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Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

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

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

I. Introduction and background

1. In accordance with the five-year workplan and methods of work for the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities ([A/AC.105/1260](#), annex II, appendix), the Working Group undertook initial administrative, information-collection and stocktaking tasks, including on the basis of submissions by States members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and organizations having permanent observer status.
2. As part of that process, the Chair and Vice-Chair collated and disseminated the submissions received and subsequently prepared a summary of views expressed and contributions received on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group. That summary ([A/AC.105/C.2/120](#)) was issued in January 2023, and an updated summary ([A/AC.105/C.2/L.328](#)) was issued in February 2024.
3. The Working Group continued the exchange of views on the preliminary summary and the updated summary prepared by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the information collected and the views expressed, in line with the work undertaken in 2024.
4. As indicated in the five-year workplan and methods of work for the Working Group, the Chair and Vice-Chair were tasked with reviewing and updating the preliminary summary and updated summary and with consolidating any additional relevant information and views presented for submission to the Working Group for further consideration.

* [A/AC.105/C.2/L.334](#).



II. Actions undertaken

5. In accordance with the agreement reached by the Working Group during the sixty-sixth session of the Committee, an event entitled “Expert meeting collecting preliminary inputs for consideration at the international conference in Vienna in 2024” was held on 26 March 2024 in Luxembourg (A/78/20, para. 232). Co-hosted by Belgium and Luxembourg in cooperation with the United Nations, the meeting gathered preliminary inputs on the scope of future space resource activities, environmental and socioeconomic aspects, and international cooperation in scientific research and technological development (A/AC.105/C.2/122).

6. In accordance with the agreement reached by the Working Group during that same session of the Committee (A/78/20, para. 234), and in accordance with the five-year workplan and methods of work for the Working Group, the International Conference on Space Resources was held on 15 April 2024, during the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee. The Conference addressed the implications of the legal framework for space resource activities and the role of governance, including information-sharing, in supporting those activities (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.23).

7. All views of member States and contributions by permanent observers that have been received pursuant to the invitation by the Chair and the Vice-Chair for submissions regarding the legal aspects of space resource activities have been posted on the dedicated web page of the Working Group.¹ Further views expressed during the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee and during the sixty-seventh session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space were reflected in the report of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group, as endorsed by the Committee (A/79/20, para. 220), and in the report of the Committee to the General Assembly (A/79/20, paras. 220–232), respectively.

8. In accordance with the five-year workplan and methods of work for the Working Group, preparations are currently being made for an exchange of views on the development of an initial draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities, taking into account the need to ensure that they are carried out in accordance with international law and in a safe, sustainable, rational and peaceful manner.

9. During the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee, the Working Group agreed that the Chair and the Vice-Chair would prepare an initial draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities that would be disseminated in a timely manner to States members of the Committee and to hold an online intersessional meeting to start discussing that text (A/79/20, annex III, para. 9).

10. The Working Group further agreed that in 2025, in accordance with its workplan, it would continue, among other things, to exchange views on the development of an initial draft set of recommended principles, taking into account the initial draft prepared by the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Working Group (A/79/20, annex III, para. 10).

11. On 19 July 2024, the secretariat circulated to States members and permanent observers of the Committee the invitation by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group to provide any further contributions they deemed relevant to the elements for an initial draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities (A/79/20, annex III, para. 8). On 28 January 2025, the secretariat circulated a renewed invitation by the Vice-Chair of the Working Group for further contributions to be provided.

12. On 14 March 2025, the secretariat disseminated an initial draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities prepared by the Vice-Chair of the Working Group on the basis of the discussions held during the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee and the contributions received. In that same circular, the Vice-Chair invited States members of the Committee to attend an online intersessional meeting on 24 April 2025.

¹ www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/copuos/lsc/space-resources/index.html.

13. In accordance with the agreement reached by the Working Group ([A/79/20](#), annex III, para. 10), the Vice-Chair of the Working Group presented the activities of the Working Group undertaken thus far to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its sixty-second session under its agenda item on the future role and method of work of the Committee. In his statement, the Vice-Chair of the Working Group informed the Subcommittee of the status of the preparation of an initial draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities, and of the planned timeline for the work to be conducted by the Working Group in accordance with its five-year workplan and methods of work.

