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Committee on the Peaceful

Uses of Outer Space

Legal Subcommittee

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Agenda item 9

Proposals to the Committee on new agenda items

Work plan on space debris

Draft proposal from France supported by member and cooperating States of the European Space Agency*

1. The adoption by the IADC of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines, (A/AC.105/C.1/L.260 - dated 29 November 2002), which were presented to the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee (STSC) in February 2003, constitute an important step towards the establishment of a transparent process for the prevention, management and control of space debris by states and international organizations. Based on the assumption that the IADC guidelines will be adopted by the main Committee in 2004, ESA member and cooperating states stress the need for universal and prompt application of the guidelines. To this end the LSC should study all the legal implications of these guidelines (e.g. universal application, responsibility and control).

2. In order to begin the necessary process for consideration in the LSC, we would like to propose a 4-year work plan:

Year 1 - 2005: Technical briefing on space debris and review of the existing legal regime applicable to space debris.

Year 2 - 2006: Review of the IADC mitigation guidelines and legal matters arising therefrom.

Year 3 - 2007: Year 2 review to continue and to result in a report setting out legal issues identified. Identification of the most appropriate UN legal instrument to address these legal issues and to allow the universal application of the technical mitigation guidelines,

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Year 4 - 2008: Preparation of the legal instrument for adoption by the Committee and the G.A.
