

Proposal of the Russian Federation

**Draft working document
of the Russian Federation**

Nomination of the Bureau of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

- I. At its 62nd session the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space decided to establish, under a five-year workplan, a Working Group (WG) under the agenda item on the Long-Term Sustainability (LTS) of Outer Space Activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (document A/74/20, paras 165-168).
 - II. It was also decided that its Bureau would be nominated on the basis of candidates to be submitted beforehand during the intersessional period. After that the Group's terms of reference, methods of work and dedicated workplan were to be agreed upon.
 - III. At this juncture the Member-States of the Committee remain in a complex situation, with the decision of its 62nd session not being implemented. Due to a number of factors the Bureau of the WG has still to be formed.
 - IV. Under the unique circumstances, caused by the global coronavirus pandemic, the UNGA at its 75th session endorsed by its resolution A/RES/75/92 the Decisions and actions by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee, taken by written procedure (A/75/20, para 24), where it is stipulated, that the Bureau of the LTS WG should be elected at the beginning of the upcoming 58th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in 2021.
- The main issue is that the composition of the LTS WG's Bureau remains a stumbling block. In this regard the Russian Federation would like to propose its present outline for finding a solution to this complex matter.

In accordance with the report of the 62nd session of the Committee the Bureau is to be composed on the basis of the applications submitted (India, Japan, the United Arab Emirates and Switzerland).

Commending the spirit of consensus in the Committee and mutual aspirations of its Member-States to make non-politicized decisions, the Russian Federation proposes to nominate all four candidates to the Bureau and sees this option as the only workable under current circumstances.

It is especially important to stipulate that there is no COPUOS mandate to exercise any kind of a limitation of the Bureau's composition.

The Russian Federation proceeds from the assumption that the nomination of the Bureau in the form proposed above will be a mutually beneficial solution for all interested parties, which will, in its turn, initiate the work of the Group, and may help to open the way to launching the activities of the WG, as provided for by the report and decisions of the COPUOS 62nd Session.

Any issues related to the roles of the members of the Bureau (possible number of chairs, vice-chairs, etc.) can be settled afterwards, at the stage of discussions on terms of reference, methods of work and dedicated workplan of the LTS WG, depending on proposals of the Member-States on the structure of the Working Group.