III. Summary of views and contributions

14. The submissions to the Working Group, as at 10 March 2025, are listed in the annex to the present document. The Vice-Chair wishes to express his gratitude to all delegations and permanent observers for their detailed responses.

15. The Vice-Chair has prepared this further updated summary to reflect those submissions. The Vice-Chair wishes to point out that this further updated summary relates only to issues of a more general nature regarding the broad parameters of the mandate and purpose of the Working Group. It is not intended to cover the many detailed substantive issues that were raised in the submissions. This further updated summary is therefore not intended to, and does not, cover all of the views of member States or the contributions of permanent observers set out in their respective submissions. Accordingly, the Vice-Chair encourages all member States and permanent observers to read the full submissions, which are posted on the dedicated web page of the Working Group.

A. Views of States members of the Committee

16. At the sixty-seventh session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,² delegations expressed views in relation to the agenda item of the Legal Subcommittee entitled “General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources”.

17. The Committee noted with appreciation the holding of the International Conference on Space Resources and the expert meeting to collect preliminary inputs for consideration at that conference. Important contributions had been provided for the work of the Working Group in addressing the multifaceted nature of the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources and in assessing the benefits of further development of a framework for such activities.

18. Some delegations welcomed the progress made in the Working Group and reiterated their call for greater coordination at the international level to ensure the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space, the Moon and other celestial bodies and the conduct of space resource activities in accordance with international law and for the benefit of all.

19. Some delegations expressed the view that legal guidance was necessary to ensure that space resource activities were carried out in accordance with international law and in a safe, sustainable, rational, transparent and peaceful manner. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that a legal or normative framework should be developed multilaterally under the Legal Subcommittee, and

² At that session, the Committee noted that it had not been possible to reach a consensus to adopt a substantive report of the Legal Subcommittee on its sixty-third session. The Committee also noted that that fact should not set a precedent for future work related to the adoption of the report of the Committee and its subcommittees and that every effort should be made to achieve consensus in future meetings of the Committee and its subcommittees ([A/79/20](#), para. 187).

that the Working Group was the appropriate forum in which to hold discussions on the matter.

20. Some delegations expressed the view that the information collected from stakeholders at the International Conference on Space Resources about the legal framework for space resource activities, together with the preliminary inputs collected at the expert meeting, should be considered by the Working Group in the development of an initial draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities.

21. The view was expressed that the basic principles set forth in the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (Outer Space Treaty), including the peaceful uses of outer space, the pursuit of activities for the benefit and in the interests of all humankind, non-appropriation, international cooperation, due regard, and compliance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, should be applied to space resource activities. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that the preliminary principles developed by the Working Group should be based on existing international space law and should emphasize the interpretation and application of outer space law to space resource activities, in particular that the conduct of space resource activities for scientific purposes should not be unduly affected by the conduct of such activities for commercial purposes; that coordination among actors should be strengthened; that the principle of mutual assistance should be implemented; that the development of space resource activities should be safe and orderly; that regulation of the space resource activities of non-governmental entities should be strengthened to ensure the effective implementation of the obligations of States under the Outer Space Treaty; and that full consideration should be given to the sustainability of resources on the Moon and other celestial bodies in order to achieve intergenerational equity.

22. The view was expressed that equal access to all material and non-material space resources should be ensured by providing fair opportunities to utilize space resources jointly with other countries or through international collaboration. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that the regulatory framework should be completed before the actual exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources.

23. The view was expressed that international cooperation and multi-stakeholder dialogue were indispensable for creating an environment conducive to the conduct of space resource activities, and that the principle of adaptive governance should be applied so that emerging issues could be incrementally addressed on the basis of ever-evolving technology and practices.

24. The view was expressed that the technical mandate of the Committee and its subcommittees should be strictly preserved, including with respect to the discussions on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources. The delegation expressing that view also stated that as maritime law and airspace law had different dynamics and were regulated by different regimes and instruments that were not specifically on outer space, they were outside the scope and mandate of the Committee and should, therefore, be precluded.

