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English only

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**

**Legal Subcommittee**

**Sixty-Second session**

Vienna, 20–31 March 2023

Item 10 of the provisional agenda\*

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

**Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource  
Activities: Status Overview**

**Paper submitted by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working  
Group**

**I. Introduction**

1. In accordance with the Five-year workplan and methods of work for the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, agreed upon at the sixty-first session of the Legal Subcommittee, [A/AC/105/1260](#), Annex II, Appendix, the Working Group was mandated to undertake the following tasks in 2023:

(a) Collation and dissemination by the Chair and Vice-Chair of submissions by States members of the Committee with regard to the mandate and purpose of the Working Group, together with a summary of those submissions prepared by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group, supported by the Secretariat;

(b) Collect relevant information concerning activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources, including with respect to scientific and technological developments and current practices, taking into account their innovative and evolving nature;

(c) Initial exchange of views on a study of the existing legal framework for such activities, in particular the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, and other applicable United Nations treaties, also taking into account other relevant instruments, as appropriate;

(d) Initial preparation by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group, supported by the Secretariat, of a preliminary summary of the information collected

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\* [A/AC.105/C.2/L.323](#).



and views expressed thus far, for submission to the Working Group for further consideration;

(e) Discuss and reach agreement on the arrangements for a dedicated international conference under the auspices of the United Nations, in accordance with the terms of reference of the Working Group (A/76/20, annex III), with the scope and topics to be addressed at the conference to be more fully elaborated through inputs of States.

2. On this basis, the Chair, Andrzej Misztal (Poland) and Vice-Chair, Steven Freeland (Australia) of the Working Group propose that the agenda of items to be discussed in the Working Group at the sixty second session of the Legal Subcommittee focus on the above items to the extent that they have not already been completed.

## II. Current Status of Activities of the Working Group

3. Among the initial tasks in 2022 provided in the Five-Year workplan was to undertake initial administrative, information-collection and stocktaking tasks as provided for in the mandate of the Working Group, including through submissions by States members of the Committee with regard to the mandate and purpose of the Working Group.

4. In accordance with this initial task of 2022, and (a) above, the Summary by the Chair and Vice-Chair of views and contributions received on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group, A/AC.105/C.2/120, is available in all official languages of the United Nations for the present sixty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee, on the main page for the session and dedicated web page for the Working Group.

5. In accordance with (b) above, the Chair and Vice-Chair invited delegations to the sixtieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in 2023 in Conference Room Paper contribute to the work of the Working Group with relevant information on the current, and reasonably foreseeable, state of technological development regarding space resource activities (A/AC.105/C.1/2023/CRP/16\*).

6. In accordance with (c) above, the Chair and the Vice Chair would like to draw attention of the Working Group generally to the contributions of States, and organizations having permanent observers status with the Committee, as Conference Room Papers, including the Summary document for the Chair and Vice-Chair, A/AC.105/C.2/120 found on the dedicated webpage for the Working Group, available at [www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/copuos/lsc/space-resources/index.html](http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/copuos/lsc/space-resources/index.html). In this regard, the Chair and Vice-Chair would like to thank all States for their substantively rich contributions which will serve as a strong basis for discussions during the present session of the Legal Subcommittee.

7. In accordance with (d) above, the Chair and Vice-Chair, supported by the Secretariat, will develop a preliminary summary of the information collected and views expressed during the present sixty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee for submission to the Working Group for further consideration during the intersessional period, and which will serve as an invitation for further contributions to the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee in 2024.

8. In accordance with (e) above, the Chair and Vice-Chair look forward to fruitful discussions during the present sixty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee on the arrangements for a dedicated international conference under the auspices of the United Nations, in accordance with the terms of reference of the Working Group (A/76/20, annex III), with the scope and topics to be addressed at the conference to be more fully elaborated through inputs of States.

9. In this regard, and in accordance with the terms of reference of the Working Group agreed during the sixty-fourth session of the Committee in 2021 (A/76/20, Annex III, Section II.B. para 4(e)), the Chair and Vice-Chair view the conference as

an opportunity to gather additional inputs by permanent observers and all other stakeholders which the Chair and Vice-Chair, in consultation with the Working Group, regard as relevant to the work of the Working Group.

10. The agenda for discussions will be made available on the webpage for the Working Group. Formal meetings of the Working Group will take place in accordance with the Annotated provisional agenda (including indicative schedule of work) (A/AC.105/C.2/L.323), and informal consultations will take place as indicated on the main page for the sixty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee, available at: [www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/copuos/lsc/2023/index.html](http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/copuos/lsc/2023/index.html).

### **III. Documentation for the Working Group**

11. Being mindful of the importance of multilingualism in the United Nations system, and in accordance with the established practice of the Committee, its two Subcommittees and Working Groups, while also remaining within existing resources of the Secretariat, the Chair and Vice-Chair advise that from the start of formal work of the Working Group in 2023, States are encouraged to limit submissions in support of the work of the Working Group to four pages in length, provided appropriately in advance, which will then be processed into all official languages of the United Nations.

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