

Possible decisions to be taken by the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities at the sixtieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

Non-paper by the Chair the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities

Note: These draft texts are provided as food for thought and to facilitate Working Group discussions.

1. The Working Group requests the Chair of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities to coordinate with the Chair of the Committee and the Secretariat to make arrangements for the Working Group to be able to meet during the sixty-sixth session of the Committee, in June 2023, making use of the available interpretation services.
2. The Working Group recalls that, in accordance with its multi-year workplan (A/AC.105/1258, annex II, appendix), the Working Group is to hold, within existing resources, a workshop on the margins of the sixty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in 2024, with the agenda to be defined in 2023, on the topics in paragraphs 4 and 6 of the terms of reference, methods of work and workplan of the Working Group, with inputs from national governmental organizations, international intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and academia. In this connection, the Working Group agrees that the workshop will be aimed at raising awareness of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and supporting capacity-building and that it will also represent an opportunity to collect views from entities that may not normally participate directly in the work of the Working Group.
3. The Working Group requested that the full duration of the slot normally allocated for the holding of an industry symposium during the sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee be allocated at the sixty -first session of the Subcommittee, in 2024, for the holding of the abovementioned workshop. This would allow for at least a portion of the workshop to benefit from interpretation services.¹
4. The Working Group agrees that the slot normally allocated for the industry symposium will not in itself allow enough time for deep discussions and therefore the workshop will also continue, in English only, in a conference room of the Vienna International Centre, for an additional day and a half. This will mean the workshop in its entirety will be a two-day workshop.
5. The Working Group agrees that Working Group members will be asked to send suggestions for specific topics for the workshop to the Chair and the Secretariat and that these may be discussed further by the Working Group during the Working Group's meetings at the sixty-sixth session of the Committee, in June 2022.

¹ Note that this request was already made by the Working Group on 9 Feb. 2022.



6. The Working Group agrees that Working Group members will be asked to nominate speakers and/or panellists for the workshop well in advance of the sixty-first session of the Subcommittee, with such nominations to be sent to the Chair and the Secretariat by no later than 9 October 2023.
7. The Working Group agrees that the Chair, with the support of the Secretariat, will use the nominations to create a final programme for the workshop, with the aim of incorporating diverse views, taking into account both geographical and gender balance among speakers and panellists.
8. The Working Group requests that the Office for Outer Space Affairs issue direct invitations to the workshop participants, so that they will not need to be formally accredited in national delegations in order to participate. The Working Group agreed that views expressed during the workshop will be regarded as those of the panellists and other participants and not as formal positions of States.
9. The Working Group agrees that, in order to make the best use of time, panellists would be requested to prepare, and share in advance of the workshop, short abstracts covering the topic on which they have been invited to speak. The aim will be for presentations to be kept short, so that the workshop focuses on active exchanges, including questions and answers.
10. The Working Group agrees that if there are more nominations for speakers and/or panellists than can be accommodated in the allotted time frame, those who are not assigned a formal speaking or presenting role will still be invited to attend the workshop and engage in the interactive discussions. They will also be invited to provide written contributions, which would be shared with the Working Group for further consideration and for possible inclusion in the report on the workshop.
11. The Working Group requests the Office for Outer Space Affairs to provide funding for participants, in particular from developing countries, to travel to Vienna in order to take part in the workshop in-person, subject to the availability of existing resources of the Office.
12. The Working Group agrees that as increasingly more information and views are shared on the elements included in the Working Group's guiding framework, an easily accessible and searchable open-source repository of such information would be useful and could serve as a tool for building transparency, confidence and capacity.
13. In this connection, the Working Group requests that the Office for Outer Space Affairs develop and host such an information repository on a website of the Office, including search and filter functionalities so that users would be able to easily filter content, for example, by specific guideline.
14. The Working Group agrees that submission of information to the repository will be voluntary and the information to be stored in the repository could include details identifying the submitter or could be submitted without a name attached, at the discretion of the submitter.
15. The Working Group agrees that the information shared should remain in the words or voice of the submitter. The Office for Outer Space Affairs will collect the submissions and make them available in the repository in the original form and language of submission.
16. The Working Group requests that shorter submissions or versions of submissions (i.e. texts up to a maximum of three pages per submission) continue

to be translated by the Secretariat into all the official languages of the United Nations.

17. The Working Group agrees that the content to be stored in the repository should be seen as a part of the Working Group's overall output, supplementary to the thorough report that the Working Group will produce.
