



# United Nations General Assembly

Distr.: Limited

26 December, 2018

Original: English

## **United Nations General Assembly**

Agenda item: International Code of Conduct for Peaceful Outer Space Activities

Sponsor: Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela, Vietnam

The General Assembly,

*Recalling* the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,

*Especially referring* the Article 4 of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, which determined that outer space could be freely explored or used under the condition of peaceful purposes in accordance with the profits for the international society, and that transporting mass-destruction weapons on the orbit is prohibited,

*Noting* the significance of satellites and advanced space technologies in citizens' daily lives nowadays, including but not limited to the use of a positioning system and weather forecasting, which has not only positively influenced ordinary citizens, but also many governments as well in the fields of measurements and risk management,

*Noting* the progress achieved in the development of peaceful space exploration and applications as well as in various national and cooperative space projects, and the importance of further developing the framework to strengthen international cooperation in space,

*Recalling* the principles of the United Nations Charter, especially Article 2 that affirms the sovereign equality of all its Members and the principle of non-interference in domestic affairs,

*Seriously concerned* about the devastating impact of disasters, and desirous of enhancing international coordination and cooperation at the global level in disaster management and emergency response through greater access to and use of space-based services and geospatial information for all countries and facilitating capacity building and institutional strengthening for disaster management, in particular in developing countries,

*Recognizing* the risk that sensitive information might be shared unintentionally or intentionally, since the determination of "sensitive information" may differ between countries,

*Taking into consideration* the importance of international cooperation for peaceful space activity in all countries in the future,

*Affirming* the need for international cooperation to endorse Active Debris Removal,

*Deeply concerned* about the fragility of the space environment and the challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, in particular the impact of space debris,

*Noting* with appreciation that some states are already implementing space debris mitigation measures on a voluntary basis, through national mechanisms and consistent with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee and with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,<sup>14</sup> endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/217, and invites other states to implement, through relevant national mechanisms, the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,

1. *Encourages* member states to join the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS);
2. *Encourages* the sharing of information from earth observation satellites in terms of civilian use between member states, aiming for people's better standard of living and economic development;
3. *Calls upon* that states and international intergovernmental organizations with experience in space activities should encourage and support capacity-building in developing countries with emerging space programmes, on a mutually acceptable basis, through measures such as improving their expertise and knowledge on spacecraft design, flight dynamics and orbits, performing joint orbital calculations and conjunction assessments, and providing access to appropriate precise orbital data and appropriate tools for the monitoring of space objects through relevant arrangements as appropriate;
4. *Emphasizes* the necessity of multilaterally running a program of developing the earth observation satellites for the purpose of solving wide range of problems such as the global environment, food shortage and the human rights;
5. *Calls upon* Member States to share the information obtained by space science and technology, through international organizations that specialize in each of the field, as to share such information worldwide, reinforce such information's network, and guarantee transparency:
  - a) United Nations Environment Program (UNEP),
  - b) World Wide Fund (WWF),
  - c) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO),
  - d) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);

6. *Stresses* that the disclosure of information to citizens is within the discretion of each member state;
7. *Urges* member states to follow the principle of non-interference in domestic affairs;
8. *Affirms* that information that are related to military affairs shall be shared only on the conditions of mutual recognition between member states, and urges that such sharing shall not be related to infringements of state sovereignties;
9. *Recommends* member states to provide data from outer space that can be used for peaceful uses especially data needed during disaster, to the database managed by United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) in order to facilitate the access to these data;
10. *Requests* developing nations to promote participations of the countries' officials related to the space explorations, to the international organizations and international conferences, as to avoid information sharing and discussions that are tailored to the convenience of the developed countries;
11. *Calls upon* each Member States to share technology related to infrastructures obtained by the space activities through international conferences as follows:
  - a) Multilaterally discussing and sharing such technologies and knowledges in the conferences and general meetings in United Nations Conference on Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE), UNCOPUOS, and United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA),
  - b) Requesting such multilateral conferences and organizations, an exchange of information and views on the applicability of cybersecurity to the protection of space assets and space systems, including critical infrastructures, with a view of finding common approaches to the protection of communications and space systems;
12. *Encourages* all nations to positively support other member states in developing and launching communication or earth observation satellites;
13. *Requests* United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) to establish a subsidy system for removing space debris, which is operated in the following way, in order to give incentives to remove them:
  - a) Each country should contribute funds according to the total weight of artificial objects in orbit and the times that the nation has conducted the destruction of satellites,
  - b) Funds will be distributed according to the weight of space debris removed by each country, framework, or private company;
14. *Emphasizes* the importance of exchanging knowledge and technology to remove space debris through UNOOSA or public-private partnership;

15. *Calls upon* multilateral organizations that are related to space activities and space debris, such as UNCOPUOS to expand an enlightenment program on the need for the space debris removal as to propagate the need for the removal of space debris which will include:
- a) Establishment of national agency,
  - b) Introduction of education;
16. *Requests* developing nations' voluntary contributions towards the removal of space debris that will be dealt with by making sure that such financial contributions will be put into UNOOSA, and be transmitted equally to the developed states that have sufficient capacities to remove space debris;
17. *Emphasizes* the need for both short and long term measures such as the following to endorse Active Debris Removal which will do the following:
- a) Track space debris in order to prevent collisions or to measure how dangerous they are,
  - b) Accelerate research and development in order to establish an effective way to remove space debris;
  - c) Promote human resource development to continuously treat this issue.