

LTS INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS

NON-PAPER BY THE INFORMAL CHAIR: SOUTH AFRICA

Delegations attach great importance to the LTS and value COPUOS as the appropriate multilateral forum in which to conduct LTS discussions.

Consequently, member states have made their views known in statements in Plenary, in CRP's and during informal discussions held on 13/06/2019. Based on the aforementioned it is clear that there is an appetite for continued discussions on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, including the Preamble and agreed 21 Guidelines and how to take these further.

There is also a general acceptance that long-term sustainability of outer space activities goes beyond the consensus achieved on the Preamble and 21 Guidelines, as space sustainability issues gain prominence as space science and technology advances.

Areas of convergence have been noted:

- There is an appetite for the establishment of a working group to support on-going dialogue and activities in ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities,
- There is a need to identify the priorities and terms of reference of the Working Group,
- There is a need to develop a review mechanism for the activities of the Working Group
- Exchange information on the implementation of the Guidelines should be facilitated within the Working Group.

Issues still to be considered:

- Status of the Preamble and 21 consensus Guidelines, is it possible to get these guidelines adopted by UNGA in the form of a resolution?
- Scope/priorities of the Working Group, including issues such as:
 - ✓ implementation,
 - ✓ information exchange,

- ✓ consideration of new issues to be introduced and discussed as well as the mechanism for making new proposals,
 - ✓ addressing the 7 draft guidelines,
 - ✓ identification of new guidelines to be developed,
 - ✓ capacity building and awareness raising - both within UNCOPUOS and outside etc.,
 - ✓ interaction with other bodies of UNCOPUOS etc.,
 - ✓ review of the existing guidelines
- Placement of the Working Group within the UNCOPUOS structure
 - Mechanism for making new proposals to the Working Group
 - Duration/timeline of the Working Group
 - Terms of reference of the Working Group, including modalities of operation, appointment of the Chairperson etc.
 - Incorporating ideas from permanent observers, NGO's and other private sector actors
 - How decisions taken at this 62nd Session of UNCOPUOS are reflected as report language

The afore mentioned discussion point are aimed at generating dialogue on the way forward and will, if there is agreement, be further discussed during informal session meetings scheduled as follows: Monday – Wednesday, 17-19 June - 2:00-4:00 PM in Room.

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