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Chinese and English

Committee on the Peaceful

Uses of Outer Space

Sixty-fourth session

Vienna, 25 August – 3 September 2021

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

**Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on
its fifty-eighth session**

**Proposal submitted by the Delegation of the People's
Republic of China on a terms of references, methods of
work and workplan of the newly established Working
Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space
Activities**

The present conference room paper was prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information received from the delegation of China.

* A/AC.105/L.325



外空活动长期可持续性工作组职权范围、工作方法和工作计划

(中国代表团 2021 年 8 月提交)

联合国大会在其第 73/6 号决议指出，需要确保外空活动的长期可持续性，而且深信需要通过外空委加强国际合作，从而实现这些目标，并推动实现以下命运共同体愿景：为和平目的以及为促进全人类福祉和利益探索和利用外空。

联合国外空委第 62 届会议决定，并经第 74 届联大决议确认，在科技小组委员会外空活动长期可持续性议题下设立五年期工作组。科技小组委员会随后在 2021 年第 58 届会议上选举乌马埃斯瓦然先生（印度）为工作组主席。工作组将在外空委第 64 届会议期间召集会议，商定其职权范围、工作方法和工作计划。

鉴此，中国代表团提出以下建议：

一、职权范围

工作组将在外空活动长期可持续性工作组（2010 年至 2018 年）有关努力和成果的基础上开展工作，上述成果集中体现在联合国外空委第 62 届会议通过的关于外空活动长期可持续性的序言和 21 条准则（载于 A/AC.105/C.1/L.366 号文件）。

工作组将考虑所有国家特别是发展中国家的需求和利益，确保对外空的和平利用，并在可持续发展这一更广范围内审视外空活动长期可持续性问题，包括对实现可持续发展目标的贡献。

工作组将考虑与安全开展外空活动所有阶段有关的当前做法、操作程序、技术标准和政策。

工作组遵循各国探索和利用外空活动的现行联合国条约和原则，特别是《外空条约》第 6 条。

工作组将开展以下工作：

（一）促进提高认知和能力建设，特别是针对新兴航天国家和发展中国家在发展航天技术及其应用、执行已通过准则等广泛领域内的

需求，并提出加强能力建设及相关国际合作的建议。

(二) 结合 A/AC.105/C.1/L/367 等现有文件研究和确定外空活动的新发展带来的挑战，考虑制定外空活动长期可持续性新准则。任何新制定的准则都应：

1、在不增加不合理成本并考虑发展中国家的需要和利益的情况下，保持或改进空间活动的安全性和可持续性；

2、与现行外空国际法律框架保持一致，并应当是自愿的，不具有法律约束力。

(三) 交流各国在自愿执行已通过准则方面的经验、做法和教训，并视情就修订已通过准则提出建议。

工作组将编写一份报告，报告包括关于加强能力建设及相关国际合作的建议、一份新准则和可能有的对已有准则的修订草案，提交科技小组委员会。

二、工作方法

工作组将在主席领导下，由秘书处协助开展工作，以外空委议事规则、工作方法和既有实践为指导，通过协商一致方式开展工作，并向科技小组委员会汇报工作进展。

工作组在外空委及其科技小组委员会届会期间举行会议，配有联合国所有六种正式语言的翻译服务，必要时可举行非正式磋商。如有需要，工作组可以实体或视频形式举行届间会。

工作组为政府间磋商进程，将根据外空委议事规则、工作方法和既有实践吸收成员国、永久观察员及非政府组织、工业界和私营部门意见。

工作组将采纳外空委及其小组委员会关于外空活动长期可持续性的意见，并考虑其他工作组的工作，避免与其他工作组的职责重叠。

三、工作计划

2021 年

拟定并通过工作组职权范围、工作方法和工作计划。

2022 年

召开第一期提高认知和能力建设研讨会，特别考虑到新兴航天国家和发展中国家发展航天技术及其应用和执行已通过准则的需求；

邀请成员国及永久观察员提供以下信息：制定新准则的建议，自愿执行已通过准则方面的经验、做法和教训。

2023 年

邀请成员国及永久观察员就能力建设现状、需求及国际合作机会提交信息，召开第二期提高认知和能力建设研讨会，评估能力建设及相关国际合作存在的不足；

审议拟制定的新准则清单并形成新准则草案；

交流执行经验，特别是在执行已通过准则方面的挑战，并讨论是否需对已通过准则作出更新。

2024 年

召开第三期提高认知和能力建设研讨会，提出加强能力建设及相关国际合作的建议；

交流执行经验并提出帮助更好执行已通过准则的建议；

讨论并提出新准则草案及对已通过准则的修订草案（如有）。

2025 年

审议并通过报告草案，包括加强能力建设及相关国际合作的建议、新准则、对已通过准则的修订及对工作组后续步骤的建议；

将报告草案提交科技小组委员会及外空委以便采取后续步骤。

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Sixty-fourth session
25 August-3 September, 2021

Proposal submitted by the Delegation of the People's Republic of China on Terms of References, Methods of Work and Workplan of the Newly Established Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities

1. The General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/73/6, entitled “*Fiftieth anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: space as a driver of sustainable development*”, highlighted the need to ensure the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and convinced of the need to strengthen international cooperation, through the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), to achieve those goals and contribute to realizing a shared vision for the future in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and for the benefit and in the interest of all humankind.

