



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
25 January 2008

Original: English

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee
Forty-seventh session
Vienna, 31 March-11 April 2008**

Provisional agenda*

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of the Chairman.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Statement by the Chairman.
5. General exchange of views.
6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.
7. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law.
8. Matters relating to:
 - (a) The definition and delimitation of outer space;
 - (b) The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.

* In paragraph 4 of its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Legal Subcommittee, at its forty-seventh session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries, should consider items 5, 6, 7 and 8 as regular items of the agenda, should consider items 9, 10 and 11 as single issues and items for discussion and should consider item 12 in accordance with the workplan adopted by the Committee. In paragraph 5 of the same resolution, the Assembly noted that the Subcommittee, at its forty-seventh session, would submit proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee at its forty-eighth session, in 2009.



9. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.
10. Examination and review of the developments concerning the draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment.
11. Capacity-building in space law.
12. General exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.
13. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-eighth session.

Annotations

2. Election of the Chairman

In accordance with the agreement reached by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its forty-sixth session on the measures relating to the future composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies,¹ and pursuant to the measures relating to the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies,² the Group of Eastern European States nominated Vladimír Kopal (Czech Republic) for the office of Chair of the Legal Subcommittee for the period 2008-2009.

In paragraph 51 of its resolution 61/111, the General Assembly endorsed the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2008-2009, and agreed that the Committee and its Subcommittees should elect their officers at their respective sessions in 2008 in accordance with that composition. This agreement was endorsed by the Assembly in paragraph 55 of its resolution 62/217.

6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space

In paragraph 6 of its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly noted that the Legal Subcommittee, at its forty-seventh session, would reconvene its Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space and would review the need to extend the mandate of the Working Group beyond that session of the Subcommittee.

At its fortieth session, in 2001, the Legal Subcommittee agreed that the topics addressed in the discussions of the Working Group would include the status of the treaties, the review of their implementation and obstacles to their universal acceptance, as well as the promotion of space law, especially through the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (A/AC.105/763 and Corr.1, para. 118).

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/58/20)*, annex II, paras. 5-9.

² *Ibid.*, *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/52/20)*, annex I; see also *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/58/20)*, annex II, appendix III.

At its forty-first session, in 2002, the Subcommittee agreed that the Working Group could consider any new, similar issues that might be raised in discussions in the Working Group, provided that those issues fell within its existing mandate (A/AC.105/787, para. 140).

At the forty-sixth session of the Subcommittee, in 2007, the Working Group agreed that during the forty-seventh session of the Subcommittee, in 2008, member States, in addressing the low participation of States in the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (General Assembly resolution 34/68, annex) could (A/AC.105/891, para. 11):

- (a) Address activities currently being carried out or to be carried out on the Moon and other celestial bodies in the near future;
- (b) Identify the benefits of adherence to the Moon Agreement;
- (c) Identify the international and national rules governing the activities on the Moon and other celestial bodies;
- (d) Assess whether existing international rules adequately addressed activities on the Moon and other celestial bodies.

7. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law

In the discussion of item 7, member States may bring to the attention of the Legal Subcommittee any information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law.

8. Matters relating to:

(a) The definition and delimitation of outer space

In paragraph 7 of its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly noted that the Legal Subcommittee would reconvene its Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space.

(b) The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

11. Capacity-building in space law

At its forty-sixth session, in 2007, the Subcommittee agreed to include “Capacity-building in space law” as a new single issue/item on its agenda at its forty-seventh session, in 2008, and noted that the deliberations under that item would be aimed at promoting cooperation with and assistance to developing countries. The Subcommittee also agreed to review the possibility of extending that item beyond the forty-seventh session (A/AC.105/891, para. 135).

12. General exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space

In paragraph 8 of its resolution 62/217, the General Assembly noted that the Legal Subcommittee would consider presentations by Member States of reports on their national legislation, according to the workplan for the period of 2008-2011.

