

31 May 2023

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
**Sixty-sixth session**  
Vienna, 31 May–9 June 2023  
Item 7 of the provisional agenda\*  
**Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its  
sixty-second session**

**Input to the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space  
Resource Activities on Scope and Topics to be addressed at  
the International Conference to be held in 2024**

**Contributions from: Algeria, Australia, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador,  
Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, and Türkiye**

The present conference room paper was prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information received from Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, and Türkiye in response to the invitation of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group with regard to the Scope and Topics to be addressed at the International Conference to be held in 2024. The information was reproduced in the form it was received.

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\* [A/AC.105/L.333](#).



## I. Contributions received from Member States

### Algeria

[Original: English]  
[25 May 2023]

Contribution of Algeria about arrangements for a dedicated international conference on space resources scheduled for 2024.

Algeria presents its compliments to the chairman, vice-chairman of the working group on the legal aspects of activities related to space resources and to the UNOOSA secretariat, and wishes hereby to communicate to the aforementioned its following contribution relating to the modalities that could be adopted for the organization of the international conference on space resources scheduled for 2024:

Given the growth in space activity by developing countries and the increasing participation of the private sector in space activities, the negotiation of a possible international instrument, legally binding and clearly defining commercial activities relating to outer space, could play an important role in developing the use of space and stimulating space activities for the benefit of humanity.

Thus, the current space challenges, which could create a new international order, should open up more opportunities for developing countries, especially in terms of space cooperation, use and exploitation of space and its resources. This new order will put an end to the first-come-first-served principle and implement Article 1 of the space treaty, which states that space is the prerogative of all mankind.

Therefore, a broad discussion on the implications of activities related to space resources is still needed to enable developing countries to benefit from space exploration while guaranteeing and ensuring their rights in the discussions.

From the above, Algeria believes that the work of the working group in charge of this topic should be as inclusive as possible, taking into account the needs of developing countries. Any approach aimed at developing a framework governing the exploration, exploitation and use of space resources should be equitable, constructive, collaborative and based on consensus.

### Australia

[Original: English]  
[25 May 2023]

Australia's submission to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities

Australia thanks the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities (the Working Group) for the opportunity to provide written views with regard to the scope and topics to be addressed at the international conference to be held in 2024.

Australia remains of the view that the conference could feature presentations referenced in Australia's conference room paper dated 20 March 2023 (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.7) – namely, outlining the current international legal framework, examining States Members' current legislative settings, and providing an overview of practical activities and programs being undertaken or intensively planned for near-future commencement, relevant to activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilisation of space resources.

Additional topics to be considered in the context of the exploration, exploitation and utilisation of space resources could include:

- Identifying emerging trends, including types of activities and actors

- Identifying areas in which an international framework could support safe, sustainable, rational and peaceful activities, including for the scientific community, academia, private companies, governments and other stakeholders
- Discussing the challenges and opportunities of joint activities, including between governments, and between government and non-government actors, including opportunities for knowledge and information-sharing
- Considering lessons learnt from analogous frameworks, including law of the sea and international environmental law.

As indicated in the Working Group's terms of reference, the conference would be open to governments, invited academic and other stakeholders. Australia considers that these topics and arrangements are consistent with the mandate and terms of reference of the Working Group and support its five-year workplan and methods of work.

## Brazil

[Original: English]  
[26 May 2023]

The Permanent Mission of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and, with reference to the "Invitation by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working group to States members of the Committee with regard to the Scope and Topics to be addressed at the International Conference to be held in 2024", circulated April 2023, has the honour to propose that the agenda of the conference to be held in 2024 includes topics on "the Governance of Scientific Research and Data Sharing", in order to encourage discussions on successful collaborations, efforts to bridge the gap between academics and practitioners, to name a few potential topics for consideration.

In order to prepare for such segment, the Chair and the Vice-Chair might consider the following questions to generate proposals:

- The governance of scientific research and data sharing:
  - (i) How to encourage scientific data sharing that is representative, respect privacy and data protection and support interoperability?
  - (ii) How to promote a policy environment that supports an agile transition from the research and development stage to the deployment and operation stages?

