

3 February 2020

English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fifty-seventh session
Vienna, 3-14 February 2020
Item 13 of the provisional agenda*
Long-term sustainability of outer space activities

Proposal by the United Arab Emirates

The present conference room paper was prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information received from the delegation of the United Arab Emirates. The information was reproduced in the form it was received.

The proposal was received by the Secretariat on 31 January 2020.

* A/AC.105/C.1/L.383



**Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Scientific and
Technical Subcommittee**

Fifty-seventh session
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**Proposal by United Arab Emirates for the establishment of a working group under the
agenda item on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities**

1. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) highly welcomes the fruitful outcomes from the 61st session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the consensus achieved in adopting the 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability (LTS) of outer space activities.
2. The UAE strongly supports the Committee's decision to establish, under a five-year workplan, a working group under the agenda item on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee; which would be guided by:
 - (a) Identifying and studying challenges and considering possible new guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. This could be done by taking into consideration existing documents including, *inter alia*, documents [A/AC.105/C.1/L.367](#) and [A/AC.105/2019/CRP.16](#);
 - (b) Sharing experiences, practices and lessons learned from voluntary national implementation of the adopted guidelines;
 - (c) Raising awareness and building capacity, in particular among emerging space nations and developing countries.
3. Moreover the UAE reaffirms its support to the wise decision by the committee that the method of work for the above working group (LTS WG) should include ways of incorporating input from non-governmental organizations, industry and the private sector through States members of the Committee
4. The UAE is pleased to submit a proposal for consideration by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fifty-seventh session.

Proposed Method of Work:

5. The LTS WG to be open to all member States of the COPUOS and will work on consensus basis.
6. The LTS WG would be supported by interpretation services in all six official languages of the United Nations. However its sub/expert groups would only work in English language.
7. In addition to regular meeting of the LTS WG during the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the LTS WG can hold additional intersessional meetings as well as its sub/expert groups as agreed by the subcommittee.

8. The LTS WG to be open to all member States of the COPUOS, will incorporate input from member States of the Committee, organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee, as well as non-governmental organizations, industry and the private sector in accordance with the rules of procedure, methods of work and established practices related to the Committee.¹
9. The meetings of the LTS WG are guided by the rules of procedure, methods of work and established practices related to the Committee. The Working Group takes decisions by consensus.
10. The LTS WG will meet with interpretation services in all six official languages of the United Nations during the sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, as well as during the Committee.
11. The LTS WG can hold informal consultations and sessions. The Working Group may also decide to hold intersessional, as necessary, to advance its work.
12. The LTS WG can decide to establish expert and or ad-hoc group(s) to focus on specific issues, as necessary, to advance the work of as a whole, and report back to the LTS WG. The expert ad-hoc groups to convene as needed during the full duration of the Working Group, and can only meet independently from the LTS WG Session if it has been pre-agreed by the LTS WG.
13. Experts groups established under the LTS WG, as well as informal and intersessional meetings of the LTS WG will be held in English.
14. The LTS WG to focus its meetings time and efforts in compiling, exchanging views, discussing, and consolidating report(s) along with any proposed relevant course of actions, as agreed by the LTS WG, to be considered by Sub-committee for endorsement and subsequently adoption by the Committee regarding:
 - (a) Initiatives, best practices and lessons learned in implementing the adopted LTS Guidelines among the States members of the Committee, as well as by relevant non-governmental organizations, industry and the private sector.
 - (b) challenges in implementing the adopted LTS Guidelines
 - (c) necessary clarifications, amendments, and suppression to the text for the exiting adopted LTS Guidelines
 - (d) major gaps in adopted Guidelines and suggested new guidelines to be considered for adoption
 - (e) proposals regarding the review and extension of the LTS WG Work-Plan
15. The LTS WG shall take into account recommendations and decisions relevant to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities that are endorsed by the Committee, its Subcommittees, or by its working groups and experts groups.

¹ Non-governmental organizations, industry and the private sector could provide contributions and information through the ways as follows: i. be incorporated by member states of the Committee; ii. present reports to the Committee and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

16. The LTS WG should also take into account relevant work by other relevant international governmental technical/specialized organizations, and may invite them to present for information technical studies conducted by them relevant to the LTS Guidelines.

17. The LTS WG could establish three expert groups to address implementation of the 21 adopted guidelines:

- (a) Expert group A: Compiling and exchanging views on implementation best practices, lessons learned, challenges, new proposed initiatives to help fostering international implementations of the LTS guidelines, and proposed necessary amendments to adopted LTS Guidelines related to National policy and frameworks for space activities, and International cooperation, Raising Awareness and Building Capacity.
- (b) Expert group B: Compiling and exchanging views on implementation best practices, lessons learned, challenges, new proposed initiatives to help fostering international implementations of the LTS guidelines, and proposed necessary amendments to adopted LTS Guidelines related to Safety of space operations, as well as Scientific and Technical Research and Development.
- (c) Expert group C: Compiling and discussing any suggested new Guidelines.

