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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Legal Subcommittee Sixty-fourth session Vienna, 5–16 May 2025

### Annotated provisional agenda

#### Provisional agenda

- 1. Adoption of the agenda.
- 2. Statement by the Chair.
- 3. General exchange of views.
- 4. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law.
- 5. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity-building, to promote their implementation.
- 6. Matters relating to:
  - (a) The definition and delimitation of outer space;
  - (b) The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.
- 7. Future role and method of work of the Committee.
- 8. General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources.
- 9. General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation and remediation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
- 10. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space.
- 11. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management.
- 12. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities.







- 13. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its sixty-fifth session.
- 14. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

#### Annotations<sup>1</sup>

4. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law (A/AC.105/C.2/125).

5. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity-building, to promote their implementation

In paragraph 5 of its resolution 79/87, the General Assembly agreed that the Legal Subcommittee, at its sixty-fourth session, should reconvene its Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space.

The Subcommittee will have before it the following documents:

- (a) Report on the United Nations Conference on Space Law and Policy, held in Vienna from 19 to 21 November 2024 (A/AC.105/1352);
- (b) Summary by the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space of views on the implementation of article XI of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (A/AC.105/C.2/L.342);
- (c) Background paper by the Secretariat on the implementation of article XI of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, and article IV of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (A/AC.105/C.2/L.338).
- 6. Matters relating to:
- (a) The definition and delimitation of outer space
- (b) The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

In paragraph 5 of its resolution 79/87, the General Assembly agreed that the Legal Subcommittee, at its sixty-fourth session, should reconvene its Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space.

The Subcommittee will have before it the following documents:

- (a) Note by the Secretariat containing information received from States members of the Committee on national legislation and practice relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space (A/AC.105/865/Add.29);
- (b) Note by the Secretariat containing replies from States Members of the United Nations to questions on suborbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation (A/AC.105/1039/Add.20);
- (c) Note by the Secretariat containing views of States members and permanent observers of the Committee on the definition and delimitation of outer space (A/AC.105/1112/Add.13);

<sup>1</sup> The annotations are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Subcommittee.

- (d) Note by the Secretariat containing information relating to any practical case known to States Members of the United Nations that would warrant the definition and delimitation of outer space (A/AC.105/1226/Add.4);
- (e) Working paper by the Chair of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space entitled "Encouraging dialogue on issues concerning the definition and delimitation of outer space: towards developing a shared stance" (A/AC.105/C.2/L.336).

#### 7. Future role and method of work of the Committee

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its sixty-second session, agreed that a regular item entitled "Future role and methods of work of the Committee" was to be introduced on the agendas of both the Legal Subcommittee and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to allow for discussion of cross-cutting issues (A/74/20, para. 321 (h)).

The Legal Subcommittee will have before it a working paper by the Co-Chairs of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation containing the draft workplan of the Action Team (A/AC.105/C.2/L.341).

At the sixty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, held in Vienna from 3 to 14 February 2025, the Working Group of the Whole discussed, under the agenda item entitled "Future role and method of work of the Committee", the large number of requests for scientific and technical presentations to be made during the sessions of the Subcommittee and the Committee. The Working Group acknowledged the value of such presentations while noting that there was a need to improve the organization of presentations and facilitate meaningful discussions. The Working Group recommended that discussion on that matter be led intersessionally by the delegation of India at the sixty-fourth session of the Legal Subcommittee and at the sixty-eighth session of the Committee, and requested the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements, including with regard to the use of interpretation.

At its sixty-seventh session held from 19 to 28 June 2024, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation was to be established under the framework of the Committee, and that the Action Team would report on the progress of its work at the sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees, under the agenda item "Future role and method of work of the Committee" (A/79/20, annex IV, para. 8).

At its sixty-second session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee noted that the Action Team would meet during the intersessional period, in March and April 2025, and during the sixty-fourth session of the Legal Subcommittee and the sixty-eighth session of the Committee, to further discuss and refine the draft workplan, for endorsement by the Committee in 2025, and requested the secretariat to make the relevant arrangements for meetings during those sessions with the benefit of interpretation services.

Also at that session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee noted that further consultations on the objectives, venue, organization and funding of a fourth United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE IV) should be held at the sixty-fourth session of the Legal Subcommittee and at the sixty-eighth session of the Committee under their respective agenda items entitled "Future role and method of work of the Committee", during which they could consider any ideas and proposals submitted by delegations.

