral sanctions in its campaign of economic terrorism against the Iranian people. At the same time, it was attempting to hamper his country's own endeavours to obtain access to space knowledge, science, technology and data by making false accusations that flew in the face of the principle of international cooperation in outer space. The Islamic Republic of Iran had consistently made known its readiness to cooperate with other countries in the design, manufacture, launch and even purchase of satellites. However, owing to unlawful sanctions, in particular those imposed by the United States, such cooperation had not materialized. His country expected all member States of COPUOS to respect its right to have access to space and to conduct peaceful space activities on the basis of equality and non-discrimination, in conformity with international space law. They should refrain from promulgating and applying measures to impede the conduct of peaceful activities and programmes by the civilian space agencies of other States members of COPUOS.

54. *Mr. Bahr Aluloom (Iraq) took the Chair.*

55. **Ms. Archinard** (Switzerland) said that, given the continued flow of data and information ensuing from the peaceful uses of outer space and their contribution to the understanding and resolution of global challenges, her country was in favour of adopting an ambitious "Space2030" agenda in 2020. Aside from galvanizing international cooperation in the use of space technology, in particular to promote sustainable development, the agenda should be designed to strengthen global governance of space activities, in order to ensure their long-term sustainability and security.

56. Space technology could be a boon for health care worldwide. In that connection, her country was engaging closely with the Working Group on Space and Global Health to promote training and interdisciplinary cooperation, which were important for medical practitioners and institutions alike. The adoption of the preamble and 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities had been a significant success for COPUOS. The decision to establish a working group on the subject would contribute to the implementation of said guidelines and enable COPUOS to address the challenges regarding the peaceful uses of outer space. The growth in the number and range of actors, including the private sector, and their activities in space, especially the launch of satellite mega-constellations, the servicing of satellites in orbit and removal of space debris, could have a significant impact on the use of space in the long term. Those challenges required a multilateral approach, and information sharing was important for managing space traffic. Her country would gladly continue to play a leading role in that regard. The regular dialogue that had been established between the First and Fourth Committees on the security and long-term sustainability of space activities was welcome. Interdisciplinary work and political will would be vital for agreeing on new measures to protect space from conflict and ensure its accessibility for generations to come.

57. Her country supported the applications for membership of COPUOS submitted by the Dominican Republic, Rwanda and Singapore, and looked forward to contributing to its work as Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in 2020 and 2021.

58. **Mr. Proskuryakov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation was categorically opposed to attempts to substitute COPUOS as the prime platform for dialogue on the regulation of space activities with other informal unmandated platforms. It was for the States members of COPUOS alone to agree on all such regulations and in line with its rules of procedure. The regulation of the growing number of actors in space, including non-State and private sector operators, needed to be addressed, as did the increasingly serious problem of space debris and the growing risk of conflict arising from intensifying competition between those engaged in space activities. Suggestions that COPUOS was ineffectual were groundless; what was needed to resolve such serious issues in a way that was acceptable to all parties was the political will and preparedness of the member States to

work together. In that regard, the adoption of the preamble and 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and the decision to establish a new working group on the matter had been a notable success.

59. Advances in space science and technology could rapidly lead to conflict over the exploitation of space resources. The best way to forestall such a situation was for COPUOS to engage in an objective discussion on the establishment of an international mechanism for control over the utilization of space resources, which could take the form of a legally binding international agreement. Such an agreement would establish a reliable legal basis for national regulation and the conflict-free conduct of relevant activities. The position of one member State had prevented COPUOS from adopting the report of a group of governmental experts on the drafting of a legally binding instrument to prevent an arms race in outer space. Only an international agreement, with the participation of all States with major space capabilities, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space or the use or threat of use of force against space objects could ensure the long-term preservation of outer space for peaceful purposes. The United Nations was a unique forum for equitable dialogue on practical solutions to the whole spectrum of issues relating to space activities.

60. **Mr. Turner** (United States of America) said that it was now the policy of his country to return to the Moon by 2024. The United States remained committed to leveraging the power of private enterprise in space and to using all available legal and diplomatic means to create a stable and orderly space environment. His country would also encourage the adoption of new norms of behaviour and best practices for space operations by the international community. COPUOS should therefore remain an important multilateral forum to foster the safety, stability and sustainability of space activities. The adoption of the preamble and 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities represented a milestone, ensuring that all nations could continue to benefit from the use of space over the long term. His country was giving consideration to how it would implement the guidelines and urged other countries to do likewise. Implementation could be advanced through international cooperation and State initiatives on, inter alia, sharing best practices, formulating technical guidelines, setting safety standards, observing behavioural norms, performing pre-launch risk assessments and utilizing on-orbit collision avoidance services. Wide adoption and implementation of the guidelines would contribute to heightened operational safety and environmental sustainability.

61. Safety, stability and operational sustainability were fundamental for space activities, including commercial, civil and national security activities. The United States was pleased to participate in the joint panel discussion of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to space security and sustainability, which had highlighted the importance of COPUOS in advancing transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities and the fact that such voluntary and non-legally binding measures increased security by reducing the potential for miscommunication and miscalculation.