The Permanent Mission of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.

## Cuba

[Original: Spanish]  
[29 May 2023]

Insumos de Cuba al informe de la Secretaría al 66 Período de Sesiones de COPUOS, referente al alcance y los temas a abordar en la "Conferencia Internacional sobre Recursos Espaciales" a celebrarse en 2024.

De conformidad con la solicitud realizada en la comunicación OOSA/2023/33, CU 2023/131, trasladamos las siguientes propuestas de temas para que sean abordados en el marco de la Conferencia Internacional sobre Recursos Espaciales:

- (A) Colaboración efectiva entre los Estados, organismos e instituciones académicas para la participación equitativa de todos los Estados en la

explotación segura y con fines pacíficos de los recursos naturales ubicados en el espacio ultraterrestre.

(B) Acceso a los recursos naturales localizados en el espacio ultraterrestre con fines puramente económicos.

(C) Formación de capacidades para la superación de especialistas en temas jurídicos y científico-técnicos sobre recursos espaciales.

(D) Uso de las tecnologías espaciales para la reducción del riesgo de desastres naturales y la mitigación del cambio climático.

(E) Creación de un mecanismo de regulación y control de las infraestructuras nacionales, regionales y globales.

De igual manera, consideramos que la “Conferencia Internacional sobre Recursos Espaciales” deberá:

1. Fomentar la creación de un entorno seguro y sostenible para la utilización de las nuevas tecnologías y la explotación de los recursos espaciales con fines pacíficos.
2. Contribuir a ampliar las posibilidades de participación de todos los países en igualdad de condiciones en las actividades espaciales.
3. Consolidar un clima de cooperación internacional e igualdad entre todos los Estados.
4. Contribuir al cumplimiento eficaz de los 5 tratados y de los principios de las Naciones Unidas relativos al uso del espacio ultraterrestre con fines estrictamente pacíficos.
5. Favorecer de manera positiva la aspiración de crear un instrumento jurídicamente vinculante en materia de espacio ultraterrestre.
6. Concientizar que ningún cuerpo celeste, o parte de él, puede ser objeto de apropiación nacional por reivindicación de soberanía, uso u ocupación, ni por ningún otro medio.
7. Dar mayor trascendencia a los riesgos asociados a la no existencia de una cooperación efectiva entre todos los actores gubernamentales y no gubernamentales que participan en la explotación de los recursos espaciales con fines pacíficos.
8. Avanzar en el fomento de mecanismos seguros para la supervisión y el control del uso de los recursos espaciales.
9. Enfatizar la necesidad de socializar la información científico-técnica en materia de espacio ultraterrestre de manera segura, equitativa y no discriminatoria.
10. Reafirmar la necesidad de usar la tecnología espacial para la reducción de riesgo de desastres naturales.

## **Ecuador**

[Original: Spanish]  
[28 April 2023]

La Misión Permanente del Ecuador Ante Los Organismos Internacionales En Viena, saluda muy atentamente a la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para Asuntos del Espacio Ultraterrestre (UNOOSA) – Comisión para el Uso Pacífico del Espacio Ultraterrestre (COPUOS)-, y con relación al oficio No. OOSA/2023/33 | CU 2023/131, tiene a bien informar que el Ecuador según lo acordado en el Reporte del Subcomité de Asuntos Legales (LSC) -A/AC.105/1285 Párr. 202-, considera procedente que Grupo de Trabajo sobre los Aspectos Legales de la Actividad y Recursos Espaciales

(LASRA) se desarrolle al amparo de la Sexagésima Sexta Sesión de la COPUOS y se beneficie de los servicios de interpretación.

La Misión Permanente Del Ecuador Ante Los Organismos Internacionales en Viena, aprovecha la ocasión para reiterar a la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para Asuntos del Espacio Ultraterrestre (UNOOSA) – Comisión para el Uso Pacífico del Espacio Ultraterrestre (COPUOS)-, los sentimientos de su más alta y distinguida consideración.