At the same session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee further requested the secretariat to prepare, in advance of the sixty-fourth session of the Legal Subcommittee, a report on the possible organizational arrangements, funding (including how existing resources could be used for UNISPACE IV) and the logistical implications of holding such a conference, which should include an analysis of UNISPACE III and UNISPACE+50, as well as an analysis of the various combinations

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of duration, scope and venue for UNISPACE IV. The report will be made available in due course.

# 8. General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources

The Subcommittee will consider the item on general exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources as an item under a workplan at its sixty-fourth session (A/79/20, para. 250).

In paragraph 5 of its resolution 79/87, the General Assembly agreed that the Legal Subcommittee, at its sixty-fourth session, should reconvene its Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities.

The Subcommittee will have before it the following documents:

- (a) Updated summary by the Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities of views and contributions received on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/L.340);
- (b) Note by the Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities containing an initial draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities (A/AC.105/C.2/L.339).

# 9. General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation and remediation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

The Subcommittee will consider the item on general exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation and remediation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, as a single issue/item for discussion on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its sixty-fourth session (A/79/20, para. 250).

### 10. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space

The Subcommittee will consider the item on general exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space as a single issue/item for discussion on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its sixty-fourth session (A/79/20, para. 250).

#### 11. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management

The Subcommittee will consider the item on general exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management as a single issue/item for discussion on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its sixty-fourth session (A/79/20, para. 250).

### 12. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities

The Subcommittee will consider the item on general exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities as a single issue/item for discussion on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its sixty-fourth session (A/79/20, para. 250).

# 13. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its sixty-fifth session

At its sixty-fourth session, the Legal Subcommittee will submit to the Committee its proposal for the draft provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session of the Subcommittee.

#### Symposium

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its sixty-seventh session, agreed that the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law should again be invited to organize a symposium, to be held during the sixty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, with due account to be taken of equitable geographical and gender representation among the participants in order to reflect a broad range of opinions, and that the organizers should seek the cooperation of interested academic entities for that purpose (A/79/20, para. 253). A symposium on the theme "Due regard in outer space: current legal implications" will be held in the morning of Wednesday, 14 May 2025.

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#### Annex

### Organization of work

- 1. At its sixty-sixth session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed on the following (A/78/20, para. 351):
- (a) Future sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees are to be held in in-person format and regular-budget mandated meetings are to be webcast on United Nations WebTV, at no cost to the Office for Outer Space Affairs;
- (b) With the exception of the item on the general exchange of views, all agenda items of the Committee and its subcommittees are to be considered in sequential order, while the holding of working group meetings should not be precluded;
- (c) For all agenda items, representatives of member States are the first to be given the opportunity to speak under an agenda item, and only then should the floor be given to representatives of observer organizations;
- (d) In order to encourage informal discussions and enhance exchanges among member States, the secretariat should, when practicable, seek measures to avoid scheduling informal meetings of working groups concurrently with plenary meetings and instead utilize designated time slots before the morning meetings and during the lunch break for informal meetings;
- (e) The secretariat should, when practicable and when formal plenary meetings conclude earlier than scheduled, make interpretation services available for informal discussions. These measures are aimed at supporting inclusive and productive engagement during informal discussions;
- (f) Member States and international intergovernmental organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee are requested to indicate in their accreditation submission if they wish to receive conference room papers in hard copy, to be placed in their respective pigeonholes.
- 2. Meetings with full interpretation services will be limited to two 3-hour meetings per day for the duration of the session. The meeting times for meetings with conference services (from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.) will be strictly observed.
- 3. The work of the Legal Subcommittee has been scheduled so as to afford the working groups that will be convened under items 5, 6 (a) and 8 the maximum amount of time available.
- 4. The number of statements to be made at each meeting under item 3, entitled "General exchange of views", may be limited, as necessary, in order to allow sufficient time for other agenda items to be considered as planned for each meeting. As soon as discussion on an item other than item 3 has been concluded, the following item will be taken up, time permitting.
- 5. Statements by delegations should be limited to 5 minutes and technical presentations should be limited to 10 minutes (A/AC.105/1279, para. 79 and annex I, para. 5). A time-keeping device should be used in all sessions. The Chair of each session should remind delegations when 1 minute remains. The Chair should interrupt the delivery of the statement or presentation when the time allocated for it has elapsed (A/74/20, para. 321).
- 6. The secretariat will upload statements that have been voluntarily submitted by delegations for uploading to the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in a timely manner. Upon submitting statements for interpretation purposes, delegations are to inform the secretariat as to whether the statement may be uploaded to the website.

