



**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Sixty-second session
Vienna, 3–14 February 2025
Item 10 of the provisional agenda*
Long-term sustainability of outer space activities**

Draft report of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities

Working paper by the Chair of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities

1. At its sixty-second session, in 2019, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space adopted the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities ([A/74/20](#), para. 163 and annex II). At the same session, the Committee decided to establish, under a five-year workplan, a working group under the agenda item on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee ([A/74/20](#), para. 165). The current Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities undertakes its work in accordance with its terms of reference, methods of work and workplan ([A/AC.105/1258](#), annex II, appendix).
2. In that connection, the Working Group was tasked ([A/AC.105/1258](#), annex II, appendix, para. 9) with producing a thorough report on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, containing the following:
 - (a) Information on the identification and study of challenges, and corresponding recommendations, as well as possible new guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities;
 - (b) Information on experiences, practices and lessons learned from voluntary implementation of the adopted Guidelines and recommendations for their further practical implementation;
 - (c) Information on and recommendations for capacity-building and awareness-raising activities, including those related to improving international cooperation in capacity-building, taking into particular consideration the requirements of emerging space nations and developing countries;
 - (d) Recommendations on future activities and work.

* [A/AC.105/C.1/L.418](#).



3. Under the multi-year workplan, the Chair of the Working Group was requested to prepare, in 2024, a draft report, taking into account the work of the Working Group, and, in 2025, to present the updated draft report for the consideration of the Working Group at the sixty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee ([A/AC.105/1258](#), annex II, appendix, para. 18).

4. At its sixty-seventh session, in June 2024, the Committee noted that the Working Group had agreed to use tables, which included information on challenges related to implementation of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, challenges related to capacity-building within the framework of the Guidelines, and the identification and consideration of existing and emerging challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, as a basis for subsequent substantive discussions. At the same session, the Working Group also agreed that it would hold an informal online meeting in the intersessional period and that its members would fill in the tables, focusing on challenges and justifications and, to the extent practicable, sending related written inputs to the Chair and the secretariat by 16 September 2024. The Chair and the secretariat would then compile and circulate the consolidated input regarding the tables in advance of the intersessional meeting in order to support the intersessional discussions (see [A/79/20](#), paras. 142–144).

5. The tables with compiled inputs resulted in a lengthy working document of over 90 pages,¹ which was sent to the Working Group points of contact on 10 October 2024.²

6. The Chair subsequently prepared and circulated a supplementary non-paper for the intersessional informal online meeting, which was held on 12 and 13 November 2024.

7. The non-paper prepared by the Chair, which reflected similar and cross-cutting ideas and themes, was used as the basis for discussions during the informal online meeting. The discussions, in the form of brainstorming, focused largely on seven possible groupings of challenges, namely:

(a) Constellations, including related regulation, registration, operational contact points, impact on ground-based astronomy and the need for definitions;

(b) Space situational awareness, including related information-sharing and coordination;

(c) Spacecraft manoeuvring – rules and requirements;

(d) Design and operation of small space objects;

(e) Active debris removal and on-orbit operations;

(f) Ensuring the inclusive participation of all nations, including emerging spacefaring nations, in space activities and in the implementation of the Guidelines; and

(g) Capacity-building and international cooperation.

8. Working Group members expressed substantive views on the challenges faced, discussed the possibility of reorganizing the identified groupings, and noted interlinkages with other work being undertaken within the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies.

9. During the online meeting, emphasis was also placed on the importance of maintaining focus on the three elements of the Working Group's terms of reference, namely identifying and studying challenges and considering possible new guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities; sharing experiences,

¹ The compiled tables are available to Working Group members, together with all other relevant documentation, on the Working Group's dedicated web page.

² An updated version of the tables, incorporating written inputs received from a Working Group member following the informal online meeting, was circulated on 22 November 2024.

practices and lessons learned from voluntary national implementation of the adopted Guidelines; and raising awareness and building capacity, in particular among emerging space nations and developing countries.

10. The Working Group considered that, particularly given the depth and breadth of the information and proposals in the compiled tables, the tables should not be regarded as complete or necessarily ready to be published in their present form, but their content should continue to inform ongoing work.

11. During the intersessional meeting, Working Group members were asked what they wished to see included in the draft report to be prepared by the Chair for the sixty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Differing views were expressed and differing approaches put forward.

12. Unless there is formal agreement that the Working Group should undertake additional intersessional work, the last mandated opportunity for meetings of the Working Group before it presents its output to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at the Subcommittee's sixty-third session, to be held in 2026, will be during the sixty-second session of the Subcommittee, in 2025. Given this tight time frame for reaching consensus and delivering results, the Chair prepared an annex to the procedural summary, containing a possible outline for the report and indicative content for each section, as a possible basis for further development of the thorough report. The aim of the annex was to help advance discussions and build consensus. A working draft report, including the annex, was circulated to the Working Group points of contact for comment on 22 November 2024. The feedback received did not indicate overall support for the proposed outline. The annex from the working draft has therefore been removed from the present report and Working Group members are encouraged to explore ways to build consensus in the lead-up to the sixty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
