Chapter II

Recommendations and decisions

I. Future role and method of work of the Committee

1. The Committee considered the agenda item entitled “Future role and method of work of the Committee”, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 78/72.

2. The representatives of Argentina, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under the item. The representative of the European Union, in its capacity as permanent observer, made a statement on behalf of the European Union and its member States. The observer for SWF also made a statement. The representative of the Office for Outer Space Affairs also made a statement. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

3. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Conference room paper entitled “Draft mandate, terms of reference and methods of work for an Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation”, submitted by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania and Switzerland (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.12/Rev.2);

(b) Conference room paper containing a working paper submitted by the Russian Federation (A/AC.105/2024/CRP.19).

4. The Committee recalled the deliberations on the item as reflected in the report of the Committee on its sixty-sixth session (A/78/20, paras. 332–353) and the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its sixty-first session (A/AC.105/1307, paras. 184–213).

5. The Committee noted that the Committee and its subcommittees served as a unique platform for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.
6. Some delegations expressed the view that overlap in the work of the Committee with the work of other United Nations bodies should be avoided.

7. The view was expressed that it was counterproductive to transfer the discussion of some issues under the purview of the Committee, such as orbital traffic management or space debris mitigation, to the United Nations disarmament forums.

8. Some delegations expressed the view that the Committee could benefit from the latest research, practical experience and scientific practice through wider engagement with non-State actors, including the private sector and the scientific community.

9. Some delegations expressed the view that, although non-governmental processes could benefit or supplement the work of the Committee in certain ways, such processes should not interfere with that work.

10. Some delegations expressed the view that the subcommittees should increase coordination, interaction and synergies on cross-cutting issues and pay greater attention to new developments and challenges in the peaceful uses of outer space.

11. Some delegations expressed the view that such cross-cutting issues might include the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, space debris, space traffic management, small satellites, megaconstellations, space resources, lunar space exploration and the prevention and resolution of conflicts arising from outer space activities.

12. The view was expressed that the Bureau of the Committee, assisted by the secretariat, should manage discussions according to the rules of procedure and should 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.

13. The view was expressed that sessions of the Legal Subcommittee should last for 8 working days and the next sessions of the Committee should last for 10 working days.

14. Some delegations expressed the view that the agenda of the Committee could be streamlined by merging the items of the Legal Subcommittee related to space traffic management, space debris mitigation and remediation, and small satellite activities.

15. The view was expressed that the agenda of the Committee could be streamlined by merging the items “Space and water” and “Space and climate change” with the item “Space and sustainable development”.

16. The view was expressed that it was important to further deepen cooperation between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee within the framework of the Committee’s work, including in the context of cybersecurity issues related to outer space activities.

17. The view was expressed that persistent efforts should be made to achieve more diversified and institutionalized capacity-building, that continued support should be given to all regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, and that those centres should enhance their exchanges and cooperation with one another. The delegation expressing that view also expressed the view that, with the rapid development of private sector activities in outer space, commercial space entities were expected to shoulder more responsibilities in terms of capacity-building.

18. The view was expressed that the Committee should consider exploring options such as the possible adoption of mechanisms similar to those used in other international forums, where qualified majority voting had proven to be effective at key moments.

19. The view was expressed that a more active debate in the framework of the Committee should be encouraged, for example, by allowing the working groups to
have more time within the formal sessions with interpretation services for their deliberations.

20. The view was expressed that the forthcoming Pact for the Future should urge the Secretary-General to strengthen the Office for Outer Space Affairs in its role as secretariat to the Committee and its subcommittees and to ensure that the Office could fully and effectively implement its mandate.

21. The Committee noted that the Lisbon Declaration on Outer Space, contained in conference room paper A/AC.105/2024/CRP.25/Rev.1, identified six paragraphs regarding the importance of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the peaceful use of outer space as a safe, sustainable and inclusive domain, the need for international coordination, the importance of youth participation in space activities, and initiatives to foster cooperation and coordination in outer space exploration and utilization.

22. The Committee welcomed efforts by the secretariat to organize the work of the Committee and subcommittees through the sequential consideration of agenda items.

23. The Committee noted with appreciation a proposal to hold a fourth United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE IV) in 2027 and looked forward to further consultations on the proposal during the intersessional period and at the sixty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

24. The Committee agreed to establish the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation in accordance with the proposal submitted by the Republic of Korea and Romania, and as contained in conference room paper A/AC.105/2024/CRP.12/Rev.2, and noted with appreciation the efforts by those delegations. The Committee further noted that the secretariat would invite contributions from States members of the Committee on the bureau and workplan of the Action Team for endorsement by the Committee at its sixty-eighth session, in 2025.