

23rd SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND ECONOMICS (E3)
New Developments in National and International Space Policies and Programmes II (1B)

Author: Dr. Ciro Arevalo Yepes
The World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Space Security, Colombia,
ciroarevalo1@yahoo.com

Dr. Peter Martinez
South African Astronomical Observatory, South Africa, peter.martinez@uct.ac.za
Dr. Kazuto Suzuki
Hokkaido University, Japan, kazutos@juris.hokudai.ac.jp

TOWARDS A UN SPACE POLICY

Abstract

At the 52nd session of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN-COPUOS), held in Vienna in February 2009, the Chairman of COPUOS presented a concept paper titled "Towards a UN Space Policy." This initiative was welcomed by a number of delegations, and was further endorsed at the General Assembly, in its resolution 64-86.

In the adopted resolution the General Assembly "notes with appreciation that the initiative of the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space seeks a holistic approach for enhancing coordination between Member States and the United Nations system in applying space science and technology to meet the challenges to development of all countries and to further promote and strengthen the use of space technology and its applications in the United Nations system would be further developed for consideration of the Committee at its fifty-third session."

During the sessions of the COPUOS Scientific and Technical Subcommittee informal consultations took place in February 2010 in order to prepare the work of the Committee at its 54th session, in June 2010. These consultations have enriched the dialogue around a UN space policy and are helping to clarify a number of issues touched on in the concept paper, particularly in regard to the role of the UN and its agencies as both a subject and an object of such an over-arching policy. This paper will discuss the concept and present a status update on the discussions in COPUOS.