## Russian Federation

[Original: English]  
[31 May 2023]

Submission of the Russian Federation on the arrangements for an international conference on space resources

We prefer holding an international conference on space resources in Vienna in conjunction with the spring session of the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee in 2024. This would optimize the travel expenses of delegations, ensure the wide participation of delegations, in particular developing countries, and reinforce the Vienna forum as the primary venue for cooperation on peaceful uses of outer space.

We propose to include the following issues for discussion at the conference:

- Elaboration of terms and definitions. The discussion of any proposals or approaches to the organization and implementation of activities on research, exploration and use of space resources is possible only if there is an internationally agreed terms and definitions and a clear understanding of the subject of regulation. In our view the definition of space resources encompasses not only the mineral space resources of celestial bodies;
- Analysis of the existing norms of international law relating to the research, exploration and use of space resources, existing gaps in the legal regulation of these activities;
- Proposals for the development of an international legal mechanism for the implementation and control of activities on the exploration and use of space resources based on the principle that space resources are part of outer space;
- The need to develop legally binding international agreements in this area, which cannot be replaced by any rules or recommendations that grant exclusive rights to a particular State or group of States, to the detriment of the interests of other space actors.

## Slovak Republic

[Original: English]  
[22 May 2023]

Dear Mr. Misztal and Mr. Freeland,

Please, find below contribution of the Slovak Republic to your request CU 2023/131 to provide information to the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities under the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the arrangements for a dedicated international conference on space resources.

The issue of utilization of space resources for exploration is, undoubtedly, dynamically evolving and will be a major topic of international space activities in the next decades. It is therefore of utmost importance to define an international legal regime and framework to ensure their sustainable, peaceful and equitable utilization achieved through international cooperation and providing benefits for all mankind.

In order to allow for reaching common understanding on the applicable international legal framework, it is important to seek information and allow for exchange of knowledge and expertise from a wider range of actors involved in this multidimensional and interdisciplinary topic. This requires multidisciplinary approach bringing together space and non-space, science and industry, public and private players.

Having the international conference on space resources divided into 2 parts may allow wider stakeholder portfolio such as research institutes and academia, industry and private sector to share results of their work (research, studies and reports) and provide inputs that would enable further discussions on the margins of the Legal Subcommittee meeting in Vienna for the relevant state actors/governmental institutions of the COPUOS member states.

Such conference in the vicinity of Luxembourg Space Resource Week with the presence of relevant experts sharing information on technology development and scientific research within the field of space resources would provide a forum for international exchange and gathering of information. Such community of non-governmental actors could bring diverse prospective on the issue and leverage expertise needed for governmental players.

In this sense, we support presented proposal of a two-tier approach that would allow WG on space resources and institutional actors to capitalize on the information gained during the 1st part of the conference for their subsequent work on preparations of internationally accepted legal, regulatory and policy framework.

We would like to suggest following topics to be taken into consideration within the conference:

- Definition of the terms and differences in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space activities
- Preserving safety, sustainability (conservation of space environment) and peaceful use of outer space in regard with the utilization of space resources
- Participation and interests of emerging space faring nations
- Analyses of potential risks and mitigation of harmful impacts
- Non- appropriation of space resources and “rights“ related to the space resources.

## **Türkiye**

[Original: English]  
[26 May 2023]

With reference to the invitation circular asking information on the arrangements of the International Conference to be organized under the workplan and mandate of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, the following agenda items may be proposed.

1. Recent technical developments in space resource exploration and utilization;
2. Ways and means of monitoring relevant celestial bodies’ environment to evaluate the effects of space resource related activities;
3. Technical and financial mechanisms to be developed for the benefit of all nations regarding space resources;
4. Scientific and technical feedback to develop regulations required for the preservation of Lunar and other celestial bodies’ environment, including limits on the amount of extraction under the name “scientific research”, and imposing limits on the environmental changes due to such activities;

5. Study of Moon Agreement (Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies) as well as other UN Basic Space Treaties, and their consequences;
6. Recommendations on possible authority models to regulate space resource activities;
7. Ways and means of national and international authorization and oversight for space resource related activities;
8. Development of coordination mechanisms for space resources to avoid harmful interference;
9. Harmonizing legal frameworks of nations related to space resource activities;

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