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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-fifth session
Vienna, 4-15 April 2016

Updated proposal for a UNISPACE+50 thematic priority to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee

1. The present Conference Room Paper contains an updated proposal for a UNISPACE+50 thematic priority to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee. This updated proposal is a combination of Conference Room Paper 9 and the proposal by Brazil circulated in a non-paper, and reads as follows:

Proposed thematic priority:

The legal regime of outer space and global space governance: current and future perspectives

Objective: Promote the universality of the five United Nations treaties on outer space. Assess the state of affairs of those treaties and their relationship with other applicable instruments, such as principles, resolutions and guidelines governing space activities. Analyse the effectiveness of the legal regime of outer space in the twenty-first century, with a view to identify areas that may require additional regulation. Conduct evaluation by:

(a) Developing the questionnaire of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, to encompass an assessment of the legal regime of outer space as founding pillar of global space governance. The questionnaire should be used in the period up to 2018 to assist the Legal Subcommittee in addressing the status and scope of, and possible gaps in, the legal regime of outer space;

(b) Studying applicable legal initiatives to assure exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and open and free access to outer space in order to secure the relevance of international space law in global space governance in the twenty-first century in view of the significant scientific development and technical advancement in space activities, for the benefit of all countries;

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(c) Studying legal mechanisms to foster the international regime of responsibility and liability in relation to present and future challenges to the safety, security and sustainability of outer space activities, including space traffic management and enhanced information exchange on space objects and events. Specific consideration to current practical concerns of the international community, such as in-orbit collisions and interferences, is to be addressed. In particular, there should be an assessment of the need for enhanced registration and notification procedures and their institutional requirements under the registration and notification platform maintained by the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(d) Identifying by 2018 the criteria for developing by 2020 a guidance document of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with essential information on the state of affairs of the legal regime of outer space, including on the application of relevant instruments through national regulatory frameworks and international mechanisms for cooperation. This document should serve as an authoritative guidance to States wishing to become party to the five United Nations treaties on outer space; and

(e) Considering means to strengthen the legacy and perspectives of the Legal Subcommittee as the prime multilateral body with mandate to promote the progressive development of international space law, including procedural and institutional improvements and closer cooperation with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.