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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Sixty-seventh session
Vienna, 19–28 June 2024
Item 14 of the provisional agenda*
Future role and method of work of the Committee

Working paper submitted by the Russian Federation

The present conference room paper was prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information received from the Russian Federation. The information was reproduced in the form it was received.

* [A/AC.105/L.337](#).



1. The Russian Federation notes that the international community witnesses the exponential increase of outer space activities. The space industry is developing at an accelerated pace and the number of active stakeholders is growing rapidly.
2. In parallel, new challenges and threats arise. In this regard, the Russian Federation believes that the international responsibility of States for national activities in outer space, as stipulated in Article VI of the Outer Space Treaty, is now much more relevant than ever, regardless of whether these activities are carried out by government agencies, international organizations or non-governmental legal entities. We call on to strictly comply with this provision.
3. The Russian Federation discourages the set up of blocs and alliances as well as artificial “dividing lines” in outer space exploration and use. Such a regrettable practice not only undermines collective efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals, but also hampers global security. The principle of international cooperation in outer space must remain immutable and we call on all Member States to fully respect the international space law.
4. Unfortunately, the dynamic expansion of outer space-related risks leaves behind the international space law evolution. Legal gaps and lagoons are more and more evident. Not surprisingly, that other UN-related entities, like ICAO, ITU and UN disarmament mechanisms – just to name a few, take actions to fill up these gaps, overlapping, at times, with the mandate of UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). We see it as exceedingly counterproductive to transfer the discussion of some issues of the COPOUS’s competence, for example, orbital traffic management or space debris mitigation to the UN disarmament fora.
5. The Russian Federation regretfully notes that in addition to these “external” challenges there are also persistent “internal” attempts to politicize the work of our COPUOS, thus significantly downgrading the effectiveness of its activities. The latest unfortunate example – failure to agree and adopt the report of the 63rd session of the Legal Subcommittee. We take it as an extremely dangerous drift aimed at eroding the COPOUS’s mandate by artificially bringing in bilateral not-related to the agenda issues into our discussion or showing disrespect, discourtesy or, at times, even rudeness to other Member States’ views.
6. The Russian Federation calls upon the States members of COPUOS in conjunction with the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs as the Committee’s Secretariat to take urgent measures to avert these negative trends. It is essential to strengthen the role of the COPUOS as a central multilateral platform with unique mandate in promoting cooperation and the use of outer space for peaceful purposes. We need to work together to avoid “stagnation” and step up efforts to implement one of the main tasks of our COPUOS and, in particular, its Legal Subcommittee – to develop innovative, forward-looking legal instruments and norms to further govern outer space activities.
7. The Russian Federation calls upon the COPUOS Bureau assisted by the Secretariat to manage to discussions according to the Rules of Procedure, to conduct sessions in a timely manner allowing member States to fully express their views and to take steps to avert any destructive exchange of views not related to the agenda.

The Russian Federation believes that the States member of COPUOS have enough good will and capacity to take necessary measures to reinvigorate the work of COPOUS and its subcommittees, raise their efficiency and develop needful legal frameworks to further effectively govern joint activities and cooperation in outer space while addressing swiftly arising risks and challenges.