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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-sixth session
Vienna, 27 March-7 April 2017

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Statement by the Chair.
3. General exchange of views.
4. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law.
5. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.
6. 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.
7. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.
8. Capacity-building in space law.
9. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.
10. 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.
11. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space.
12. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management.
13. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities.



14. General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources.
15. Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.
16. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-seventh session.

Annotations¹

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

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law ([A/AC.105/C.2/110](#) and Add.1).

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

In paragraph 4 of its resolution 71/90, the General Assembly agreed that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-sixth session, should reconvene its Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space.

The Subcommittee, at its fifty-fifth session, agreed that, at its fifty-sixth session, it would reconvene the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space and that the Working Group would continue to consider, on a priority basis, the preparations for UNISPACE+50 ([A/AC.105/1113](#), para. 57, and annex I, para. 22).

The Working Group will consider the preparations under the thematic priority of UNISPACE+50 entitled “Legal regime of outer space and global space governance: current and future perspectives”, as agreed by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session ([A/71/20](#), para. 296).

The Working Group will have before it a note by the Secretariat entitled “Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and global governance of outer space activities” ([A/AC.105/1137](#)).

The Working Group will also have before it a draft declaration on the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies ([A/AC.105/C.2/L.300](#)), prepared by the Secretariat for consideration by the Subcommittee through the Working Group (see [A/AC.105/1113](#), annex I, para. 21).

¹ The annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Subcommittee.

6. 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 71/90, the General Assembly agreed that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-sixth session, should reconvene its Working Group on 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 views of States members and permanent observers of the Committee on the definition and delimitation of outer space (A/AC.105/1112/Add.2 and 3), a note by the Secretariat containing replies from States members and permanent observers of the Committee to questions on suborbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation (A/AC.105/1039/Add.7-9) and a note by the Secretariat containing information received from States members of the Committee on national legislation and practice relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space (A/AC.105/865/Add.18 and 19).

7. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space

The Subcommittee will continue to consider the item on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space (A/71/20, para. 212).

8. Capacity-building in space law

The Subcommittee will continue to consider the item on capacity-building in space law (A/71/20, para. 212).

The Subcommittee will have before it the report on the United Nations Workshop on Space Law on the theme “Contribution of space law and policy to space governance and space security in the twenty-first century”, held in Vienna from 5 to 8 September 2016 (A/AC.105/1131).

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

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its fifty-ninth session, agreed that the item on review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space should be considered as a single issue/item for discussion on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-sixth session (A/71/20, para. 212).

10. 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

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its fifty-ninth session, agreed that the item on 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, should be considered as a single issue/item for discussion on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-sixth session (A/71/20, para. 212).

11. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its fifty-ninth session, agreed that the item on general exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space should be considered as a single issue/item for discussion on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-sixth session ([A/71/20](#), para. 212).

12. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its fifty-ninth session, agreed that the item on general exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management should be considered as a single issue/item for discussion on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-sixth session ([A/71/20](#), para. 212).

13. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its fifty-ninth session, agreed that the item on general exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities should be considered as a single issue/item for discussion on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-sixth session ([A/71/20](#), para. 212).

14. General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its fifty-ninth session, agreed that a new single issue/item for discussion entitled “General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources” should be included on the agenda of the Subcommittee at its fifty-sixth session ([A/71/20](#), para. 212).

The Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-fifth session, agreed that the inclusion of that item would provide an opportunity for a constructive, multilateral exchange of views on such activities, including their economic aspects, among States members and permanent observers of the Committee ([A/AC.105/1113](#), para. 250).

15. Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space

In paragraph 4 of its resolution 71/90, the General Assembly agreed that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-sixth session, should reconvene its Working Group on the Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space. The Working Group will continue its work for 2017 in accordance with the workplan established under the item ([A/AC.105/1003](#), para. 179).

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing replies received from States members and permanent observers of the Committee on the review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space ([A/AC.105/C.2/111](#)).

