

COPUOS Legal Subcommittee 2025

**Additional Text in support of the Proposal for a
Study Group on Legal and Policy Aspects of Space
Traffic at COPUOS LSC***Non-paper by Germany*

Possible language for LSC Report (*Section on Agenda Item 11 General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management*) in case the Subcommittee agrees to establish a Study Group on Legal and Policy Aspects of Space Traffic in accordance with the proposal submitted by Germany and co-sponsored by Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Czech Republic, Finland, Greece, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Romania and the United Arab Emirates [...] and contained in conference room paper [xxx]. The mandate, terms of reference, methods of work and workplan of the Study Group could be provided in an annex to the LSC report.

Mandate:

The Study Group will identify, within two years, legal and policy aspects related to space traffic, taking into account regulations, policies, best practices and requirements at the national and regional levels as well as the international legal framework governing outer space activities, with the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, at its core.

The Study Group will deliver a research report to the Legal Subcommittee to present existing approaches and elements to be considered by States members when discussing legal and policy aspects of space traffic.

Terms of reference:

Participation in the Study Group is open to all member States. States members are invited to designate a focal point to ensure continued participation in the Study Group. The work of the Study Group will be led by co-facilitators appointed through the regional groups.

To facilitate the collection of the relevant regulations, policies, best practices and requirements at the national and regional levels, as well as the identification of existing international norms, the Study Group will develop a questionnaire. Based on the inputs received by member States and organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee, a drafting team, consisting of fifteen members nominated through the regional groups, will compile the research report for endorsement by the Study Group.

Methods of work:

The Study Group will meet both on the margins of the sessions of the Legal Subcommittee in a hybrid format and during the intersessional period in an online format. The Office for Outer Space Affairs will facilitate the work of the Study Group.

Workplan:*Intersessional period before 65th LSC 2026:*

- Member States are invited to designate focal points for the Study Group by 30 November 2025.
- The regional groups are invited to appoint co-facilitators to lead the work of the Study Group by 30 November 2025.
- Member States are invited to nominate through regional groups members of the drafting team by 30 November 2025.
- December 2025 – January 2026: The Study Group meets intersessionally to establish a drafting team based upon nominations through regional groups.
- February 2026 – April 2026: The drafting team prepares a draft questionnaire prior to LSC 2026.

65th Session of the Legal Subcommittee in 2026:

- The Study Group reviews and adopts the questionnaire.
- The Study Group collects information by member States and permanent observers on the relevant regulations, policies, best practices and requirements at the national and regional levels, as well as for the identification of existing international norms.

Intersessional period before 66th LSC 2027:

- Member States and organisations with observer status to the Committee are invited to give input to the questionnaire by November 30th 2026.
- December 2026 – April 2027: The drafting team prepares a draft research report.

66th Session of the LSC in 2027:

- The Study Group reviews and adopts the research report and reports to the LSC, including recommendations on a possible way forward.
