

Madam Chair,

Thank you for this opportunity to share the views of my country on how to improve the routines and methods of work of the Committee and its subcommittees.

As a first point, we would like to highlight the role that can be played by technology. We already have a very positive experience with webcasts and digital recordings, but the challenges created by the COVID 19 pandemic have forced us to explore alternatives to ensure the continuity of the activities of COPUOS and its subcommittees, with different degrees of success.

While we are all hoping for a return to normality and business as usual, we should also examine which of the approaches that we have resorted to can be used in the future to streamline the activities of our meetings. It is undeniable that in-person meetings are essential to the success of our work, but we feel that we should also explore the possibilities offered by technology, such as virtual meetings and remote participation.

We expect that further technological developments will eventually allow us to overcome the limitations associated with remote participation, so it is our view that this agenda item should also examine how technology can be used to facilitate participation and streamline discussions. This seems to be a promising avenue which would allow us to reduce costs and mitigate the impact of our meetings on the environment, and facilitate the participation of experts and delegates from developing countries. Such approaches could, for instance, be first adopted in informal or intersessional meetings and then assessed in terms of effectiveness.

Madam Chair,

Also with regard to the use of technology, we would like to suggest that the Committee and its subcommittees consider the adoption of electronic forms when collecting information ahead of the sessions. We have already seen very positive developments in the use of templates, and we praise the secretariat for making those available, and we feel that a logical next step would be to take the whole process online, thus streamlining the need for processing and compiling information.

As regards the question of decision-making, addressed in section 3 of document L.384, Brazil firmly believes that the work of COPUOS and its subcommittees should continue to be guided by the spirit of Vienna and the search for consensus. However, we believe there is merit in investigating the possibility of adopting voting procedures for those matters that are procedural and that have on occasion been forwarded to the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly, notably those related to observer or membership status. In practical terms, the Committee has invested considerable time in those matters, only to find that consensus is not possible and that consideration of the matter had to be transferred to New York. We believe this to be undesirable for a number of reasons. From a practical perspective, a considerable amount of time and resources is spent on matters that cannot be satisfactorily decided by consensus. From a political perspective, such discussions shift

our focus from our core issues and create tensions that may contaminate substantive discussions. In the end, they yield no practical results as the matters are sent to New York for a decision.

Madam Chair,

I would like to make brief remarks about the handling of presentations. Brazil supports proposals a/c/d/f/i/k/l/m, as listed in documents L.384 under paragraph 47. We fully agree with those delegations that view technical presentations as making an important contribution to our discussions, but this has to be balanced against the core functions of COPUOS and its subcommittees. Therefore we feel presentation should be held during lunchtime and before and after the formal meetings. If necessary, a limit to the number of presentations per delegation or observer should be adopted. Also, as presentations are also meant to contribute to our discussions, they should, as a rule, be linked to the agenda items, and any exception to this principle can only be possible if slots are still available after all other requests have been met. Finally, in line with the use of electronic forms for the collection of information prior to our sessions, the same procedure should be required of presenters, who should also provide abstracts.

Madam Chair,

In closing, Brazil would suggest that we could consider the idea of collecting feedback about our methods and organization of work immediately after the closing of the session, when our experiences are still fresh. This could provide us with invaluable insights about our work here and better inform our debate on how to streamline our activities.

Thank you.