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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**

Legal Subcommittee

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Vienna, 4-15 April 2016

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

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

**THE HAGUE SPACE RESOURCES GOVERNANCE
WORKING GROUP**

Factsheet

Origin

The Hague Space Resources Governance Working Group was set up following a round table on the Governance of Space Resources, convened by The Hague Institute for Global Justice on 1 December 2014. The round table was attended by industrial leaders, scientists, diplomats as well as political and legal experts from across the globe and served as a forum to discuss and propose solutions for the current lack of a legal framework for the use of space resources found on asteroids and other celestial bodies. The Hague Space Resources Governance Working Group has been established to support this process and promote its advancement, within a reasonable time frame and in accordance with international law.

Objectives

The Working Group aims to assess, on a global scale, the need for a regulatory framework for space resource activities and to prepare the basis for such a regulatory framework. Where the need is established, the Working Group will encourage States to engage in negotiations for an international agreement or non-legally binding instrument.

* A/AC.105/C.2/L.297.



Activities

- Identification and formulation of building blocks for the governance of space resource activities as a basis for negotiations on an international agreement or non-legally binding instrument
- Recommendations on the implementation strategy and forum for negotiations on an international agreement or non-legally binding instrument.

The Working Group

The Working Group platform is a Consortium serviced by a Secretariat. The Secretariat consists of the Working Group's Executive Secretary and an Assistant Secretary. The Working Group has a Chair and two Vice-Chairs. Most of the activities are carried out by e-mail or teleconference calls.

The Working Group operates in a transparent and open manner and important information are posted on the website (www.iasl.aero).

The Consortium

The founding Consortium partner is the Institute of Air and Space Law (IIASL), Leiden Law School, Leiden University (the Netherlands). The Secretariat of the Working Group is hosted here.

The other Consortium partners are:

- The Catholic University of Santos (UNISANTOS) (Brazil) (www.unisantos.br)
- The Centre for Resources, Energy and Environmental Law (CREEL), University of Melbourne (Australia) (www.law.unimelb.edu.au/creel)
- The Indonesian Centre for Air and Space Law (CASL), Padjajaran University (Indonesia) (www.casl.nalsar.ac.in/casl)
- The Secure World Foundation (SWF) (USA) (www.swfound.org)
- The University of Cape Town (UCT) (South Africa) (www.uct.ac.za)

Members

Who are members?

- Members are major stakeholders from government, industry, universities and research centres.

What is the role of the members?

- Members form the operative body of the Working Group. They are responsible for making the decisions, they are invited to attend all teleconferences and meetings of the Working Group.

How many members are in the Working Group?

- The number of members to the Working Group is limited to 25.
- There are currently 20 members in the Working Group.

Observers

Who are observers?

- Observers are professionals directly involved in space resources issues.

What is the participation of the observers?

- Observers to the Working Group are invited to attend face-to-face meetings, but not teleconferences. They are not permitted to actively participate in the meetings. The number of observers able to attend meetings may be restricted depending on capacity of the venue.
- They have the option of providing input, which is taken into account on the discretion of the members.
- Observers receive all documentation distributed within the Working Group.

How many observers are in the Working Group?

- There is no restriction on the overall number of observers to the Working Group, however the number of observers per organization is limited to one.
- There are currently more than 15 observers to the Working Group, although this number is increasing consistently.
- A formal application to the Secretariat is required in order to become an observer.

Meetings: When and how will the Working Group meet?

- The first face-to-face meeting is to be held in Leiden from 18-19 April 2016. The meeting is open for attendance by members and observers, but only members can actively participate.
- The second and final meeting will be held in 2017.
- There will also be a number of teleconferences held for the members of the Working Group.

What is the duration of the Working Group?

- The Working Group started its activities in October 2015 and aims to complete them by the end of 2017.

How is the Working Group financed?

- Presently, contributions have been received by the Dutch Ministries of Foreign and Economic Affairs, Secure World Foundation, Deep Space Industries.

Information

Specific information can be requested to: **LAW Space Resources-spaceresources@LAW.leidenuniv.nl**.