



# General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space  
Fifty-ninth session  
Vienna, 8-17 June 2016**

## **Annotated provisional agenda\***

### **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Election of officers.
4. Statement by the Chair.
5. General exchange of views.
6. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
7. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fifty-third session.
8. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-fifth session.
9. Space and sustainable development.
10. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
11. Space and water.
12. Space and climate change.
13. Use of space technology in the United Nations system.
14. Future role of the Committee.
15. Other matters.
16. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

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\* The present document was not submitted within the period required by the 10-week rule owing to the need to await the finalization of the report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-fifth session, held from 4 to 15 April 2016.



## **II. Annotations<sup>1</sup>**

### **1. Opening of the session**

The fifty-ninth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will be opened in the morning of Wednesday, 8 June 2016.

### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda will be adopted immediately after the opening of the session.

### **3. Election of officers**

In paragraph 31 of its resolution 70/82, entitled “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space”, the General Assembly endorsed the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subcommittees for the period 2016-2017 and reiterated that the Committee and its subcommittees, at their respective sessions in 2016, should elect their officers nominated for that period.

The Committee, at its fifty-seventh session (A/69/20, para. 381), noted the endorsement of the candidacy of David Kendall (Canada) for the office of Chair of the Committee.

The nomination of Martina Smuclerova (Czech Republic) for the office of First Vice-Chair of the Committee was communicated by the Secretariat to States members of the Committee in a note verbale dated 7 October 2014.

The nomination of Omar Shareef Hamad Eisa (Sudan) for the office of Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur of the Committee was communicated by the Secretariat to States members of the Committee in a note verbale dated 29 July 2015.

At its fifty-third session, in 2016, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee elected V. K. Dadhwal (India) Chair of its fifty-third session, and Chiaki Mukai (Japan) Chair of its fifty-fourth session (A/AC.105/1109, para. 13).

At its fifty-fifth session, in 2016, the Legal Subcommittee elected Hellmut Lagos Koller (Chile) as its Chair for a two-year term of office (A/AC.105/1113, para. 1).

### **4. Statement by the Chair**

Following the adoption of the agenda by the Committee, the Chair will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Committee that have taken place since its fifty-eighth session.

### **5. General exchange of views**

The Committee will begin its substantive work with a general exchange of views. As a general rule, statements should not exceed 10 minutes.

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<sup>1</sup> The annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

## **6. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes**

In paragraph 13 of its resolution 70/82, the General Assembly requested the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, and agreed that the Committee should continue to consider the broader perspective of space security and associated matters that would be instrumental in ensuring the safe and responsible conduct of space activities, including ways to promote international, regional and interregional cooperation to that end.

## **7. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fifty-third session**

In accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 70/82, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fifty-third session, considered the following substantive items:

- (a) United Nations Programme on Space Applications (see A/AC.105/1109, paras. 41-63);
- (b) Space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda (see A/AC.105/1109, paras. 64-80 and annex I, paras. 14-18);
- (c) Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment (see A/AC.105/1109, paras. 81-91);
- (d) Space debris (see A/AC.105/1109, paras. 92-113);
- (e) Space-system-based disaster management support (see A/AC.105/1109, paras. 114-134);
- (f) Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems (see A/AC.105/1109, paras. 135-161);
- (g) Space weather (see A/AC.105/1109, paras. 162-174);
- (h) Near-Earth objects (see A/AC.105/1109, paras. 175-194);
- (i) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space (see A/AC.105/1109, paras. 195-212 and annex II);
- (j) Long-term sustainability of outer space activities (see A/AC.105/1109, paras. 213-248);
- (k) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union (see A/AC.105/1109, paras. 249-257);
- (l) Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (see A/AC.105/1109, paras. 258-266).

*United Nations Programme on Space Applications*

In paragraph 20 of its resolution 70/82, the Assembly encouraged the regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, to continue to promote greater participation of women in their education programmes, and agreed that the regional centres should continue to report to the Committee on their activities.

*Long-term sustainability of outer space activities*

The Committee, at its fifty-seventh session, agreed on the extension of the workplan for the item and the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, until the fifty-ninth session of the Committee (A/69/20, para. 199).

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fifty-third session, noted that the Working Group had held eight meetings from 16 to 26 February 2016 and held informal consultations during the session but could not reach consensus on adopting its report (A/AC.105/1109, para. 220). The Subcommittee noted that the Working Group would continue to work in the intersessional period and would hold a meeting in Vienna on 6 and 7 June 2016 (A/AC.105/1109, para. 222). The Subcommittee also noted that the Committee at its fifty-ninth session, in June 2016, would make a decision on the agenda item on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, including the Working Group under that item (A/AC.105/1109, para. 262).

The Committee, at its fifty-ninth session, will have before it a working paper by the Chair of the Working Group containing a draft report of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (A/AC.105/C.1/L.343), which has already been made available to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions and to the Committee at its fifty-eighth session.

