



Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Twenty-third session

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Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Exploring space technologies for sustainable development
and the benefits of international research collaboration in
this context****Report of the Secretary-General****Amendment**

The introductory paragraphs of chapter I, as amended, read as follows:

4. Space science, technologies and data have the potential to contribute in direct or indirect ways to achieving all of the Goals. Space science incorporates scientific disciplines involving space exploration and the study of natural phenomena and physical bodies in outer space and often includes disciplines such as astronomy, aerospace engineering, space medicine and astrobiology.
5. The use of space technology for sustainable development is comprehensively addressed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as the primary United Nations body for international space cooperation, and facilitated by the Office for Outer Space Affairs (see ST/SGB/2020/1).
6. The General Assembly, in its resolution 73/6, invited the Committee to continue to develop a “Space2030” agenda and implementation plan, for strengthening the use of space as a major driver of and contributor to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for the benefit of all countries, and to provide the General Assembly with the outcome of the work of the Committee for consideration by the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session.
7. Space technologies often refer to satellite Earth observation, satellite communications and satellite positioning. Technologies such as for weather forecasting, and involving remote sensing, global positioning systems and satellite television and communications systems, as well as scientific fields such as astronomy and Earth sciences, all rely on space science and technologies.²

² United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, 2019, *Annual Report 2018* (Vienna).



Section D of chapter IV, as amended, reads as follows:

66. Countries can continue to invest in multilateral mechanisms for the effective sharing of Earth observation data, digital assets (such as machine learning models) and derived geospatial products. Such mechanisms can be supported by international charters or agencies, regional platforms and national Governments and their respective space agencies.

67. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is at the centre of global governance of outer space activities (see A/AC.105/1137).

68. The Office for Outer Space Affairs implements the United Nations programme on the peaceful uses of outer space and represents the United Nations in promoting the exploration and peaceful use of outer space, in particular for the benefit of developing countries.⁶³

69. An example of worldwide collaboration through which satellite data are made available for the benefit of disaster management is the international charter on space and major disasters. By combining Earth observation assets from different space agencies, the charter allows for resources and expertise to be coordinated for rapid responses to major disaster situations, thereby helping civil protection authorities and the international humanitarian community.⁶⁴

70. Throughout the United Nations system, there are efforts to share data or derive data products and services with Member States. Among United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs efforts to share Earth observation data, its Open Universe Initiative in partnership with Italy is aimed at enhancing the online availability and visibility of astronomical and space science data following internationally agreed standards. In addition, WMO, through its space programme, “conducts a wide range of activities and acts as a bridge between satellite operators and users with the overall objective of promoting the wide availability and utilization of satellite data and products for weather, climate, water and related applications by WMO members”.⁶⁵

71. The international community can continue to invest in multilateral cooperation in scientific research and the development of space technologies and to collaborate in global education and capacity-building. Examples include the International Space Station and other collaborative international research efforts, the International Student Education Board, and the Virtual Laboratory for Training and Education in Satellite Meteorology established by WMO and the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites. Finally, the University Space Engineering Consortium supports practical space-related development activities, mainly at the university level, such as designing, developing, manufacturing, launching and operating micro, nano and/or picosatellites and rockets.

72. Among other initiatives in the international community, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, the Group on Earth Observations and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management foster collaborative efforts towards harnessing space technologies for achieving the Goals.

⁶³ Programme on Space Applications (see <http://unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/psa/index.html>); Access to Space for All (see <http://unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/access2space4all/index.html>); International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite System (see <http://unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/icg/icg.html>); and Space4SDGs (see <http://unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/space4sdgs/index.html>).

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ A/AC.105/1179.