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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Sixty-first session
Vienna, 29 January–9 February 2024**

Draft report

Addendum

IX. Future role and method of work of the Committee

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 78/72, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 12, entitled “Future role and method of work of the Committee”.
2. The representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States made statements under agenda item 12. The representative of the European Union, in its capacity as permanent observer, made a statement on behalf of the European Union and its member States. The observers for CANEUS International and SKAO also made statements under the item. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were made by representatives of other member States.
3. The Subcommittee heard a technical presentation entitled “Indonesia’s astronomical observatory: a novel global platform for space research enhancing peaceful applications and space situational awareness”, by the representative of Indonesia.
4. The Subcommittee had before it a conference room paper on the protection of dark and quiet skies for science and society, submitted by Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, Germany, Italy, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Paraguay, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, EAS, ESO and SKAO(A/AC.105/C.1/2024/CRP.18).
5. The Subcommittee noted that the Committee and its subcommittees served as a unique platform for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.
6. Some delegations expressed the view that any rule-making activity aimed at the sustainable exploration, exploitation and utilization of outer space should be conducted within the framework of the Committee in order to avoid the fragmentation of governance of outer space activities.
7. The view was expressed that multiple parallel platforms for considering the subject matter that had been under the purview of the Committee for years were



emerging and functioning without the consensus-based principle, and that one such platform was the open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 78/20.

8. Some delegations expressed the view that the Committee should focus on the safety and sustainability of outer space activities, while matters relating to security should be dealt with in the context of the United Nations disarmament platforms.

9. Some delegations expressed the view that the Committee should actively respond to new challenges in outer space and that it needed new approaches, tools and procedures to adjust to fast-paced space-related developments and activities.

10. The view was expressed that it was important to retain the intergovernmental nature of the governance of outer space activities.

11. Some delegations expressed the view that although non-governmental processes could benefit or supplement the work of the Committee in certain ways, such processes should not interfere with that work.

12. The view was expressed that the Committee could benefit from the latest research, practical experience and scientific practice through wider engagement with non-State actors, including the private sector and the scientific community, whether it was through more presentations or additional panel discussions.

13. Some delegations expressed the view that initiatives such as the United Nations Space Bridge that were aimed at building constructive dialogue with commercial operators and with the scientific and academic circles should not supplant the primary role of States in the work of the Committee.

14. The view was expressed that the Committee could play a key role in facilitating access to databases to support the voluntary implementation of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee ([A/74/20](#), annex II).

15. The view was expressed that persistent efforts should be made to achieve more diversified and institutionalized capacity-building, including with the support of the private sector, that continued support should be given to all the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, and that those centres should enhance exchanges and cooperation with one another.

16. Some delegations expressed the view that the Committee and its subcommittees should jointly consider interdisciplinary issues such as the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and space resources.

17. The view was expressed that all decisions of the Committee and its subcommittees, except for routine administrative decisions, should continue to be made by consensus.

18. Some delegations expressed the view that it was important for the Pact for the Future to underscore the central role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in space governance and that any duplication or dilution of the ongoing work and mandates of the Committee in those areas should be avoided.

19. Some delegations expressed the view that the Pact for the Future should help promote regional approaches to space traffic management as a pragmatic, bottom-up way to build confidence and establish concrete space traffic management solutions at the global level; should encourage the implementation and updating of the existing Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities; and should urge the Secretary-General to strengthen the Office for Outer Space Affairs to ensure that the Office can fully and effectively implement its mandate.

20. Some delegations expressed the view that an item entitled “Exchange of views on dark and quiet skies for science and society” should be included in the agenda of the Subcommittee at its sessions in 2025, 2026 and 2027 as a single issue/item for

discussion, and that the item should focus on the effects of large constellations of satellites on astronomical observations.

21. Some delegations expressed the view that large constellations were affecting not only astronomical observations but also the safe conduct of space activities, and that the new agenda item related to dark and quiet skies and large constellations should be a regular item on the agenda of the Subcommittee.

22. The view was expressed that meetings of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies should be conducted in a hybrid format to enable the widest possible participation by developing countries, and that that would, in turn, support those States in capacity-building, information-sharing and the dissemination of best practices in the conduct of space activities.

23. The view was expressed that the existing procedure for the adoption of the report of the Committee and its subcommittees was cumbersome and time-consuming, and that it should be simplified or replaced by alternative methods, such as a Chair's report or minutes of meetings.

24. The Subcommittee welcomed the enhancements to the organization of its work, such as the streamlining of the agenda, the scheduling of agenda items in sequential order and the reduction in the volume of printed documentation.