18. Taking into account the Committee's decision that the LTS WG should have a five-year work plan and an elected bureau, work could be facilitated through a bureau established on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. This bureau would include the chair/co-chairs of the full Working Group as well as the chairs of the expert groups who would serve as vice-chairs. The bureau's facilitation efforts would place particular emphasis on ensuring all Committee delegations have an opportunity to participate in the full range of Working Group and expert group deliberations.

Proposed work-plan:

19. To ensure the LTS WG its objectives, the following milestones are proposed:

2020 –

- a) Establishment of the LTS WG terms of reference, methods of work
- b) Five years work plan;
- c) Election of bureau.
- d) Development and circulation of survey via UNOOSA secretariat on the states members to the committee (as well as non-governmental organizations including private sector entities through members states) about their implementation best practices, lessons learned, challenges, new proposed initiatives to help fostering international implementations of the LTS guidelines, and proposed necessary amendments to adopted LTS Guidelines in implementing the adopted 21 LTS Guidelines
- e) start receiving some inputs provided by states

2021 –

- a) Expert group review and discussion of inputs provided from above survey as well as any direct input during the LTS WG meeting
- b) Develop and discuss structure and initial outline of the report based on LTS

WG findings and recommendations regarding:

- (i) Compendium on best practices in implementing the adopted 21 LTS Guidelines
 - (ii) challenges in implementing the adopted LTS Guidelines
 - (iii) expanded international cooperation to facilitate practical implementation of the 21 adopted LTS guidelines
 - (iv) necessary clarifications, amendments, and suppression to the text for the exiting adopted LTS Guidelines
 - (v) major gaps in adopted Guidelines and suggested new guidelines to be considered for adoption
- c) High level report to the Committee 63rd Session on the inputs received and next steps by the LTS WG

2022 –

- a) Expert group review and discussion of inputs provided from above survey as well as any direct input during the LTS WG meeting
 - b) Develop and discuss preliminary draft report based on LTS WG findings and recommendations regarding:
 - (i) Compendium on best practices in implementing the adopted 21 LTS Guidelines
 - (ii) challenges in implementing the adopted LTS Guidelines
 - (iii) expanded international cooperation to facilitate practical implementation of the 21 adopted LTS guidelines
 - (iv) necessary clarifications, amendments, and suppression to the text for the exiting adopted LTS Guidelines
 - (v) major gaps in adopted Guidelines and suggested new guidelines to be considered for adoption
- c) Presentation by chair/co-chairs of the LTS WG to the 59th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and to the Committee 64th Session on the outline and working document towards preliminary draft report based on LTS WG findings and recommendations, as well as next steps by the LTS WG

2023 –

- a) Expert group review and discussion of inputs provided from above survey as well as any direct input during the LTS WG meeting
 - b) Develop and discuss preliminary draft report based on LTS WG findings and recommendations regarding:
 - (i) Compendium on best practices in implementing the adopted 21 LTS Guidelines
 - (ii) challenges in implementing the adopted LTS Guidelines
 - (iii) expanded international cooperation to facilitate practical implementation of the 21 adopted LTS guidelines
 - (iv) necessary clarifications, amendments, and suppression to the text for the exiting adopted LTS Guidelines
 - (v) major gaps in adopted Guidelines and suggested new guidelines to be considered for adoption
- c) Presentation by chair/co-chairs of the LTS WG to the 60th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and to the Committee 65th Session on the preliminary draft report based on LTS WG findings and recommendations,

as well as next steps by the LTS WG.

2024 –

- a) Expert group review and discussion of inputs provided from above survey as well as any direct input during the LTS WG meeting
- b) Develop and discuss draft report based on LTS WG findings and recommendations regarding:
 - (i) Compendium on best practices in implementing the adopted 21 LTS Guidelines
 - (ii) challenges in implementing the adopted LTS Guidelines
 - (iii) expanded international cooperation to facilitate practical implementation of the 21 adopted LTS guidelines
 - (iv) necessary clarifications, amendments, and suppression to the text for the exiting adopted LTS Guidelines
 - (v) major gaps in adopted Guidelines and suggested new guidelines to be considered for adoption
- c) Presentation by chair/co-chairs of the LTS WG to the 61st session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and to the Committee 65th Session on the draft report based on LTS WG findings and recommendations, seeking their endorsement, as well as proposed future including associated work-plan of the LTS WG.