



# General Assembly

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

## **Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of the Chair.
3. Statement by the Chair.
4. General exchange of views.
5. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.
6. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law.
7. 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.
8. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.
9. 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.
10. Capacity-building in space law.
11. General exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures.

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Please recycle The recycling symbol, consisting of three chasing arrows forming a triangle.

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 fifty-second session.

### **Annotations\***

#### **2. Election of the Chair**

In paragraph 26 of its resolution 66/71, entitled “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space”, the General Assembly agreed that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies at their respective sessions in 2012 should elect their officers nominated for the period 2012-2013.

The Committee, at its fifty-fourth session, agreed that Tare Brisibe (Nigeria) should be elected to the office of Chair of the Legal Subcommittee (A/66/20, para. 286).

#### **4. General exchange of views**

As a general rule, statements under this agenda item should not exceed 10 minutes in length (see A/66/20, para. 298).

#### **5. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space**

In paragraph 4 of its resolution 66/71, the General Assembly agreed that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-first session, should reconvene its Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space.

During the fiftieth session of the Subcommittee, in 2011, the Working Group agreed that States members of the Committee should be invited to provide comments and responses to the questions in the questionnaire prepared by the Chair at that session (A/AC.105/C.2/2011/CRP.12), that the questionnaire would be made available on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat and that any replies received by the Secretariat would be made available in a conference room paper (A/AC.105/990, annex I, para.7).

The Working Group will have before it an addendum to document A/AC.105/C.2/L.271 and Corr.1 (A/AC.105/C.2/L.271/Add.2), prepared by the Secretariat at the request of the Working Group, with updated information on activities being carried out or to be carried out on the Moon and other celestial bodies (A/AC.105/990, annex I, para. 10).

The Subcommittee at its fiftieth session agreed that at its fifty-first session it would review the need to extend the mandate of the Working Group beyond that session (A/AC.105/990, paras. 42 and 161).

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\* The annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Subcommittee.

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

During the discussion of item 6, member States may bring to the attention of the Legal Subcommittee any information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law.

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing information on activities of international organizations relating to space law (A/AC.105/C.2/100).

**7. 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 66/71, the General Assembly agreed that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-first session, should reconvene its Working Group on Matters Relating to the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space.

At its thirty-ninth session, in 2000, the Subcommittee agreed that the Working Group would consider only matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space (A/AC.105/738, para. 108).

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing replies received by the Secretariat from Member States to questions on the definition and delimitation of outer space (A/AC.105/889/Add.10).

**8. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space**

The Legal Subcommittee at its fiftieth session agreed that it was necessary to continue examining the issue of review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space and that the item should remain on its agenda (A/AC.105/990, para. 88).

**9. 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**

The Legal Subcommittee at its fiftieth session agreed that the item entitled "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" should remain on its agenda (A/AC.105/990, para. 102).

**10. Capacity-building in space law**

The Legal Subcommittee at its fiftieth session recommended that member States and permanent observers of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space inform the Subcommittee, at its fifty-first session, of any action taken or planned at the national, regional or international level to build capacity in space law (A/AC.105/990, para. 119).

**11. General exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures**

The Legal Subcommittee at its fiftieth session noted that a general exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures would assist States in understanding the different approaches, including development of national regulatory frameworks, that States had taken to mitigate and prevent the increase in space debris (A/AC.105/990, para. 123).

The Subcommittee at its fiftieth session noted with satisfaction that some States were implementing space debris mitigation measures consistent with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and/or the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) and that other States had developed their own space debris mitigation standards based on those guidelines. The Subcommittee also noted that some States were using the IADC Guidelines, the European Code of Conduct for Space Debris Mitigation and International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standard 24113 (Space systems: space debris mitigation requirements) as references in the regulatory framework established for national space activities (A/AC.105/990, para. 127).

The Subcommittee urged States and organizations to continue to implement the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee and to study the experience of States that had already established national mechanisms governing space debris mitigation (A/AC.105/990, para. 140).

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

In paragraph 4 of its resolution 66/71, the General Assembly agreed that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-first session, should reconvene its Working Group on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space.