The Committee will also have before it a revised updated version of the set of draft guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, contained in document A/AC.105/L.301, as agreed by the Subcommittee at its fifty-third session (A/AC.105/1109, para. 221).

The Committee will further have before it a working paper submitted by Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Romania, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America (A/AC.105/L.302), which had been made available to the Subcommittee at its fifty-third session as a conference room paper; working papers submitted by the Russian Federation (A/AC.105/L.303 and A/AC.105/L.304), which had been made available to the Subcommittee at its fifty-third session as conference room papers; and a working paper submitted by a number of States, contained in document A/AC.105/L.305.<sup>2</sup>

*Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee*

The deliberations of the Subcommittee on the draft provisional agenda for its fifty-fourth session are reflected in the report on its fifty-third session (A/AC.105/1109, paras. 258-266, and annex I, para. 19).

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<sup>2</sup> The complete list of States submitting the working paper is contained in document A/AC.105/L.305.

The Subcommittee, at its fifty-third session, agreed on the items to be proposed to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for inclusion in the agenda of the Subcommittee at its fifty-fourth session (A/AC.105/1109, paras. 261 and 262).

The Subcommittee noted that in accordance with the agreement reached by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session in 2007 (A/AC.105/890, annex I, para. 24), the symposium at the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommittee in 2017 was to be organized by the International Astronautical Federation and that the topic of the symposium would be communicated to and decided upon by the Committee at its session in June 2016 (A/AC.105/1109, para. 263).

## **8. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-fifth session**

In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 70/82, the Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-fifth session, considered the following substantive items:

(a) Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law (see A/AC.105/1113, paras. 41-53);

(b) Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space (see A/AC.105/1113, paras. 54-83);

(c) Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and 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 (see A/AC.105/1113, paras. 84-111);

(d) National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space (see A/AC.105/1113, paras. 112-121);

(e) Capacity-building in space law (see A/AC.105/1113, paras. 122-137);

(f) Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (see A/AC.105/1113, paras. 138-154);

(g) General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (see A/AC.105/1113, paras. 155-187);

(h) General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space (see A/AC.105/1113, paras. 188-202);

(i) General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management (see A/AC.105/1113, paras. 203-216);

(j) General exchange of views on the application of international law to small satellite activities (see A/AC.105/1113, paras. 217-231);

(k) Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space (see A/AC.105/1113, paras. 232-246);

(l) Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-sixth session (see A/AC.105/1113, paras. 247-263).

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

The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendation that the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space be reconvened at the fifty-sixth session of the Subcommittee to consider, on a priority basis, the preparations for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 2018 (UNISPACE+50) (A/AC.105/1113, para. 57, and annex I, para. 22).

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

The Subcommittee, at its fifty-fifth session, agreed on the items to be proposed to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for inclusion in the agenda of the Subcommittee at its fifty-sixth session (see A/AC.105/1113, para. 251).

The Subcommittee agreed that the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law should once again be invited to organize a symposium, to be held during its fifty-sixth session, taking into account the need for equitable geographical and gender representation in the symposium (see A/AC.105/1113, para. 253).

The deliberations on organizational matters are reflected in paragraphs 254 to 262 of document A/AC.105/1113.

**9. Space and sustainable development**

The deliberations of the Committee at its fifty-eighth session on its agenda item on space and sustainable development are reflected in its report (A/70/20, paras. 272-286).

**10. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status**

The deliberations of the Committee at its fifty-eighth session on its agenda item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status" are reflected in its report (A/70/20, paras. 287-295).

**11. Space and water**

The deliberations of the Committee at its fifty-eighth session on its agenda item on space and water are reflected in its report (A/70/20, paras. 296-302).

**12. Space and climate change**

The deliberations of the Committee at its fifty-eighth session on its agenda item on space and climate change are reflected in its report (A/70/20, paras. 303-314).

**13. Use of space technology in the United Nations system**

The deliberations of the Committee at its fifty-eighth session on its agenda item on the use of space technology in the United Nations system are reflected in its report (A/70/20, paras. 315-323).

The Committee will have before it the report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space) on its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions

(A/AC.105/1114), the report of the Secretary-General on coordination of space activities in the United Nations system for the period 2016-2017 (A/AC.105/1115), and the special report of UN-Space on the role of United Nations entities in assisting Member States in their implementation of the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities (A/AC.105/1116).

#### **14. Future role of the Committee**

The deliberations of the Committee at its fifty-eighth session on its agenda item on the future role of the Committee are reflected in its report (A/70/20, paras. 324-346).

#### **15. Other matters**

The deliberations of the Committee at its fifty-eighth session under its agenda item entitled "Other matters" are reflected in its report (A/70/20, paras. 347-360).

