

Non-paper by the Secretariat
in consultation with the members of the Bureaux

**Organizational matters and enhancing the efficiency of COPUOS and
its Subcommittees**

The Committee at its 2009 session requested the Bureaux of the Committee and Subcommittees to consider how to rationalize and optimize the use of time of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, taking into account the need to balance the value brought by the technical presentations and the need to have adequate time for substantive consideration of the issues before the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

At the 2010 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and in accordance with the request of the Committee, the Chair of the STSC, the other Bureaux members and the Chair of the Working Group of the Whole, discussed in detail the organizational work of the STSC for the consideration of the Working Group of the Whole. The results, as endorsed by the STSC, are as follows (2010 STSC report, Annex I, paras 17-18):

17. The Working Group of the Whole requested the Secretariat to take measures, in close consultation with the Chairman of the Subcommittee, to rationalize and optimize the use of time of the Subcommittee, including on the possible scheduling of the symposium during the second week, as appropriate. To enable the Subcommittee to commence its consideration of all the items of the provisional agenda in a timely and balanced manner, the Working Group agreed that the possibility of scheduling the item entitled "General exchange of views" over a longer period of time during the session, and of limiting the number of slots for statements per meeting, should be explored.

18. The Working Group of the Whole recommended that the reports to be submitted by Member States on their national activities in outer space (see para. 19 of the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its forty-seventh session) should comprise a summary of those activities and not exceed three pages.

COPUOS has a total of 16 meetings for use (1,5 weeks); STSC and LSC have each a total of 20 meetings for use (2 weeks each). STSC has 4 Working Groups (Working Group of the Whole, Working Group on NPS (Workshop 1 meeting 2-3 hours in accordance with plan of work), Working Group on NEO, Working Group on Long-term sustainability of space activities. LSC has 3 Working Groups (Working Group on Status of treaties, Working Group on Definition/delimitation, Working Group on National space legislation).

Elements for implementation already in 2011:

- STSC decision on organization of work (para 17 of Annex 1 to STSC 2010 report) should apply to LSC and COPUOS as well;
- The respective provisional agendas should have a section reminding on the time limitation for statements under GEV (10 min) and technical presentations (20 min). In the tentative schedule of work there should be inserted under item on GEV the limitation of number of statements applying to each meeting;
- The Secretariat should be given the full mandate to schedule the respective sessions taking into account the need for maximum flexibility and the different nature of each agenda items. Some items may therefore be given less meeting time than others based on the need to allocate sufficient time to Working Groups. May also affect order of agenda items.

The implementation outlined above should be reviewed at the 54th session of COPUOS in 2011.

Proposal for consideration at 2011 sessions of LSC and COPUOS:

The Secretariat should be requested to present to the 2011 sessions of LSC and COPUOS for their consideration a detailed proposal to discontinue the use of unedited transcripts (STSC does not use transcripts) with a view to balance the usefulness of recording the debate with cost implications of retaining such transcripts. The use of digital recordings should be assessed.