25. The view was expressed that the legal aspects of space resource exploration, exploitation and utilization must be regulated by international law. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that past legal experience in that respect included the administration of the international seabed by the International Seabed Authority established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the frequency spectrum management regime of the International Telecommunication Union and the legal regime governing Antarctica, and that that long-established, solid international legal practice, adopted within the framework of the United Nations system of which the Committee was also part, could serve as an inspirational tool and guide in the development of a legal framework for space resource activities.

26. Some delegations expressed the view that regulations developed by the Working Group must be binding in order to guarantee the preservation of outer space from the harmful methods of exploitation promoted by humankind throughout history, guarantee their long-term sustainability, favour developing countries and protect the Earth's biosphere from the entry of space material that could affect its delicate ecosystem.

27. The view was expressed that guidelines for upcoming missions to the Moon and deep space were necessary in order to establish a regulatory framework that promoted international cooperation and ensured the fair and equitable exploration and exploitation of space resources and that the benefits of such exploration were widely shared.

B. Contributions of organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee

28. The organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee that submitted contributions represent a diversity of stakeholders, perspectives and interests. The following is a non-exhaustive list of the many suggestions made in their respective contributions for possible inclusion in the scope of the work of the Working Group:

- (a) The impact that space resource activities will have on cultural heritage;
- (b) The need to reflect the objectives of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities adopted by the Committee in 2019 ([A/74/20](#), para. 163 and annex II);
- (c) The development of different governance principles for space resource activities on the Moon as compared with other celestial bodies;
- (d) The need to clarify certain core concepts in the United Nations treaties on outer space;
- (e) The importance of benefit-sharing principles and coordination mechanisms, to be developed in a coordinated manner by the Working Group, for the implementation of the initial recommended principles;
- (f) The mitigation of harmful impacts and interference;
- (g) The recognition of resource "rights";
- (h) The dissemination of data;
- (i) The creation of a catalogue of space resources, including scarce resources;
- (j) The development of different resource management schemes depending on the type of resource;
- (k) The development of appropriate preservation measures;
- (l) The limitations of space resource activities on the Moon in terms of time and size;
- (m) The process and criteria by which areas may be prohibited from space resource activities due to scientific, historical, cultural or other public policy considerations.

IV. Next steps

29. In addition to providing the updated summary set out above, the Vice-Chair wishes to reiterate that, although a proposed deadline of 31 December 2022 was referred to in the circular of 1 July 2022, the invitation remains open to all delegations from member States and organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee to provide their views and contributions, respectively, regarding the mandate and purpose of the Working Group at any time.

30. Further submissions can be sent directly to the Vice-Chair and secretariat by email at s.freeland@westernsydney.edu.au and unoosa-spacelaw@un.org, respectively.
31. At the online intersessional meeting of the Working Group to be held on 24 April 2025, the Vice-Chair of the Working Group will provide member States with an introduction to and background information on the initial draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities, and will clarify initial queries from delegations, prior to the sixty-fourth session of the Legal Subcommittee.
32. The Vice-Chair remains at the disposal of the Working Group and the Committee and stands ready to assist in any way that the Working Group and the Committee decide is appropriate.

Annex

Submissions presented for consideration by the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities

1. Documents and conference room papers prepared by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities:

(a) Updated summary by the Chair and Vice-Chair of views and contributions received on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities ([A/AC.105/C.2/L.328](#));

(b) Summary by the Chair and Vice-Chair of views and contributions received on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities ([A/AC.105/C.2/L.120](#));

(c) Conference room papers containing a status overview of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.1/2023/CRP.16 and A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.5).

