

Co-Chairs' Proposed Five Year Workplan and Methods of Work
for the
Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities

Initial Tasks to be Undertaken in 2022:

- (a) On the basis of the agreed mandate and terms of reference, agree on the detailed workplan and methods of work of the Working Group. This shall include appropriate means of coordination with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee;
- (b) Undertake initial administrative, information collection and stocktaking tasks as provided for in the mandate of the Working Group, including through submissions by States Members of the Committee with regard to any guidance document provided by the Chair and Vice-Chair for the assistance of States Members to be circulated during the intersessional period.

The Five Year Workplan and Methods of Work for the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, with participation of developing countries encouraged, is as follows:

2023:

- (a) Collation and dissemination by the Chair and Vice-Chair of submissions by all States Members of the Committee with regard to any guidance document previously circulated by the Chair and Vice Chair during the intersessional period, together with a summary of these submissions prepared by the Chair of the Working Group, supported by the Secretariat;
- (b) Collect relevant information concerning activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources, including with respect to scientific and technological developments and current practices, taking into account their innovative and evolving nature;
- (c) Initial exchange of views on a study of the existing legal framework for such activities, in particular the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, and other applicable United Nations treaties, also taking into account other relevant instruments, as appropriate;
- (d) Initial preparation by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group, supported by the Secretariat, of a preliminary summary of the information collected and views expressed thus far, for submission to the Working Group for its further consideration;
- (e) Discuss and reach agreement on the arrangements for a dedicated international conference under the auspices of the United Nations, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Working Group found in A/76/20 (Annex III), with the scope and topics to be addressed in the conference to be more fully elaborated through inputs of States.

2024:

- (a) Review additional responses received from States in the intersessional period and continue the collection of relevant information and exchange of views as per the points 2023 (a), (b) and (c) above;
- (b) Review and update the preliminary summary prepared by the Chair of the information collected and views expressed and consolidate any additional relevant information and views presented, for submission to the Working Group for its further consideration;
- (c) Assess the benefits of further development of a framework for such activities including by way of additional international governance instruments;
- (d) Convene the international conference as mentioned above, preferably in conjunction with the meetings of the 64th Session of the Legal Subcommittee, and open to Governments, invited academic and other stakeholders, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources, with a report on such conference to

be prepared by the Chair of the Working Group, supported by the Secretariat, and submitted to the Working Group for its further consideration.

2025:

- (a) Presentation by the Chair of the Working Group of the activities thus far undertaken by the Working Group to the 62nd Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee;
- (b) Continue exchange of views on the preliminary summary prepared by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the information collected and views expressed as per the above, and review and update the preliminary summary and consolidate any additional relevant information and views presented, for submission to the Working Group for its further consideration;
- (c) Exchange of views on the development of a set of initial recommended principles for such activities, taking into account the need to ensure that they are carried out in accordance with international law and in a safe, sustainable, rational and peaceful manner.

2026:

- (a) Final review and refinement of the summary of discussions on the existing legal framework for such activities, as well as of the assessment of the benefits of further development of a framework for such activities;
- (b) Prepare a draft set of initial recommended principles for such activities by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group, supported by the Secretariat, taking into account the need to ensure that they are carried out in accordance with international law and in a safe, sustainable, rational and peaceful manner;
- (c) Exchange of views and compilation of views expressed on possible areas for further work of the Legal Subcommittee and recommended next steps, which may include the development of potential rules and/or norms, for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources, including with respect to related activities and benefit sharing, taking into account the summary of discussions on the study of the existing legal framework for such activities, as well as the assessment of the benefits of further development of a framework for such activities and the draft set of initial recommended principles for such activities.

2027:

- (a) Finalization of a set of initial recommended principles for such activities for the consideration of and consensus agreement by the Committee, followed by possible adoption by the United Nations General Assembly as a dedicated resolution or other action;
- (b) Adoption by the Committee of a final report of the Working Group, incorporating the results of each of the activities undertaken by the Working Group in accordance with its mandate, as appropriate.