During the fiftieth session of the Subcommittee, in 2011, the Working Group requested the Chair, in consultation with the Secretariat, to present to the Working Group at its next meeting a revised draft report in the form of a conference room paper for finalization by the Working Group. The revised chapter IV on conclusions should be made available in all official languages of the United Nations for adoption by the Working Group. That would enable further consideration of the revised chapter IV on conclusions, including discussions on the possible development of recommendations of the Legal Subcommittee, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space or the General Assembly (A/AC.105/990, annex III, para. 11).

The Working Group will have before it a working paper by the Chair containing the revised chapter IV on conclusions (A/AC.105/C.2/L.286), as well as the revised draft report in the form of a conference room paper for finalization by the Working Group.

**13. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-second session**

At its fifty-first session, the Legal Subcommittee will submit its proposal to the Committee for the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Subcommittee.

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At its fifty-fourth session, in 2011, the Committee agreed that the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law should be invited to organize a symposium on space law during the fifty-first session of the Subcommittee (A/66/20, para. 218). A symposium on the theme “Transfer of ownership of space objects: issues of responsibility, liability and registration” will be held on the afternoon of 19 March 2012.

At that session, the Committee endorsed the recommendations made by the Legal Subcommittee at its fiftieth session (A/AC.105/990, paras. 194 and 196-198) and by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its forty-eighth session (A/AC.105/987, paras. 216-220) concerning the improvement and optimization of methods of work of those subsidiary bodies.

The Committee agreed to apply to the organization of its work the same methods as proposed by the Scientific and Technical and Legal Subcommittees. In that regard, the Committee agreed that (A/66/20, para. 298):

(a) Maximum flexibility should be applied in the scheduling of items;

(b) As a general rule, statements should not exceed 10 minutes, and scientific and technical presentations should be closely linked to the agenda items of the Committee and should not exceed 15 minutes in duration. The Chair should remind delegations in cases of time being exceeded, as appropriate;

(c) Member States and observers of the Committee should communicate to the Secretariat their wish to make scientific and technical presentations, and the item under which the presentation is to be made, before the start of the session, in order to optimize the plan of work of the session. A list of presentations should be made available to all delegations on the first day of the session, for possible updating, and should be closed by the adjournment of the last plenary meeting of that day. Speaking notes for such presentations should be provided to facilitate simultaneous interpretation.

In accordance with the agreement of the Legal Subcommittee at its fiftieth session, the use of unedited transcripts will be discontinued starting with its fifty-first session (A/AC.105/990, para. 198). The Subcommittee will have before it a conference room paper containing information on good practices used by other comparable United Nations entities on the structure of reports of intergovernmental bodies (A/AC.105/990, para. 196). The Subcommittee will also have before it a conference room paper examining the financial and other implications of webcasting the sessions of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/990, para. 197).

## Annex

### Organization of work

1. In preparing the organization of work of the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-first session, the Secretariat, following the request of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and in close consultation with the members of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, implemented measures to rationalize and optimize the use of time of the Committee and its Subcommittees, taking into account the need for maximum flexibility in organizing the work of their sessions in 2012. Further measures have been taken by the Secretariat to optimize the organization of work in response to the agreement made by the Committee at its fifty-fourth session.
2. The work of the Subcommittee has been scheduled so as to afford the working groups that will be reconvened under items 5, 7 (a) and 12 the maximum amount of time available.
3. In order to enable the Subcommittee to commence its consideration of all items of the agenda in a timely and balanced manner, the discussion of the item entitled "General exchange of views" has been scheduled over a longer period of time during the session. Statements to be made under that item should be no longer than 10 minutes. The number of statements to be made under that item at each meeting may be limited, as necessary, in order to allow sufficient time for other agenda items to be considered as planned for each meeting.
4. Technical presentations will be scheduled in accordance with the criteria established by the Committee at its fifty-fourth session (A/66/20, para. 298), in 2011, and as reflected above in the annotations to item 13 of the provisional agenda.
5. An indicative schedule of work is provided below. The indicative schedule of work is a general guide to the dates and times when items will be addressed during the session. The consideration of any item may be moved forward, extended or delayed, depending on the requirements of the Subcommittee and any organizational constraints that may arise in the course of the session.

