



---

**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space  
Legal Subcommittee  
Sixtieth session  
Vienna, 31 May–11 June 2021**

**Draft report****X. General exchange of information on non-legally binding  
United Nations instruments on outer space**

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [75/92](#), the Subcommittee considered agenda item 11, entitled “General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space”, as a single issue/item for discussion.
2. The representatives of Colombia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, Mexico and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under agenda item 11. A statement was made by the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. A statement was also made by the Chair of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were made by representatives of other member States.
3. The Subcommittee heard a presentation entitled “SGAC report on the LTS Guidelines national implementation”, by the observer for SGAC.
4. The Subcommittee took note of the compendium on mechanisms adopted by States and international organizations in relation to non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space, which was available on a dedicated page on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and encouraged States members of the Committee and international intergovernmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee to continue to share information on their practices related to non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space.
5. The Subcommittee noted that non-legally binding United Nations instruments related to outer space activities complemented and supported the existing United Nations treaties on outer space.
6. The Subcommittee noted that some States were implementing non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space through their national legislation.
7. The view was expressed that all non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space were welcome as flexible and effective mechanisms to respond to the challenges of the exploration and use of outer space.



8. The view was also expressed that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies played an important role in the consolidation of best practices through non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space.
9. The view was expressed that the ability of States to implement non-legally binding instruments such as guidelines was subject to a State's level of development and that knowledge transfer and capacity-building were of the utmost importance in that regard.
10. The view was also expressed that there should not be any regulations promoting the commercialization of outer space, outer space being the common heritage of all humankind and belonging to all States on equal terms.
11. The view was expressed that the current legal regime on outer space did not adequately guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space and that adequate and effective measures that would make it possible to prevent conflict in outer space should be developed and adopted.
12. The view was also expressed that it was necessary to gain a better understanding of non-legally binding instruments and related practices in order to address contemporary challenges in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.
13. Some delegations, in connection with the agenda item, recalled General Assembly resolutions 1721 A and B (XVI), on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and Assembly resolution 1962 (XVIII), on the Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States and the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, and encouraged States launching objects into orbit to furnish information on those objects to the Secretary-General and to consider establishing a national registry for the purpose of exchanging information on space objects, as appropriate.
14. Some delegations recalled the Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space, in connection with the agenda item, and highlighted the importance of promoting the availability of remote sensing data on a non-discriminatory basis, as such data were essential for sustainable development and promoted transparency and confidence among States.
15. Some delegations recalled the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries, in connection with the agenda item, and expressed the view that it was an important instrument for the further promotion of international cooperation with a view to maximizing the benefits of space applications for all States, highlighting that, in the Declaration, all spacefaring nations were called upon to contribute to promoting and fostering international cooperation on an equitable basis.
16. The Subcommittee was informed by the Chair of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of recent developments relating to the Working Group. The Chair recalled the decision by the Committee on the framework by which the Working Group would be guided (document [A/74/20](#), para. 167) and welcomed forthcoming multilateral cooperation on the Working Group's terms of reference, methods of work and workplan.
17. The view was expressed that the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space provided a valuable source of guidance on how to conduct space activities, that the non-legally binding nature of the Guidelines allowed for flexibility and enabled potential adjustments, and that upcoming discussions within the Working Group on the practical implementation of the Guidelines should take into consideration the need for flexibility in the constantly changing circumstances of the new space era.