

NON-PAPER

Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities

Joint views of Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom on the Scope and Topics of the International Space Resource Conference under the auspices of the United Nations in 2024

DRAFT Non-Paper submitted in preparation of the consultations of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities at the 66th COPUOS session 2023

1. With reference to the invitation by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities (OOSA/2023/33 of 21 April 2023) we wish to submit the following views regarding the scope and topics of the international conference and with a view to reaching an agreement on the arrangements for that conference:
2. It is our view that the purpose of the international conference in 2024 is in principle to receive “work on the issue of activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources, including but not limited to study reports, academic research and papers”, as determined in para f of the Working Group’s Terms of References. It is our understanding that the conference serves foremost as an information gathering forum, enabling the Working Group to receive views of non-State actors, including civil society, academia, industry and the private sector, on scientific, technical and operational aspects related to space resource activities. Such conference shall allow for an open and inclusive exchange with a wide range of stakeholders and to gather relevant information on the achievements as well as current and future activities related to space resources. The conference is not, in itself, intended to be the place of intergovernmental discussions concerning the elaboration of a set of recommended principles for space resource activities. Such intergovernmental discussions will take place during the regular formal and informal Working Group meetings guided by the rules of procedure, methods of work and established practices of the Committee.
3. The conference arrangements shall allow to secure diverse participation and structured input by a wide range of stakeholders: governments, agencies, international bodies, non-governmental organizations, civil and cultural society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and others willing to share their positions and views on the topic of space resource activities. Therefore, we see merit in the proposal contained in A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.41 and in holding a part of the conference in close encounter with the Luxembourg Space Resources

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



Week. This would allow securing input from stakeholders not being State members of the Committee nor observers, such as leaders from research institutes and academia, as well as terrestrial and aerospace industries. Online access to this part of the conference will allow all States members of the Working Group and national experts to follow the presentations offered in English and to pose questions remotely. Holding a second part of the conference within the margins of the Legal Subcommittee's meeting in Vienna could allow to gather additional stakeholder input offered in one of the six UN languages and benefitting from interpretation services.

4. By adopting such a two-tier approach to the conference, input by the widest possible range of experts could be secured which would then inform the subsequent discussions at member State level.

5. We support the following topics for the conference:
- a. achievements in the scientific and technological domains;
 - b. possible designs of an international space resources regime;
 - c. environmental aspects, sustainability of lunar resources activities and designation of protected areas, safety of operations, transparency measures and exchange of mission related information;
 - d. requirements for the safe undertaking of space resources activities;
 - e. assistance to developing countries;
 - f. data sharing and access to scientific results;
 - g. due regard and conflict prevention, including a potential framework for dispute resolution; and
 - h. UN treaties on outer space and space resource exploration, exploitation and utilization.
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