



# General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space  
Legal Subcommittee  
Sixty-third session  
Vienna, 15–26 April 2024**

## Draft report

### Addendum

## II. General exchange of views

1. Statements were made by representatives of the following States members of the Committee during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Bulgaria, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). A statement was made by the representative of Colombia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. A statement was also made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of African States. 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 ESA, For All Moonkind, IAA, UNIDROIT, the Moon Village Association, the National Space Society, SGAC, SKAO and UNISEC-Global also made statements. In addition, a statement was made by Space Renaissance International, which had been admitted to the session as an observer.

2. The Subcommittee heard a presentation entitled “Results from Japan’s Moon lander ‘SLIM’ landing on the Moon”, by the representative of Japan.

3. At the 1054th meeting, on 15 April, the Chair made a statement in which he referred to the programme of work and organizational matters pertaining to the current session of the Subcommittee. He noted how innovation and knowledge derived from space exploration and related activities supported economic growth, delivered high returns on investment and generated new technologies and job creation, and in that connection noted the importance of the tasks before the Subcommittee as it considered many areas of space law and governance. He highlighted the unique potential of the Subcommittee for fostering dialogue and cooperation at the global multilateral level and emphasized his commitment to facilitating the work of the Subcommittee.



4. At the same meeting, the Subcommittee heard a statement by the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in which she underscored the efforts of the leadership team of the Office to drive positive change in the areas of the five key pillars of the strategy of the Office and called upon member States to proactively uphold the Vienna spirit and make best efforts to advance work under all agenda items. She also informed the Subcommittee that, in 2023, the Office had registered, on behalf of the Secretary-General, 2,587 functional and 49 non-functional space objects of 32 States and 1 organization, and had received notifications of 585 space object re-entries and additional information on 22 space objects from 15 States. Since the beginning of 2024, the Office had received registration submissions for 535 functional and non-functional objects from 18 States.
5. The Subcommittee reaffirmed the importance of implementing, at the national level, the principles enshrined in the United Nations treaties governing space activities and called upon all States operating in outer space and States with operators conducting activities in outer space to develop and implement, to the extent that they had not already done so, national laws and regulations to govern those activities and operations.
6. Some delegations expressed the view that the Committee and its subsidiary bodies continued to be the only forum within the United Nations for comprehensive discussions on matters related to the peaceful uses of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, and that there should be more interaction between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee in order to promote advances in space law and keep space law aligned with major scientific and technical advances. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that coordinating the work of the Subcommittees and using the synergies between them would promote understanding and acceptance and would further the implementation of the existing United Nations legal instruments.
7. Some delegations expressed the view that responsible space actors should be committed to promoting the universalization and implementation of international instruments on outer space, in particular the Outer Space Treaty, and that all States were encouraged to ratify the United Nations treaties on outer space and fully implement their obligations.
8. Some delegations reaffirmed their strict adherence to the principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, including those outlined in General Assembly resolutions 1884 (XVIII) and 1962 (XVIII), specifically: (a) universal and equal access to outer space for all countries without discrimination, regardless of their level of scientific, technical and economic development, and the equitable and rational use of outer space for the benefit and in the interests of all humankind; (b) the principle of non-appropriation of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, which could not be appropriated by any State, by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation or by any other means; (c) the non-militarization of outer space, which was never to be used for the placement and/or deployment of weapons of any kind, and, as the province of humankind, its strict use for the improvement of living conditions and peace among peoples; and (d) international cooperation in the development of space activities, in particular those referred to in the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries.
9. Some delegations expressed the view that discussions within the Legal Subcommittee should not lead to norms, guidelines, standards or other measures that would limit the access of nations with emerging space capabilities, in particular developing countries, to outer space. In the view of those delegations, the international legal framework should be developed in a manner that addressed the concerns of all States.

10. The view was expressed that international space law, with the Outer Space Treaty at its core, should be strictly adhered to and that the obligation of international cooperation in outer space should be carried out in good faith.
11. Some delegations expressed the view that it was important to prevent an arms race and the placement of weapons of any kind in outer space, and called upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively and commit to preserving outer space as a peaceful environment. In the view of those delegations, the sustainability of outer space activities, in both the short and the long term, required that the international community ensure that no weapons were ever placed or used there.
12. Some delegations expressed the view that issues concerning the use of outer space for security purposes were more appropriately discussed in forums whose mandates focused on those issues.
13. The view was expressed that discussions on issues within the mandate of the Committee and its subcommittees should not be transferred away to other platforms and that there was no added value in launching parallel processes that duplicated functions.
14. The view was expressed that, without infringing on the work and mandate of other processes and bodies in the United Nations system, the Committee and its subcommittees had never been precluded from considering security aspects relevant to their work and that a holistic intergovernmental process for the global governance of outer space that would generate meaningful results on the broad range of topics, bringing together diverse national interests and values, should be supported.
15. Some delegations welcomed the fact that outer space issues relevant to the work of the Committee and its subcommittees could feature prominently at the Summit of the Future, which was to be held in New York in September 2024.
16. Some delegations expressed the view that the Artemis Accords on the Principles for Cooperation in the Civil Exploration and Use of the Moon, Mars, Comets, and Asteroids for Peaceful Purposes were a non-binding set of principles that enhanced governance of the civil exploration and use of outer space, providing guidance for the operational implementation of several key obligations under the Outer Space Treaty, and noted that the membership of the Artemis Accords had increased to 38 signatory States during the present session of the Subcommittee.
17. Some delegations noted that additional States were cooperating on the International Lunar Research Station initiated by China and the Russian Federation and that other interested countries, international organizations and international partners were welcome to join.
18. Some delegations expressed the view that the Africa outer space strategy, a flagship project of the African Union's Agenda 2063, afforded a multitude of opportunities for the African continent to realize its social and commercial potential and, in that connection, recalled the signing of the host country agreement between the African Union Commission and Egypt, as well as the recent election of Algeria and Morocco as members of the African Space Council of the African Space Agency.
19. The view was expressed that the future work of the Latin American and Caribbean Space Agency (ALCE) would be a milestone for the development of space activities in Latin American and Caribbean countries.
20. Some delegations expressed the view that it was important that the Committee and its subcommittees do more work on capacity-building and that the Office for Outer Space Affairs receive appropriate funding to enable it to provide valuable support for developing countries, including through its capacity-building and technical assistance programmes, such as those in the areas of space law and policy.

21. The exhibition entitled “Astronomas”, organized by the Permanent Mission of Spain, was presented in the Vienna International Centre in conjunction with the sixty-third session of the Subcommittee.

22. The following events were held on the margins of the sixty-third session of the Subcommittee:

(a) “Reception hosted by the Chair of the Legal Subcommittee”, organized by the Chair of the Subcommittee;

(b) “Outer space in the zero draft of the Pact of the Future: perspectives and next steps”, co-organized by Germany and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in cooperation with the German Space Agency (DLR);

(c) “The Registration Project: supporting implementation of treaty obligations related to the registration of objects launched into outer space – phase one study findings and next steps”, co-organized by the United Kingdom Space Agency and the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(d) “IISL/ECSL space law capacity-building initiatives – a regional perspective”, organized by ESA;

(e) “From WRC-23 to the next cycle: how to make everyone happy? (Hint: you can’t)”, organized by ESPI;

(f) “Space sustainability open forum: active debris removal”, organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(g) “Space law for new space actors”, organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

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