Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities - Possible report language

Non-paper by the Chair of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities

Note: The below working text is shared to assist delegations with their considerations. It attempts to balance the depth and breadth of suggestions received on workshop topics with the limited amount of time that will be available during the slot normally allocated to the industry symposium. It is foreseen that the workshop could be structured into three panels, each addressing one of the below-mentioned topics.

Working Group members are reminded that any formal decisions for the present Committee session should be reached by end of day on 7 June, in order that they may be reflected in the draft report.

1. The Committee recalled that, in accordance with the Working Group’s multiyear workplan (A/AC.105/1258, annex II, appendix), information and views on the topics in paragraphs 4 and 6 of the Working Group’s terms of reference, methods of work and workplan are to continue to be submitted. Inputs of up to three pages received by the Secretariat by 20 October 2023 will be made available in all the official languages of the United Nations before the sixty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in 2024.

2. The Committee noted that the Working Group had requested that the Chair of the Working Group draw on the inputs received since the start of the work of the Working Group to compile a list of overarching themes on challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. This list would be made available in all the official languages of the United Nations for consideration at the sixty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in 2024. This list is to be distinct from the report of the workshop and the draft report, which are to be produced following the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in 2024.

3. The Committee noted that the Working Group had agreed that the following three topics would form the basis of the agenda of the workshop to take place in 2024:
   (a) Regulatory and policy aspects (possible subtopics of specific presentations could include, inter alia, licencing and supervision, registration, the role of guidelines in enhancing the utilisation of space and perspectives of Indigenous/tribal communities);
   (b) Safety of space operations (possible subtopics of specific presentations could include, inter alia, space situational awareness, mega-constellations and sustainability and cyber safety and resilience of space systems); and
   (c) Scientific and technical advancements (possible subtopics of specific presentations could include, inter alia, space debris and space debris remediation, sustainable human presence in outer space and the role of academic and higher-learning institutions).

4. The Committee noted that the Working Group had agreed that speakers/panellists for the workshop would need to be formally accredited to the sixty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee as part of a delegation.