



UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

Reference: OOSA/2021/11
CU 2021/116

The Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat presents its compliments to the [[[AddressLine1]]] [[[ToUNOV]]] as a State member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and, on behalf of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, with reference to document “Decisions and actions by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee taken by written procedure” (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fifth session, Supplement No. 20 (A/75/20)*), has the honour to introduce a draft decision on the organization of the fifty-eighth session of the Subcommittee to be held from 19 to 30 April 2021. In this regard, consideration needs to be given to the exceptional circumstances posed by the pandemic; the high level of unpredictability as to how the situation will evolve in the coming months; the current health and safety measures of the host country, including travel restrictions and minimum distance requirements; and the conference room capacities at the Vienna International Centre (VIC).

The following draft decision is hereby put for action:

Draft decision: The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee decides that its fifty-eighth session shall be conducted in hybrid format with a limited number of participants in the designated conference room and in accordance with the requirements stipulated for meetings being held at the Vienna International Centre, Vienna, Austria, at the time of the session. If restrictions resulting from developments in the COVID-19 pandemic preclude the holding of the fifty-eighth session of the Subcommittee in hybrid format, the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee will convene consultations with a view to reaching consensus through a new decision.

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[[[City]]], [[[CountryAddressName]]]

This decision is exceptional, aimed at mitigating difficulties imposed by the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and does not constitute any precedent for future decision-making by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space or its subsidiary bodies. The organization of the session is to be adapted to meet the constraints posed by the use of the digital platform for interpretation into all official languages of the United Nations offered by Conference Management Service at the United Nations Office at Vienna:

- Plenary statements will receive full interpretation services and will be limited to a maximum of 7 minutes.
- Formal meetings of Working Groups will receive full interpretation services. Informal meetings of Working Groups will not have interpretation services.
- Technical presentations will be made on the sidelines of the session and be limited to a maximum of 12 minutes and will not receive interpretation services. Technical presentations may be delivered in any of the six official United Nations languages, but there will be no simultaneous interpretation.
- In the indicative schedule of work of the fifty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (to be issued), two full days will be allocated for the adoption of the draft report of the Subcommittee. Delegations of States members of the Committee may, in addition, provide language-related comments in language versions other than English on the Working Group reports and Subcommittee report, in writing to the secretariat within one week after the completion of the session. This is solely due to the extraordinary nature of this particular session and does not create any precedent for future sessions of the Subcommittee.
- The indicative schedule of work of the session will be formally adopted at its first meeting and any further changes to it may be decided by the Subcommittee no later than 48 hours before the scheduled meeting.

Member States of the United Nations not members of the Committee and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations without permanent observer status to the Committee may apply for attendance to the session as observers, in accordance with established procedures.

This draft decision is hereby placed under silence procedure for 72 hours, until **11:00 (11 a.m.) (Vienna Time), on 12 March 2021**. If the silence is not broken, the draft decision shall be considered adopted by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

The Office for Outer Space Affairs informs that States members of the Committee wishing to make an objection to the proposal may do so via a letter or note verbale addressed to the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, to the following email address: oosa@un.org.

The Office for Outer Space Affairs takes this opportunity to renew to the [[[AddressLine1]]] [[[ToUNOV]]] the assurances of its highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'D.E.' with a stylized flourish.

8 March 2021