- 7. Technical presentations should be limited to three per meeting and should be closely linked to the agenda items of the Subcommittee. Speaking notes for technical presentations should be provided in advance to facilitate simultaneous interpretation (A/AC.105/1088, para. 275).
- 8. Within one week after the closure of the session, delegations of States members of the Committee may provide language-related comments on the reports of working groups and on the report of the Subcommittee adopted during the session.
- 9. An indicative schedule of work is provided below. The indicative schedule of work is a general guide to the organization of the session, and the actual scheduling will depend on the requirements of the work of the Subcommittee and any organizational constraints in the course of the session.

#### Indicative schedule of worka

Date	Morning (10 a.m1 p.m.)	Afternoon (3–6 p.m.)
Week of 5-9	May 2025	
Monday, 5 May	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda	Item 3. General exchange of views
	Item 2. Statement by the Chair Item 3. General exchange of views	Technical presentations
Tuesday, 6 May	Item 3. General exchange of views Items 4–13	Item 3. General exchange of views Items 4–13
	Meeting of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space <sup>b</sup>	Meeting of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities <sup>c</sup> Technical presentations
	Technical presentations	
Wednesday, 7 May	Item 3. General exchange of views	Item 3. General exchange of views
	Items 4–13	Items 4–13
	Meeting of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space <sup>d</sup>	Meeting of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space
	Discussions on organizational matters led by the delegation of India	Technical presentations
	Technical presentations	
Thursday, 8 May	Item 3. General exchange of views Items 4–13	Item 3. General exchange of views Items 4–13
	Meeting of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities	Meeting of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space Technical presentations
	Discussions on organizational matters led by the delegation of India	
	Technical presentations	
Friday, 9 May	Item 3. General exchange of views	Item 3. General exchange of views
	Items 4–13	Items 4–13
	Meeting of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation	Meeting of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space
	Discussions on organizational matters led by the delegation of India	Meeting of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities
	Technical presentations	Technical presentations

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Date	Morning (10 a.m1 p.m.)	Afternoon (3–6 p.m.)
Week of 12-	-16 May 2025	
Monday, 12 May	Item 3. General exchange of views	Item 3. General exchange of views
	Items 4–13	Items 4–13
	Meeting of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities	Meeting of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space Technical presentations
	Meeting of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation	
	Technical presentations	recimient presentations
Tuesday, 13 May	Item 3. General exchange of views	Item 3. General exchange of views
	Items 4–13	Items 4–13
	Meeting of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities Technical presentations	Meeting of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United
		Nations Treaties on Outer Space
		Technical presentations
Wednesday, 14 May	Symposium organized by the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law on the theme "Due regard in outer space: current legal implications"	
		Meeting of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation
		Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space
		Adoption of the report of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities
Thursday, 15 May	Items 3–14	Item 14. Report to the Committee
	Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space	
Friday, 16 May	Item 14. Report to the Committee	Item 14. Report to the Committee

<sup>a</sup> At its thirty-eighth session, in 1995, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that the practice of allocating specific agenda items to particular meetings at a session should be ended and that, to assist in their planning, member States would continue to be provided with an indicative schedule of work, which would be without prejudice to the actual timing of consideration of specific agenda items (A/50/20, para. 169 (b)).

b The Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, to be reconvened in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 79/87, will meet during the session to consider item 5. The Legal Subcommittee will resume its consideration of item 5 on Thursday, 15 May, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.

<sup>c</sup> The Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, to be reconvened in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 79/87, will meet during the session to consider item 8. The Legal Subcommittee will resume its consideration of item 8 on Wednesday, 14 May, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.

<sup>d</sup> The Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, to be reconvened in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 79/87, will meet during the session to consider item 6 (a). The Legal Subcommittee will resume its consideration of item 6 (a) on Wednesday, 14 May, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.