### Indicative schedule of work\*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
<b>Week of 19-23 March 2012</b>		
Monday, 19 March	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Election of the Chair Item 3. Statement by the Chair Item 4. General exchange of views	Symposium on the theme "Transfer of ownership of space objects: issues of responsibility, liability and registration"

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Tuesday, 20 March	<p>Item 4. General exchange of views</p> <p>Item 5. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space<sup>a</sup></p> <p>Item 6. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>	<p>Item 4. General exchange of views</p> <p>Item 5. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space<sup>a</sup></p> <p>Item 6. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>
Wednesday, 21 March	<p>Item 4. General exchange of views</p> <p>Item 5. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space<sup>a</sup></p> <p>Item 6. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>	<p>Item 4. General exchange of views</p> <p>Item 5. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space<sup>a</sup></p> <p>Item 6. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>
Thursday, 22 March	<p>Item 4. General exchange of views</p> <p>Item 7 (a). The definition and delimitation of outer space<sup>b</sup></p> <p>Item 7 (b). The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit</p> <p>Item 12. General exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space<sup>c</sup></p> <p>Technical presentations</p>	<p>Item 4. General exchange of views</p> <p>Item 7 (a). The definition and delimitation of outer space<sup>b</sup></p> <p>Item 7 (b). The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit</p> <p>Item 12. General exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space<sup>c</sup></p> <p>Technical presentations</p>
Friday, 23 March	<p>Item 4. General exchange of views</p> <p>Item 7 (a). The definition and delimitation of outer space<sup>b</sup></p> <p>Item 7 (b). The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit</p> <p>Item 12. General exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space<sup>c</sup></p> <p>Technical presentations</p>	<p>Item 4. General exchange of views</p> <p>Item 7 (a). The definition and delimitation of outer space<sup>b</sup></p> <p>Item 7 (b). The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit</p> <p>Item 12. General exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space<sup>c</sup></p> <p>Technical presentations</p>

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
<b>Week of 26-30 March 2012</b>		
Monday, 26 March	<p>Item 4. General exchange of views</p> <p>Item 8. Nuclear power sources</p> <p>Item 12. General exchange of information on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space<sup>c</sup></p> <p>Technical presentations</p>	<p>Item 4. General exchange of views</p> <p>Item 8. Nuclear power sources</p> <p>Item 9. 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</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>
Tuesday, 27 March	<p>Item 8. Nuclear power sources</p> <p>Item 9. 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</p> <p>Item 10. Capacity-building in space law</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>	<p>Item 8. Nuclear power sources</p> <p>Item 9. 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</p> <p>Item 10. Capacity-building in space law</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>
Wednesday, 28 March	<p>Item 9. 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</p> <p>Item 10. Capacity-building in space law</p> <p>Item 11. General exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>	<p>Item 10. Capacity-building in space law</p> <p>Item 11. General exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures</p> <p>Item 13. Proposals to the Committee on new items for consideration by the Subcommittee</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>
Thursday, 29 March	<p>Item 11. General exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures</p> <p>Item 13. Proposals to the Committee on new items for consideration by the Subcommittee</p> <p>Adoption of the report of the Working Group on agenda item 5</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>	<p>Item 11. General exchange of information on national mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures</p> <p>Item 13. Proposals to the Committee on new items for consideration by the Subcommittee</p> <p>Adoption of the report of the Working Group on agenda item 7 (a)</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>



<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Friday, 30 March	Adoption of the report of the Working Group on agenda item 12  Adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee	Adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee

\* 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 (A/50/20, para. 169 (b)).

<sup>a</sup> The Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, to be reconvened in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 66/71, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 5. The Legal Subcommittee will resume its consideration of item 5 on Thursday, 29 March, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.

<sup>b</sup> The Working Group on Matters Relating to the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, to be reconvened in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 66/71, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 7 (a). The Legal Subcommittee will resume its consideration of item 7 (a) on Thursday, 29 March, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.

<sup>c</sup> The Working Group on National Legislation Relevant to the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space, to be reconvened in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 66/71, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of item 12. The Legal Subcommittee will resume its consideration of item 12 on Friday, 30 March, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.