Annex

Organization of work

1. At its forty-sixth session, in 2007, the Legal Subcommittee agreed that its work should continue to be organized flexibly with a view to making the best use of the available conference services (A/AC.105/891, para. 10). The work of the Subcommittee has been scheduled so as to afford the working groups that will be reconvened under items 6 and 8 (a) the maximum amount of time available.
2. The Subcommittee at its forty-sixth session agreed to invite the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law to organize a symposium on such a theme with the aim of possibly including the topic as a single issue/item in the agenda at its forty-eighth session, in 2009 (A/AC.105/891, para. 137). At the close of the afternoon meetings on 31 March and 1 April 2008, a symposium entitled “Legal implications of space applications for global climate change”, sponsored by the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law, will be held.
3. An indicative schedule of work is provided below.

Indicative schedule of work^a

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Week of 31 March-4 April 2008		
Monday, 31 March	Item 1. Opening of the session Item 2. Election of the Chairman Item 3. Adoption of the agenda Item 4. Statement by the Chairman Item 5. General exchange of views	Item 5. General exchange of views Symposium: Legal implications of space applications for global climate change (day 1)
Tuesday, 1 April	Item 5. General exchange of views Item 6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space ^b Item 7. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law	Item 5. General exchange of views Symposium: Legal implications of space applications for global climate change (day 2)
Wednesday, 2 April	Item 5. General exchange of views Item 6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space ^b Item 7. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law	Item 6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space ^b Item 7. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law Item 9. Nuclear power sources

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Thursday, 3 April	Item 6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space ^b Item 7. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law Item 9. Nuclear power sources	Item 6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space ^b Item 7. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law Item 9. Nuclear power sources
Friday, 4 April	Item 8 (a). The definition and delimitation of outer space ^c Item 8 (b). The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit Item 9. Nuclear power sources Item 10. Examination and review of the developments concerning the draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment	Item 8 (a). The definition and delimitation of outer space ^c Item 8 (b). The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit Item 9. Nuclear power sources Item 10. Examination and review of the developments concerning the draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment
Week of 7-11 April 2008		
Monday, 7 April	Item 8 (a). The definition and delimitation of outer space ^c Item 8 (b). The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit Item 10. Examination and review of the developments concerning the draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment Item 11. Capacity-building in space law	Item 8 (a). The definition and delimitation of outer space ^c Item 8 (b). The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit Item 10. Examination and review of the developments concerning the draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment Item 11. Capacity-building in space law
Tuesday, 8 April	Item 8 (a). The definition and delimitation of outer space ^c Item 8 (b). The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit Item 10. Examination and review of the developments concerning the draft protocol on matters specific to space assets to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment Item 11. Capacity-building in space law	Item 11. Capacity-building in space law Item 12. General exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space Item 13. Proposals to the Committee for new agenda items

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Wednesday, 9 April	Item 11. Capacity-building in space law Item 12. General exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space Item 13. Proposals to the Committee for new agenda items	Item 12. General exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space Item 13. Proposals to the Committee for new agenda items
Thursday, 10 April	Item 12. General exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space Item 13. Proposals to the Committee for new agenda items Adoption of the report of the Working Group on agenda item 6	Item 12. General exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space Item 13. Proposals to the Committee for new agenda items Adoption of the report of the Working Group on agenda item 8 (a)
Friday, 11 April	Adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee	Adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee

^a At its thirty-eighth session, in 1995, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that the practice of allocating specific agenda items to particular meetings at a session should be ended and that, to assist in their planning, Member States would continue to be provided with an indicative schedule of work, which would be without prejudice to the actual timing of consideration of specific agenda items (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/50/20)*, para. 169 (b)).

^b The Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, to be reconvened in accordance with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 62/217, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 6. The Legal Subcommittee will resume its consideration of item 6 on Thursday, 10 April, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.

^c The Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, to be reconvened in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 62/217, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 8 (a). The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of item 8 (a) on Thursday, 10 April, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.