

**Canada****Agenda Item 7 – Future role and method of work of the Committee.****Delivered by: Curtis Schmeichel, Global Affairs Canada**

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space  
Legal Subcommittee  
Sixty-fourth session, Vienna, May 5-16, 2025

Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Canada would like to thank the Secretariat for their on-going efforts to advance the important work of this Committee and its subcommittees in the context of on-going budgetary limitations. Notwithstanding this situation, the Committee continues to grow, which Canada sees as a positive development and evidence of the importance of its work. However, it does not come without challenges to the effective conduct of its sessions and the work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. As a result, Canada supports timesaving measures which have been implemented, such as the five-minute limit for statements, which ensures that all member States have the ability to speak with interpretation services, and webcasting of the plenary sessions, which allows a wider audience to witness our work. These are helpful measures, and Canada believes that the current situation necessitates additional changes.

The rapid pace of development in space activities presents new challenges and, as a result, a demand for new agenda items or working groups. To ensure there is sufficient time and resources to address emerging issues, the Legal Subcommittee may need to consider deleting certain agenda items while combining others.

The definition and delimitation of outer space has been on the agenda for decades. It has been thoroughly considered from every conceivable angle. The volumes of work on this matter have been condensed and summarized by the Secretariat. Therefore, the

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subject has been fully explored, and the Legal Subcommittee could consider removing this item from the agenda.

The issue of space traffic management has now become one of the most important issues arising from the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. It is a broad topic that inevitably raises issues discussed under other agenda items. For example, it is nearly impossible to discuss space traffic management without mentioning the proliferation of small satellites and large constellations. These issues are inextricably linked and the solutions developed to address any one of the challenges posed by these issues, will have a significant effect on the others. Therefore, the Legal Subcommittee could consider addressing these issues together under one agenda item. Consolidating the discussions on the legal aspects of space traffic management and small satellites would streamline the agenda, creating space for new items, while providing a stimulus for addressing these issues in a comprehensive and intuitive manner.

Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Outer space activities continue to grow in volume and importance to society. They are considered important for meeting the sustainable development goals and for the future of humanity. At the same time, budgetary pressures and new challenges in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space dictate that the Committee and its

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subcommittees must evolve and adapt. Canada is confident that the Committee can adapt its methods in order to continue its impressive track record of delivering results for the international community.

Thank you.