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#### 48/38. Effects of atomic radiation

##### *The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, in which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, including resolution 47/66 of 14 December 1992, 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,<sup>2</sup>

*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 the environment,

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-eight 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 completion in 1993 of the eleventh comprehensive report of the Scientific Committee entitled *Sources and Effects of Ionizing Radiation*,<sup>3</sup> thereby providing to the scientific and world community its latest evaluations of the sources and effects of ionizing radiation;

3. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important 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-ninth 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 cooperation in this field;

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.

75th plenary meeting  
10 December 1993

#### 48/39. International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 47/67 of 14 December 1992,

*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 also of the importance of international cooperation in this field, for which the United Nations should continue to provide a focal point,

*Reaffirming* the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law, including the relevant norms of space law and their important role in international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

*Concerned* about the possibility of an arms race in 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 cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

*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 cooperative<sup>4</sup> space projects, which contribute to international cooperation, and the importance of further international cooperation in this field,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General<sup>5</sup> on implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,<sup>6</sup>

*Having considered* the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its thirty-sixth session,<sup>7</sup>

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 space<sup>8</sup> to give consideration to ratifying or acceding to those treaties;

3. *Notes* that, at its thirty-second session, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in its working groups, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/67;<sup>9</sup>

4. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Committee that the Legal Subcommittee, at its thirty-third session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, particularly those of developing countries, should:

(a) Continue, through its working group, its consideration of the question of early review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space;<sup>10</sup>

(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. *Notes* that deliberations on the question of the geostationary orbit have been undertaken by the Legal Subcommittee, as reflected in its report,<sup>9</sup> on the basis of recent proposals which might provide a new and enhanced basis for future work;

6. *Endorses* the recommendations and agreements concerning the organization of work in the Legal Subcommittee;<sup>11</sup>

7. *Notes* that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its thirtieth session, continued its work as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/67;<sup>12</sup>

8. *Welcomes* the decision of the Committee to consider the matter of space debris, and in this regard endorses the recommendation of the Committee that a new item, entitled "Space debris", should be added to the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee beginning with its next session;

9. *Endorses* the agreement of the Committee that, under this item, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would consider scientific research relating to space debris, including relevant studies, mathematical modelling and other analytical work on the characterization of the space debris environment;