2. To fulfill the above-mentioned mission, at its 62nd session in 2019, COPUOS 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. This decision was lately endorsed by the General Assembly at its 74th session (A/RES/74/82). Thereafter, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee elected Umamaheswaran R. (India) as Chair of the the Working Group at its 58th session in 2021. The Working Group will be reconvened at the 64th session of COPUOS in 2021, with a view to agreeing on its own terms of reference, methods of work and workplan.

3. The Chinese delegation hereby submits a proposal as follows:

Terms of reference

4. The Working Group will carry on the efforts and achievements made by the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities from 2010 to 2018, as embodied in the preamble and 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities (contained in A/AC.105/C.1/L.366), which was adopted by COPUOS at its 62nd session.

5. The Working Group will examine the long-term sustainability of outer space activities in the wider context of sustainable development, including the contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), taking into account the needs and interests of all countries, in particular those of developing countries, and consistent with the peaceful uses of outer space.

6. The Working Group will take into consideration current practices, operating procedures, technical standards and policies associated with the safe conduct of space activities throughout all the phases of the mission life cycle.

7. The Working Group will comply with the existing United Nations treaties and principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, in particular article VI 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.

8. The Working Group will carry out the following activities:

(a) Raising awareness and building capacity in wide fields such as space technology and its applications and empowerment to implement the guidelines, in alignment with the needs of emerging space-faring and developing countries. Developing recommendations on enhancing capacity building and international cooperation.

(b) Studying and identifying challenges posed by the new developments of space activities, and considering possible new guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, with reference to the draft guidelines contained in *Draft guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities* (A/AC.105/C.1/L.367). Any envisaged new guidelines should:

(i) maintain or improve the safety and sustainability of space activities without imposing unreasonable costs, and taking into account the needs and interests of developing countries.

(ii) be consistent with existing international legal frameworks for outer space activities and should be voluntary and not legally binding.

(c) Sharing experiences, practices and lessons learned from voluntary implementation of the guidelines. Reviewing and possibly revising the previously adopted guidelines, as appropriate.

9. As outputs, the Working Group will submit a report to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, which includes recommendations on capacity building and international cooperation, a draft of new guidelines and revised guidelines if any.

Methods of work

10. The Working Group led by the Chair and assisted by the Secretariat, shall be guided in its work by the rules of procedure, methods of work and established practices related to COPUOS. The Working Group makes decisions by consensus and reports to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

11. The Working Group will meet with interpretation services in all six official languages of the United Nations during the sessions of COPUOS as well as during the sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. The Working Group may hold informal consultations on the margins of the sessions. The Working

Group may also decide to meet intersessionally, in virtual or in-person format, as necessary, to advance its work.

12. The negotiation process held within the Working Group is intergovernmental by nature. The Working Group will avail itself of input from member States of COPUOS, organizations having permanent observer status with COPUOS, as well as non-governmental organizations, industry and the private sector in accordance with the rules of procedure, methods of work and established practices related to COPUOS.

13. The Working Group will take advice from COPUOS and its Subcommittees on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and follow closely the work of the other working groups of COPUOS and its Subcommittees to avoid duplication.

Workplan

2021

- Develop and agree on terms of reference, methods of work and workplan.

2022

- Organize the first workshop on raising awareness and capacity building, considering the particular needs of emerging space-faring and developing countries in space technology and its applications, and the implementation of the guidelines.

- Invite member States and permanent observers to provide information related to (a) proposals on new guidelines, and (b) experiences, practices and lessons learned from voluntary implementation of the guidelines.

2023

- Invite member States and permanent observers to provide the information on capacity-building with focus on stocktaking, need identification and international cooperation opportunities. Organize the second workshop on raising awareness and capacity building, with the theme of identifying the gaps in capacity building and international cooperation.

- Consider proposals on new guidelines and develop a draft.

- Share implementation experiences, in particular challenges identified through implementation. Consider possible revision to any of the guidelines to address those challenges.

2024

- Organize the third workshop on raising awareness and capacity building, with a view of developing recommendations on enhancing capacity building and international cooperation.

- Share implementation experiences, and make recommendations on improving implementation of the adopted guidelines.

- Consider and finalize a draft of new guidelines and revised guidelines if any.

2025

- Consider and finalize the draft report, which includes recommendations on enhancing capacity building and international cooperation, a draft of new guidelines, and revised guidelines if any, as well as suggestions on the follow-up to the Working Group.

- Submit the draft report to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and COPUOS for further actions.