

19 April 2021
Original: English

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fifty-eighth session
Vienna, 19-30 April 2021
Item 12 of the provisional agenda¹
Long-term sustainability of outer space activities**

**Proposal by Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Japan,
Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, and the
United States of America on a Terms of Reference, Methods
of Work and Workplan for the establishment of a new
Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer
Space Activities of the Scientific and Technical
Subcommittee**

The present conference room paper was prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information received from the delegations of Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, and the United States of America. The information was reproduced in the form it was received.

¹ A/AC.105/C.1/L.387



Proposal by Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, and the United States on a Terms of Reference, Methods of Work and Workplan for the establishment of a new Working Group on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

1. Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria and the United States welcome the Committee's adoption of the preamble and 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability (LTS) of outer space activities at its sixty-second session.¹
2. We believe that sharing and reviewing best practices on the practical implementation of LTS guidelines will enhance communication, international cooperation, and capacity building; preserving the outer space environment for future generations. In this regard:
 - a) Sharing and reviewing implementation experiences in the Committee's Scientific and Technical Subcommittee will highlight best practices in implementing the guidelines.
 - b) Focusing on implementation may result in the identification of challenges associated with the emerging uses of space and consideration of possible new guidelines in order to promote responsible exploration and use of outer space.
 - c) Advancing implementation of the 21 adopted LTS guidelines -- and capacity building in that regard -- should therefore serve as the foundation for the new Working Group established under the STSC. Such a foundation can ensure that the Working Group's identification and study of emerging space missions is informed by the most current information on experiences, practices and lessons learned by non-governmental organizations, industry, the private sector, the academic community as well as governmental space actors.

Proposed Terms of Reference

3. Pursuant to the guidance established at the Committee's 62nd session (A/74/20)², the objectives of a new working group on long-term sustainability on outer space activities (LTS 2.0 Working Group) should be to:
 - a) Identify, compile, and review relevant practices and procedures to support the practical implementation of the 21 adopted Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities;
 - b) Study the challenges associated with emerging uses of space, with the aim of using this as the basis for the identification and compilation of possible new guidelines; and,
 - c) Strengthen capacity building efforts by assisting nations in their implementation of the specific guidelines and the associated development of national space practices, policies, and legislation to ensure the long-term sustainability and peaceful uses of outer space.

¹ A/74/20, paragraph 163. and Annex II

² A/74/20, paragraphs 164-168

4. In order to ensure that all relevant inputs receive the fullest consideration, the LTS 2.0 Working Group should allow for the composition of the bureau led by one Chair to ensure a clear leadership role is established. The bureau also should include one Vice Chair, who can assist the Chair with implementation of the workplan. In addition, the bureau of the Working Group should be established based on balanced geographical distribution, taking into account the particular role of emerging space faring nations and developing nations.

Proposed Methods of Work

5. The LTS 2.0 Working Group will undertake its work in two non-parallel streams, which would be guided by the framework established in A/74/20³. The first work stream (policy and regulatory stream) will be responsible for leading the compilation of best practices pertaining to the implementation of the guidelines in policy and national regulatory frameworks for space activities, and a study of the challenges, and potential new guidelines for consideration. The second work stream (operational and technical stream) will be responsible for leading the compilation of best practices pertaining to the implementation of the guidelines regarding the safety and sustainability of space operations, including relevant aspects of scientific and technical research and development, and a study of the challenges, and potential new guidelines for consideration.
6. International cooperation, raising awareness and building capacity are integral components of this work. These concepts will be carefully considered throughout the discussions of each work stream.
7. It will be important to ensure that work happens sequentially with a balanced approach to the division of time during the sessions to allow for maximum participation by all delegations. This will help both facilitate equitable-participation from COPUOS delegations, and also enable the working group to address the objectives in succession so that agreed practices, procedures and the lessons learned from guideline implementation can in turn aid new space actors in implementation and capacity-building efforts.
8. The Working Group will engage with permanent observers of the Committee in accordance with the rules of procedure, methods of work and established practices of the Committee.

Proposed Work Plan

2021

- a) Election of the Bureau and establishment of terms of reference, methods of work and dedicated work plan for the LTS 2.0 Working Group;
- b) Invite States members of the Committee, and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations having permanent Observer status to the Committee, to provide information and views on practical implementation of the 21 adopted LTS guidelines, the study of new challenges and possible new guidelines, and capacity building efforts.

³ A/74/20, paragraph 167

2022

- a) Share experiences, and hold a discussion on information and views provided by States members on implementation of the 21 adopted LTS guidelines, the study of new challenges and possible new guidelines, and capacity building efforts;
- b) The Chair will draft a preliminary report capturing broad findings on implementation, identification of challenges and related review of possible new guidelines, and capacity building.

2023

- a) Review and discuss findings in the preliminary draft report and consolidate any additional information and views presented;
- b) The Chair will refine the findings on implementation with additional information and views presented.

2024

- a) Final review and refinement of the findings;
- b) Develop a final report for consideration at the sixty-first STSC session.

2025

- a) Present a final working group report to the sixty-second STSC session, including recommendations on:
 - i. compilation of national implementation best practices of the 21 adopted LTS guidelines by States members and international organisations having permanent Observer status;
 - ii. measures to address challenges identified and related study of possible new guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities;
 - iii. experiences and opportunities in capacity building; and,
 - iv. proposed future work recommendations.