

STATEMENT BY AUSTRIA
Ambassador Gabriel SELLNER AGENDA

60th LSC
AGENDA ITEM 9
“Future Role and Method of Work of the Committee”
08 JUNE 2021

Madame Chair, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Document A/AC.105/C.1/L.384 on “*Governance and method of work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies*” contains proposals for improving the procedures and methods of the work of UN-COPUOS and its two Subcommittees. In Part III of this document on “*Organizational measures on which discussion is ongoing*”, several aspects are mentioned that need to be further discussed and clarified.

In addition to Austria’s statement during the last session of the *Scientific and Technical Subcommittee* under this item, we would like to draw your attention to the following issues of expert input and improved interactions between the two Subcommittees of UN-COPUOS :

Expert Inputs

Sessions of the *Legal Subcommittee* provide every year the opportunity to hold a symposium in order to inform participants on the latest developments in space law and policy as well as on scientific and technological aspects. Experts discuss a wide range of topics at the traditional *IISL/ECSL symposium*, such as legal aspects of small satellites, the exploitation of space resources or challenges with regard to registration practices. In addition, there is the opportunity for delegations to give **technical presentations** relating to both legal and technological issues discussed in this Subcommittee.

These expert contributions provide valuable input for the discussion among participants. They also provide the necessary background of facts and data to enable informed decisions by delegations.

One way of expanding the possibility to engage with experts, would be to extend the duration of the traditional *IISL/ECSL symposium*, which is currently scheduled for half a day, to one full day.

A second symposium or alternatively expert panel discussions and presentations on specific agenda items, during lunchtime on the days following the traditional symposium, could be envisaged.

Austria therefore supports points III/ 1 lit. (f) of the above-mentioned document to "*Only allow presentations that are closely related to the agenda items*" and lit. (h) to "*Establish selection criteria for presentations*".

Improving the interaction between the two subcommittees

There is room to further improve cooperation between the *Legal Subcommittee* and the *Scientific and Technical Subcommittee*. For discussions in the *Legal Subcommittee*, it is important to have a comprehensive exchange of information with the *Scientific and Technical Subcommittee* on current developments in space science and technology in order to align legal requirements and assessments with new scientific knowledge and technological developments.

In the development of guidelines and standards by the Legal Subcommittee, scientific research on space debris remediation or removal and on-orbit servicing, including relevant studies and analytical work to characterise the space debris environment, should be taken into account.

The cooperation between the two Subcommittees would also be further improved by regular reports to each other, as this would contribute to a mutual exchange of information.

Thank You!