The Subcommittee will also have before it an update of conference room paper [A/AC.105/C.2/2016/CRP.14](#) for consideration and finalization by the Working Group at the fifty-sixth session of the Subcommittee (see [A/AC.105/1113](#), para. 234, and annex III, para. 10).

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

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

Symposium

The Subcommittee, at its fifty-fifth session, agreed that the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law should again be invited to organize a symposium, to be held during its fifty-sixth session ([A/AC.105/1113](#), para. 253). A symposium on the theme “Legal models for exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources 50 years after the adoption of the Outer Space Treaty” will be held in the afternoon of 27 March 2017.

Annex

Organization of work

1. The work of the Legal Subcommittee has been scheduled so as to afford the working groups that will be reconvened under items 5, 6 (a) and 15 of the agenda the maximum amount of time available.

2. The number of statements to be made at each meeting under item 3, entitled “General exchange of views”, may be limited, as necessary, in order to allow sufficient time for other agenda items to be considered as planned for each meeting. As a general rule, statements should not exceed 10 minutes, as agreed by the Committee at its fifty-fourth session, in 2011 ([A/66/20](#), para. 298 (b)).

3. 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^a

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Week of 27-31 March 2017		
Monday, 27 March	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Statement by the Chair Item 3. General exchange of views	Symposium organized by the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law on the theme “Legal models for exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources 50 years after the adoption of the Outer Space Treaty”
Tuesday, 28 March	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 5. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space ^b Item 14. General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources Technical presentations	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 5. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space ^b Item 14. General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources Technical presentations
Wednesday, 29 March	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 5. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space ^b Item 14. General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources Technical presentations	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 6 (a). The definition and delimitation of outer space ^c Item 6 (b). The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit Item 13. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities Technical presentations

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Thursday, 30 March	<p>Item 3. General exchange of views</p> <p>Item 6 (a). The definition and delimitation of outer space^c</p> <p>Item 6 (b). The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit</p> <p>Item 13. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>	<p>Item 4. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law</p> <p>Item 6 (a). The definition and delimitation of outer space^c</p> <p>Item 6 (b). The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit</p> <p>Item 13. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small satellite activities</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>
Friday, 31 March	<p>Item 3. General exchange of views</p> <p>Item 12. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management</p> <p>Item 15. Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space^d</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>	<p>Item 4. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law</p> <p>Item 8. Capacity-building in space law</p> <p>Item 12. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>
Week of 3-7 April 2017		
Monday, 3 April	<p>Item 3. General exchange of views</p> <p>Item 12. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management</p> <p>Item 15. Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer spaced</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>	<p>Item 4. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law</p> <p>Item 8. Capacity-building in space law</p> <p>Item 15. Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer spaced</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>
Tuesday, 4 April	<p>Item 7. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space</p> <p>Item 8. Capacity-building in space law</p> <p>Item 9. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>	<p>Item 7. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space</p> <p>Item 9. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space</p> <p>Item 10. 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</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Wednesday, 5 April	<p>Item 7. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space</p> <p>Item 9. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space</p> <p>Item 11. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>	<p>Item 10. 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</p> <p>Item 11. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space</p> <p>Item 16. Proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>
Thursday, 6 April	<p>Item 10. 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</p> <p>Item 11. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space</p> <p>Item 16. Proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee</p> <p>Adoption of the report of the Working Group on agenda item 6 (a)^c</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>	<p>Item 16. Proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee</p> <p>Adoption of the report of the Working Group on agenda item 5^b</p> <p>Adoption of the report of the Working Group on agenda item 15^d</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>
Friday, 7 April	Adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee	Adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee

^a 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)).

^b 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 71/90, will meet during the session to consider item 5. The Legal Subcommittee will resume its consideration of item 5 on Thursday, 6 April, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.

^c The Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, to be reconvened in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 71/90, will meet during the session to consider item 6 (a). The Legal Subcommittee will resume its consideration of item 6 (a) on Thursday, 6 April, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.

^d The Working Group on the Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space, to be convened in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 71/90, will meet during the session to consider item 15. The Legal Subcommittee will resume its consideration of item 15 on Thursday, 6 April, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.