

**Report to the LSC under the agenda item 7, Future role and method of work of the Committee, be the delegation of India on the outcomes of the discussions on organizational matters**

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

At the sixty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, held in Vienna from 3 to 14 February 2025, the STSC Working Group of the Whole discussed, under the agenda item entitled “Future role and method of work of the Committee”, the large number of requests for scientific and technical presentations to be made during the sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees.

The Working Group acknowledged the value of such presentations while noting that there was a need to improve the organization of presentations and facilitate meaningful discussions.

The Working Group recommended that discussion on that matter be led by the delegation of India at the sixty-fourth session of the Legal Subcommittee and at the sixty-eighth session of the Committee, and requested the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements, including with regard to the use of interpretation.

Discussions on organizational matters led by the delegation of India were held at this session of the Legal Subcommittee on 7, 8, and 9 May.

Delegations discussed a range of issues, including the clustering of technical presentations, the provision of interpretation, possible limitations on the number of technical presentations, and ways to promote more interactive discussions.

Range of opinions was expressed regarding the interpretation of technical presentations. Some delegations emphasized that providing interpretation is important for upholding the spirit of the United Nations and for supporting multilateralism and multilingualism. It was recognized that interpretation would facilitate the participation of technical experts who may not be fluent in English and would also help disseminate knowledge to a broader audience. Other delegations, noted that in the context of the current liquidity crisis and limited resources, priority for interpretation services should be given to working groups and consultations on substantive matters. An idea was also raised to schedule technical presentations in between formal sessions and without interpretation. It was also observed that moving technical presentations outside of plenary sessions could incur additional costs, as this would require a separate team of interpreters.

We also explored options for limiting the number of technical presentations — such as setting a cap per session, per delegation, or per meeting — and noted diverging views on each of these options.

There were also varying perspectives regarding presentations by experts. On one hand, view was expressed that representatives of industry and business could be included as part of national delegations. On the other hand, it was emphasized that the independent representation of non-governmental actors — such as industry, non-governmental organizations, and academia — is important to ensure a broad and balanced exchange of perspectives.

I am pleased to inform the Legal Subcommittee that agreement was reached on the following proposals:

- 1.1. One or more full meetings per session of the Committee or its subcommittees could be allocated for technical presentations.
- 1.2. Presentations should be grouped according to relevant agenda item.

1.3. The dates of the meetings fully dedicated to technical presentations should be included in the indicative schedule of work contained in the annotated provisional agenda of the respective session.

1.4. Whenever feasible, presentations should be followed by a question-and-answer segment to facilitate interactive discussions.

Distinguished delegates,

Due to the current liquidity situation, it was also agreed to recommend that such discussions would not be continued during the upcoming session of COPUOS.

I thank you for your attention.