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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-first session
Vienna, 19-30 March 2012

**Review of the financial and other implications of webcasting
the sessions of the Subcommittee**

Paper submitted by the Secretariat

1. At its fiftieth session, in 2011, the Legal Subcommittee requested the Secretariat to present to the Subcommittee at its fifty-first session, for its consideration, a review of the financial and other implications of webcasting the sessions of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/990, para. 197).
2. A webcast is a live video and audio broadcast of an event, transmitted over the Internet. For a webcast, the data transmission is single-sided. Therefore, interaction between the presenters and the audience is not possible. A webinar, by contrast, is interactive and allows information to be transmitted between the meeting and the webcast audience.
3. At present, the Conference Management Service (CMS) of the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV) does not have the mandate nor the capacity to provide webcasting services for meetings.
4. Some of the basic technical resources (cameras and streaming servers) have been obtained by the Information Technology Service (ITS) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which provides information technology services to UNOV/UNODC. ITS can provide a basic webcasting service on an ad hoc and “best-effort” basis. This basic webcast is limited to a single static camera view which is transmitted (streamed) over the Internet with accompanying audio. The technical resources to transmit the output of two cameras do exist, but the Service lacks the staff resources to implement this ability.
5. In addition to dedicating human resources to webcasting, if the anticipated audience exceeds 200 viewers (worldwide), providing acceptable broadcast quality would require a properly sized Internet connection hosted by a dedicated service

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provider. Furthermore, equipment (cameras, mixers, servers, etc.) at an estimated total cost of €100,000 would be needed.

6. On occasions where more advanced webcasting is required for meetings at UNOV, the task is outsourced. The cost of webcast outsourcing depends on the length of the transmission and on the practical requirements, such as the number of cameras. The cost estimate for a five-day meeting is approximately €10,000. This cost includes provision of staff, hiring of cameras and other necessary equipment, and the necessary bandwidth on the Internet to transmit the meeting.

7. The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), which is also based at the Vienna International Centre (VIC), provides webcasting services for its meetings. However, these services are not available for other organizations at the VIC.

8. Meetings of the policymaking organs (Working Group A, Working Group B, and the Preparatory Commission) of the CTBTO are streamed. On request, and when human and material resources allow, other events such as lectures, training courses and workshops are also streamed.

9. Webcasting is performed on an ad hoc and “best-effort” basis by a technician from the Policy Making Organs Secretariat Support Section, with support from the web and network specialists.

10. The webcasts organized by CTBTO can be viewed by accessing the Experts Communication System (ECS) on the CTBTO website. Webcasts are also available on the CTBTO intranet for staff members and on occasion, on the CTBTO website for the general public to view. To gain access to the ECS, applicants from States signatories to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty must be nominated by way of a note verbale from their Permanent Missions. Subsequently, a user name and a password are granted and sent to the applicant by e-mail. The webcasts of events are archived in the ECS, and are accessible with the same user name and password.

11. The United Nations Secretariat in New York also provides webcasting and webinar services for some meetings. The webcasts of the Secretariat in New York can be viewed on the website www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/index.html. However, as the technical resources are required at the venue of the meeting, the Secretariat at UNOV is unable to use this capability for servicing the Committee and its Subcommittees.