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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Sixty-sixth session
Vienna, 31 May–9 June 2023
Item 7 of the provisional agenda*
**Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its
sixty-second session**

**Input to the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space
Resource Activities on Scope and Topics to be addressed at
the International Space Resource Conference to be held
in 2024**

**Joint views of Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Finland, Germany,
Greece, Luxembourg, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway,
Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Sweden,
Switzerland and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern
Ireland**

With reference to the invitation by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities (OOSA/2023/33 of 21 April 2023) we wish to submit the following views regarding the scope and topics of the international conference and with a view to reaching an agreement on the arrangements for that conference.

It is our view that the purpose of the international conference in 2024 is in principle to receive “work on the issue of activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources, including but not limited to study reports, academic research and papers”, as determined in paragraph (f) of the Working Group’s Terms of Reference.

It is our understanding that the conference serves foremost as an information gathering forum, enabling the Working Group to receive views of non-State actors, including civil society, academia, industry, and the private sector, on scientific, technical and operational aspects related to space resource activities. Such conference shall allow for an open and inclusive exchange with a wide range of stakeholders and to gather relevant information on the achievements as well as current and future activities related to space resources. The conference is not, in itself, intended to be the place of intergovernmental discussions concerning the elaboration of a set of recommended principles for space resource activities. Such intergovernmental discussions will take place during the regular formal and informal Working Group

* [A/AC.105/L.333](#).



meetings guided by the rules of procedure, methods of work and established practices of the Committee.

The conference arrangements shall allow to secure diverse participation and structured input by a wide range of stakeholders: governments, agencies, international bodies, non-governmental organizations, civil and cultural society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and others willing to share their positions and views on the topic of space resource activities.

Therefore, we see merit in the proposal contained in A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.41 and in holding an Expert Meeting in Luxembourg collecting preliminary inputs for consideration at the International Space Resources Conference in Vienna, in cooperation with the United Nations. This would allow securing input from stakeholders not being States members of the Committee nor observers, such as leaders from research institutes and academia, as well as terrestrial and aerospace industries. Online access to this part of the conference will allow all States members of the Working Group and national experts to follow the presentations offered in English and to pose questions remotely. Holding the International Space Resources Conference within the margins of the Legal Subcommittee's meeting in Vienna could allow to gather additional stakeholder input offered in one of the six United Nations languages and benefiting from interpretation services.

By adopting such approach, input by the widest possible range of experts could be secured which would then inform the subsequent discussions at member State level.

We support the following topics for the conference:

- Achievements in the scientific and technological domains;
- Possible designs of an international space resources regime;
- Environmental aspects, sustainability of lunar resources activities and designation of protected areas, safety of operations, transparency measures and exchange of mission-related information;
- Requirements for the safe undertaking of space resources activities;
- Assistance to developing countries;
- Data-sharing and access to scientific results;
- Due regard and conflict prevention, including a potential framework for dispute resolution; and
- United Nations treaties on outer space and space resource exploration, exploitation and utilization.