62. The Legal Subcommittee had made good progress in its multi-year workplan on the topic “Legal regime of outer space and global space governance: current and future perspectives”, which underscored the importance of acceding to the four core outer space treaties and provided an opportunity to take stock of subsequent voluntary international mechanisms developed by COPUOS. Space exploration and utilization by States, international organizations and private entities had flourished under that legal framework. As a result, space technology and services contributed immeasurably to economic growth and improvements in the quality of life around the world. His delegation looked forward to working within COPUOS over the next year to ensure the successful completion of that initiative.

63. His country welcomed the success of the UNISPACE+50 commemoration that had taken place at the sixty-first session of COPUOS and was committed to the development of a visionary “Space2030” agenda that took into account efforts by member States to move beyond low-Earth orbit to the Moon, Mars and other celestial bodies, while incorporating innovative commercial ventures. COPUOS had been extremely successful in fostering international cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space for the benefit of all humanity and would continue to make progress in that regard. His country would work through that unique, cooperative forum to reap the scientific benefits of space exploration to improve quality of life for all.

64. **Mr. Gallegos Chiriboga** (Ecuador), noting the key role of the Office for Outer Space Affairs as a platform for dialogue on outer space activities, international cooperation and space governance, said that space was a global common good and a driving force for sustainable development. His country adhered to the principles of universal and equitable access to outer space for all countries without discrimination, regardless of their level of scientific, technical and economic development; the equitable and rational use of outer space for the benefit and in the interests of all humankind; and non-appropriation of outer space,

including the Moon and other celestial bodies, by claiming sovereignty over them.

65. Space technology and Earth observation were vital tools for disaster management and emergency response. Policies on suitable uses of outer space could contribute to the fulfilment of commitments regarding sustainable development and the eradication of poverty under the Sendai Framework. Initiatives undertaken by the Office for Outer Space Affairs to promote gender equality and strengthen the role of women in space activities, including through capacity-building and technical assistance, were welcome.

66. It was imperative that COPUOS continue to work towards the establishment of rules to ensure equitable access to and use of the geostationary orbit, a limited natural resource, in a manner that safeguarded the interests and needs of developing countries and countries with a certain geographical position, as set out in article 44 of the Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union. Efforts to develop international space law should continue with a view to preventing its militarization and preserving it for peaceful purposes in order to improve the quality of life of people on Earth and promote peace. An arms race in space would threaten international peace and security. The space technology capacities of countries must be strengthened in the service of sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation.

67. **Archbishop Auza** (Observer for the Holy See) said that, as the disarmament agenda faced tremendous challenges, a renewed commitment by all to the peaceful uses of outer space was needed more than ever. The overlap between the sustainability and security of those peaceful uses was clear. The increasing reliance on outer space platforms for communications, navigation, position finding and other activities on Earth underscored the importance of ensuring that they remained sustainable. Space debris, in particular, posed a major threat to satellites. The Holy See took a keen interest in the beneficial uses of satellites in stimulating development in remote rural areas, monitoring natural disasters and climate patterns, and providing aid and relief to the disadvantaged and to disaster victims.

68. His delegation welcomed reports that partner States in the International Space Station programme were working to establish international operational standards for communications equipment, environmental control and life support, and rendezvous operations. The increasing use of small spacecraft made agreement on "rules of the road" essential to minimize the risk of collision with other satellites. Close international cooperation would be needed as the number of satellites orbiting in space increased exponentially in the coming decade.

Draft resolution A/C.4/74/L.7: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

69. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

70. **Mr. Rypl** (Brazil), speaking as Chair of the Fourth Committee Working Group of the Whole on International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, said that paragraph 2 had been revised to read as follows:

> *Welcomes with appreciation* the adoption by the Committee of the preamble and 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, as contained in Annex II to the report of the Committee, and the establishment, under a five-year workplan, of a working group under the agenda item on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee; notes that the Committee encouraged States and international intergovernmental organizations to voluntarily take measures to ensure that the guidelines were implemented to the greatest extent feasible and practicable; and emphasizes that the Committee serves as the principal forum for continued institutionalized dialogue on issues related to the implementation and review of the guidelines.

71. Paragraph 3 and the footnote to paragraph 2 had been deleted from the draft.

72. *Draft resolution A/C.4/74/L.7, as orally revised, was adopted.*

73. **Mr. Turner** (United States of America) said, with reference to the wording of the draft resolution, that the 2030 Agenda was non-binding and did not create or affect rights or obligations under international law or create any new financial commitments. It was a global framework that could help countries to work towards peace and prosperity and all countries had a role to play in achieving its vision. Each must do so in accord with its own policies and priorities and in a manner that was consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law. The 2030 Agenda must be implemented without prejudice to the independent mandates of other processes and institutions, including negotiations. It did not prejudice or serve as precedent for actions conducted or decisions made in other forums. It did not represent a commitment to provide new market access for goods or services; nor did it alter or interpret any World Trade Organization agreement or decision, including the Agreement on Trade-Related

Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. His country's views on the Sendai Framework had been set forth in its explanation of position, which had been delivered at the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.