

NON-PAPER

Future role and method of work of the Committee

Note by Netherlands

On Monday 7 February, the first day of the fifty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Netherlands made a comment about adding agenda items.

This point arose from the proposals to add the agenda item "General exchange of views on dark and quiet skies for science and society".

The Netherlands fully supports the addition of this agenda item to the COPUOS agenda. We believe that this is an important issue that requires the attention of all Member States. I would like to point out that our comments about adding an agenda item have nothing to do with this agenda item in particular, but are intended to provide a general discussion about adding an agenda item in future situations.

The Netherlands believes that we should think about adding agenda items to our already overcrowded agenda. In order to conduct committee meetings effectively and efficiently, the Netherlands believes that in situations where items are added to the agenda, consideration should be given to introducing the rule that an agenda item can only be added to the agenda if another item has been removed, as also suggested in the previous Legal Subcommittee. It would allow to maintain a balance between the length of the agenda on the one hand and the time available during our meetings on the other.

In general, I would like to point out that the Netherlands is in favour of increasing the efficiency of the committee's working method. The Netherlands remains alert to (improvement of) agenda management. We believe that this can be achieved by taking into account the right balance between available time and the length of the agenda and so I ask this meeting to pay attention to this.

That is why the Netherlands proposes that in the future, if new agenda items are added, we first discuss in our committee whether we should simply put such a new agenda item on our already full agenda, or not do so, until a joint decision was made to remove another item on the agenda.