2. Submissions by States members of the Committee:

(a) Working paper submitted by Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands entitled “Building blocks for the development of an international framework on space resource activities” ([A/AC.105/C.2/L.315](#));

(b) Conference room paper submitted by Greece containing a proposal for a questionnaire related to the discussion on potential legal models for the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources (A/AC.105/C.2/2022/CRP.13);

(c) Conference room paper submitted by Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Finland, Germany, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal and Romania on the endorsement of the workplan of the Working Group and proposals for the international conference (A/AC.105/C.2/2022/CRP.21);

(d) Working paper submitted by Belgium containing its contribution to the general exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources ([A/AC.105/C.2/L.325](#));

(e) Conference room paper containing a proposal submitted by Australia, Austria and the Kingdom of the Netherlands entitled “Relevant considerations for developing a set of initial recommended principles for the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources” (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.6);

(f) Conference room paper containing the submission of Australia on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.7);

(g) Conference room paper containing the submission of Azerbaijan on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.8);

(h) Conference room paper containing the submission of Bahrain on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.9);

(i) Conference room paper containing the submission of Belarus on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.10);

(j) Conference room paper containing the submission of Canada on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.11);

(k) Conference room paper containing the submission of France on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.12);

(l) Conference room paper containing the submission of Germany on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.13);

(m) Conference room paper containing the submission of Greece on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.14);

- (n) Conference room paper containing the submission of Jordan on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.15);
- (o) Conference room paper containing the submission of Luxembourg on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.16);
- (p) Conference room paper containing the submission of Morocco on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.17);
- (q) Conference room paper containing the submission of New Zealand on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.18);
- (r) Conference room paper containing the submission of Norway on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.19);
- (s) Conference room paper containing the submission of the Russian Federation on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.20);
- (t) Conference room paper containing the submission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the mandate and scope of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.21);
- (u) Conference room paper containing the submission of Japan on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.33);
- (v) Conference room paper containing the submission of Belgium on the general exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.36);
- (w) Conference room paper containing the initial submission of the United States of America to the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.37);
- (x) Conference room paper containing the initial submission of China to the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.5);
- (y) Conference room paper containing the submission of the Republic of Korea on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.17);
- (z) Conference room paper containing considerations submitted by Australia entitled “Consideration of general themes and obligations, commitments or guidelines to an activity contributing to exploration and scientific investigation of the Moon” (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.24);
- (aa) Conference room paper submitted by Luxembourg containing a submission by the European Space Resources Innovation Centre on its views on the current status and priorities of selected key areas related to the utilization of space resources (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.29).

3. Submissions by observer organizations:

- (a) Conference room paper submitted by the European Space Agency (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.22);
- (b) Conference room paper submitted by the Moon Village Association (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.23);
- (c) Conference room paper submitted by the National Space Society (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.24);
- (d) Conference room paper submitted by the Open Lunar Foundation (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.25);
- (e) Conference room paper submitted by the Space Generation Advisory Council (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.26);
- (f) Conference room papers submitted by the Moon Village Association on its Global Expert Group on Sustainable Lunar Activities (A/AC.105/C.2/2022/CRP.15; A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.31);

(g) Conference room paper submitted by the Hague Institute for Global Justice containing information on the Washington Compact on Norms of Behaviour for Commercial Space Operations (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.32);

(h) Conference room paper containing the submission of For All Moonkind on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.35);

(i) Conference room paper containing the submission of Space Renaissance International on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group (to be issued at the sixty-fourth session of the Legal Subcommittee).

4. Submissions in relation to the international conference held in 2024:

(a) Conference room papers submitted by Belgium and Luxembourg on the international conference (A/AC.105/2023/CRP.11 and A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.41);

(b) Conference room paper containing contributions from Algeria, Australia, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, the Russian Federation, Slovakia and Türkiye on the international conference (A/AC.105/2023/CRP.7);

(c) Conference room paper submitted by Luxembourg on the scope and topics of the international conference (A/AC.105/2023/CRP.18);

(d) Conference room paper submitted by Belgium on the scope and topics of the international conference (A/AC.105/2023/CRP.19);

(e) Conference room paper submitted by Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Luxembourg, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom on the scope and topics of the international conference (A/AC.105/2023/CRP.26);

(f) Conference room paper containing the summary of the expert meeting collecting preliminary inputs for consideration at the international conference (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.15);

(g) Conference room paper containing information on the international conference (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.23);

(h) Conference room paper submitted by Luxembourg and Belgium reviewing the expert meeting collecting preliminary inputs for consideration at the international conference (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.31).