##### *Composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the period 2018-2019*

In paragraph 11 of its resolution 58/89, the General Assembly endorsed the agreement reached by the Committee on the future composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies (A/58/20, annex II, paras. 5-9), on the basis of the measures relating to the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies (see A/52/20, annex I and A/58/20, annex II, appendix III) which had been endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/56.

In accordance with the measures relating to the future composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, the Committee should reach agreement at its fifty-ninth session on all officers of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the term of office 2018-2019.

##### *Preparations for UNISPACE+50*

In accordance with the note by the Secretariat entitled "Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: theme of the sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and its Legal Subcommittee in 2018" (A/AC.105/L.297), as endorsed by the Committee at its fifty-eighth session, the Committee, its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and its Legal Subcommittee, at their respective sessions in 2016, should identify and agree on thematic priorities for UNISPACE+50 (see A/AC.105/L.297, para. 29 (a)).

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fifty-third session, considered the preparations for UNISPACE+50 in its Working Group of the Whole, and recommended the thematic priorities contained in the report of the Working Group (see A/AC.105/1109, annex I, para. 8) for consideration by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session.

The Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-fifth session, considered the preparations for UNISPACE+50 in its Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, and recommended the thematic

priority contained in the report of the Working Group (see A/AC.105/1113, annex I, para. 10) for consideration by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session.

The Committee will have before it a conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat containing the thematic priorities, proposals for workplans and deliverables for those thematic priorities in order to assist States members of the Committee to prepare for UNISPACE+50 (see A/AC.105/1113, annex I, para. 12).

*Organizational matters*

Upon the request of the Committee, at its fifty-eighth session, the Secretariat made available to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee at their sessions in 2016 a compendium containing the rules, procedures and practices, including the processing of documentation, of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies (see A/AC.105/1109, para. 266, and A/AC.1113, para. 262). The Committee will have before it that compendium in a conference room paper.

*Other matters*

The Committee may wish to discuss matters in addition to those listed above, as appropriate.

## Annex

## Indicative schedule of work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifty-ninth session<sup>a</sup>

The schedule of work laid out below is a general guide to the dates and times when items will be addressed during the course of the session. The consideration of all items can be advanced, extended or delayed, depending on the requirements of the members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and any organizational constraints faced during the course of the session.

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee's Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities will have the possibility of meeting during the fifty-ninth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, with interpretation services.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
<b>8-10 June 2016</b>		
Wednesday, 8 June	<i>Item 1.</i> Opening of the session <i>Item 2.</i> Adoption of the agenda <i>Item 3.</i> Election of officers <i>Item 4.</i> Statement by the Chair <i>Item 5.</i> General exchange of views	<i>Item 5.</i> General exchange of views <i>Item 6.</i> Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes <i>Item 7.</i> Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fifty-third session Technical presentations
Thursday, 9 June	<i>Item 5.</i> General exchange of views <i>Item 6.</i> Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes <i>Item 7.</i> Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fifty-third session Technical presentations	<i>Item 5.</i> General exchange of views <i>Item 6.</i> Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes <i>Item 7.</i> Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fifty-third session Technical presentations
Friday, 10 June	<i>Item 5.</i> General exchange of views <i>Item 7.</i> Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fifty-third session <i>Item 8.</i> Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-fifth session Technical presentations	<i>Item 5.</i> General exchange of views <i>Item 8.</i> Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-fifth session <i>Item 15.</i> Other matters Technical presentations

<sup>a</sup> At its thirty-eighth session, the Committee agreed that 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)).

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
<b>13-17 June 2016</b>		
Monday, 13 June	<i>Item 5.</i> General exchange of views <i>Item 8.</i> Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-fifth session <i>Item 9.</i> Space and sustainable development Technical presentations	<i>Item 5.</i> General exchange of views <i>Item 8.</i> Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-fifth session <i>Item 9.</i> Space and sustainable development Technical presentations
Tuesday, 14 June	<i>Item 9.</i> Space and sustainable development <i>Item 11.</i> Space and water <i>Item 12.</i> Space and climate change Technical presentations	<i>Item 11.</i> Space and water <i>Item 12.</i> Space and climate change <i>Item 13.</i> Use of space technology in the United Nations system Technical presentations
Wednesday, 15 June	<i>Item 11.</i> Space and water <i>Item 12.</i> Space and climate change <i>Item 13.</i> Use of space technology in the United Nations system Technical presentations	<i>Item 10.</i> Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status <i>Item 13.</i> Use of space technology in the United Nations system <i>Item 14.</i> Future role of the Committee Technical presentations
Thursday, 16 June	<i>Item 10.</i> Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status <i>Item 14.</i> Future role of the Committee <i>Item 15.</i> Other matters Technical presentations	<i>Item 10.</i> Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status <i>Item 14.</i> Future role of the Committee <i>Item 15.</i> Other matters Technical presentations
Friday, 17 June	<i>Item 16.</i> Report of the Committee to the General Assembly	<i>Item 16.</i> Report of the Committee to the General Assembly