

31 May 2023

English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Sixty-sixth session
Vienna, 31 May–9 June 2023

Review of the financial and other implications of webcasting and remote simultaneous interpretation services for sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees

Paper submitted by the Secretariat

1. Background

1. At its session in 2010, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space took note of various proposals for optimizing and rationalizing its work and that of the subcommittees, such as the introduction of webcasts ([A/65/20](#), para. 321 (d)).
2. At the fiftieth session of the Legal Subcommittee, some delegations expressed the view that sessions of the Subcommittee could be broadcast via the World Wide Web and that the Secretariat could explore the financial implications of webcasting. The Subcommittee requested that the Secretariat prepare for its fifty-first session, in 2012, a conference room paper in which it examined the financial and other implications of webcasting the sessions of the Subcommittee ([A/AC.105/990](#), paras. 190 and 197).
3. At its fifty-first session, the Legal Subcommittee had before it a conference room paper entitled “Review of the financial and other implications of webcasting the sessions of the Subcommittee” ([A/AC.105/C.2/2012/CRP.15](#)). The view was expressed that sessions of the Subcommittee could be broadcast via the World Wide Web, as that practice would be both cost-effective and in line with the growing interest in webcasting meetings. Some delegations stated that, in the light of the information provided in the conference room paper, it was not feasible from a legal, budgetary and practical standpoint to introduce webcasting of the sessions of the Subcommittee at that time.
4. Following consultation with the Conference Management Service of the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV), the Secretariat reported to the Committee at its sixty-second session that webcasting of the sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees would have financial implications and that the matter could be further explored upon request by the Committee.
5. A webcast is a live video and audio broadcast of an event, transmitted over the Internet. For a webcast, the data transmission is single-sided. Therefore, interaction between the presenters and the audience is not possible. A hybrid meeting, by contrast, is interactive and allows information to be transmitted between the meeting and the webcast audience.



6. At the time of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees were organized in hybrid format using Interprefy – a platform for remote simultaneous interpretation (RSI). The sessions were webcast.

7. At the sixtieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) in 2023, the STSC Working Group of the Whole requested the secretariat to provide the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with an overview of the financial implications of webcasting and remote simultaneous interpretation services, for its consideration at its sixty-sixth session, in June 2023, with a view to reaching a decision regarding the format of future sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees.

2. Webcasting

8. Webcasting services are provided by the Information Technology Service of UNOV. In 2023, sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees have been streamed through the UN WebTV Platform.

9. The Office for Outer Space Affairs has been notified by the Information Technology Service of UNOV that there will be no charges for the webcast of the meetings of the Committee and its subcommittees in 2023.

10. According to the UNOV standard cost manual 2022, the cost of webcasting/or webcasting during events with remote simultaneous interpretation amounts to \$127 per hour and includes hardware and staff costs.

3. Remote simultaneous interpretation services

11. Cost for hybrid meetings comprise of two components relating to the use of the RSI platform: (a) usage costs and (b) ITS support costs.

12. RSI platform usage costs – are the platform usage costs charged by the provider (Interprefy). All costs are supplier costs and depend on the actual number and duration of connections to the platform.

13. RSI Platform ITS support costs amount to \$314 per session up to three hours and cover costs associated with the provision of RSI technical support by ITS. These costs include conference support costs (setup, test, monitoring) as well as RSI event management and coordination (event planning, invoicing and cost recovery).

14. For subcommittee sessions in 2023, invoices received by the Office are as follows:

<i>Body</i>	<i>Number of meetings</i>	<i>Interprefy usage costs</i>	<i>ITS support costs</i>
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	21	\$5,541.00	\$6,594.00
Legal Subcommittee	24*	\$5,274.00	\$7,536.00

* Includes 20 plenary meetings with interpretation and 4 meetings of technical presentations. The meetings were counted by ITS separately, as their cumulative duration (including break) exceeded 3 hours.