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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-ninth session
Vienna, 23 March–3 April 2020

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of the Chair.
3. Statement by the Chair.
4. General exchange of views.
5. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law.
6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.
7. 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.
8. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.
9. Capacity-building in space law.
10. Future role and method of work of the Committee.
11. 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.
12. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space.
13. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management.
14. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities.



15. General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources.
16. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its sixtieth session.

Annotations¹

2. Election of the Chair

In paragraph 37 of its resolution [73/91](#), the General Assembly endorsed the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subcommittees for the period 2020–2021 and agreed that the Committee and its subcommittees should elect their officers at their respective sessions in 2020 in accordance with that composition.

At its sixty-first session, the Committee noted that the Asia-Pacific States had endorsed the candidature of Setsuko Aoki (Japan) for the office of Chair of the Legal Subcommittee for the period 2020–2021 ([A/73/20](#), para. 370).

5. 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.2/115](#)).

6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space

In paragraph 5 of its resolution [74/82](#), the General Assembly agreed that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-ninth session, should reconvene its Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space.

The Subcommittee, at its fifty-sixth session, agreed that it would reconvene the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space for the duration of the multi-year workplan under UNISPACE+50 thematic priority 2, until 2020, in accordance with the established working method ([A/AC.105/1122](#), para. 73, and annex I, paras. 4 and 8).

The Working Group will have before it a working paper by the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space entitled “Revised draft guidance document under UNISPACE+50 thematic priority 2. ‘Legal regime of outer space and global governance: current and future perspectives’” ([A/AC.105/C.2/L.313](#)).

7. 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 [74/82](#), the General Assembly agreed that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-ninth session, should reconvene its Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space.

At its thirty-ninth session, in 2000, the Subcommittee agreed that the Working Group would consider only matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space ([A/AC.105/738](#), para. 108).

¹ The annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee will have before it 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.23](#) and [A/AC.105/865/Add.24](#)), a note by the Secretariat containing replies from States Members of the United Nations and permanent observers of the Committee to questions on suborbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation ([A/AC.105/1039/Add.13](#) and [A/AC.105/1039/Add.14](#)), a 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.7](#) and [A/AC.105/1112/Add.8](#)), a note by the Secretariat containing information relating to any practical case known that would warrant the definition and delimitation of outer space ([A/AC.105/1226](#)) and a report by the Secretariat containing a historical summary on the consideration of the question on the definition and delimitation of outer space ([A/AC.105/769/Add.1](#)).

8. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space

The Subcommittee will continue to consider the item on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space ([A/74/20](#), para. 261).

9. Capacity-building in space law

The Subcommittee will continue to consider the item on capacity-building in space law ([A/74/20](#), para. 261).

The Subcommittee will have before it the report on the United Nations/Turkey/Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization Conference on Space Law and Policy, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 23 to 26 September 2019 ([A/AC.105/1222](#)).

10. 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 subcommittees to allow for discussion of cross-cutting issues ([A/74/20](#), para. 321 (h)).

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat entitled “Governance and method of work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies” ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.384](#)).

11. 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 Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its sixty-second session, agreed that 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, should be considered as a single issue/item for discussion on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-ninth session ([A/74/20](#), para. 261).

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

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its sixty-second session, agreed that the item on general exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space should be considered as a single issue/item for discussion on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-ninth session ([A/74/20](#), para. 261).

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

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its sixty-second session, agreed that the item on general exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management should be considered as a single issue/item for discussion on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-ninth session ([A/74/20](#), para. 261).

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

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its sixty-second session, agreed that the item on general exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities should be considered as a single issue/item for discussion on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-ninth session ([A/74/20](#), para. 261).

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

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its sixty-second session, agreed that the item on general exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources should be considered as a single issue/item for discussion on the agenda of the Subcommittee at its fifty-ninth session ([A/74/20](#), para. 261).

The Committee, at its sixty-second session, endorsed the nomination by Belgium and Greece of Andrzej Misztal (Poland) as Moderator and Steven Freeland (Australia) as Vice-Moderator to lead the scheduled informal consultations during the fifty-ninth session of the Legal Subcommittee ([A/74/20](#), para. 258 and [A/AC.105/1203](#), para. 278). The Subcommittee will have before it a draft plan for the scheduled informal consultations and comments received from States members of the Committee ([A/74/20](#), para. 259).

16. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its sixtieth session

At its fifty-ninth session, the Legal Subcommittee will submit its proposal to the Committee for the draft provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Subcommittee.

Symposium

The Subcommittee, at its fifty-eighth 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 its fifty-ninth session ([A/AC.105/1203](#), para. 282). A symposium on the theme “Space law for the global space economy” will be held in the afternoon of 23 March 2020.

Annex

Organization of work

1. The work of the Legal Subcommittee has been scheduled so as to afford the working groups that will be reconvened under items 6 and 7 (a) of the agenda the maximum amount of time available.
2. The number of statements to be made at each meeting under item 4, 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 a general rule, statements should not exceed 10 minutes, as agreed by the Committee at its fifty-fourth session, in 2011 (A/66/20, para. 298 (b)).
3. In accordance with the decision, made by the Committee at its sixty-first session, to include on its agenda a new item entitled “‘Space2030’ agenda”, which was to remain on the Committee’s agenda until the sixty-third session of the Committee, in 2020, (A/73/20, paras. 358–363), the Working Group on the “Space2030” Agenda that was established under that item will meet during the fifty-ninth session of the Subcommittee, with interpretation services at its disposal. The Working Group will have before it a working paper submitted by its Bureau on a revised draft “Space2030” agenda and implementation plan (A/AC.105/C.2/L.316).
4. An indicative schedule of work is provided below. The indicative schedule of work is a general guide to the dates and times when items will be addressed during the session. The consideration of any item may be moved forward, extended or delayed, depending on the requirements of the Subcommittee and any organizational constraints that may arise in the course of the session. The indicative schedule includes, for the first time, as requested by the Committee, information on working group meetings (A/74/20, para. 321 (e)). The scheduled informal consultations on agenda item 15, entitled “General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources”, are also indicated.

Indicative schedule of work^a

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Week of 23–27 March 2020		
Monday, 23 March	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Election of the Chair Item 3. Statement by the Chair Item 4. General exchange of views	Symposium organized by the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law on the theme “Space law for the global space economy”
Tuesday, 24 March	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space ^b Item 15. General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources Technical presentations Meeting of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space ^b Item 15. General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources Technical presentations Meeting of the Working Group on the “Space2030” Agenda

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Wednesday, 25 March	<p>Item 4. General exchange of views</p> <p>Item 6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space^b</p> <p>Item 15. General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources</p> <p>Scheduled informal consultations on space resources</p> <p>Technical presentations</p> <p>Meeting of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space</p>	<p>Item 4. General exchange of views</p> <p>Item 7 (a). The definition and delimitation of outer space^c</p> <p>Item 7 (b). The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit</p> <p>Item 13. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management</p> <p>Technical presentations</p> <p>Meeting of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space</p>
Thursday, 26 March	<p>Item 4. General exchange of views</p> <p>Item 7 (a). The definition and delimitation of outer space^c</p> <p>Item 7 (b). The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit</p> <p>Item 13. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management</p> <p>Scheduled informal consultations on space resources</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>	<p>Item 4. General exchange of views</p> <p>Item 7 (a). The definition and delimitation of outer space^c</p> <p>Item 7 (b). The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit</p> <p>Item 13. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management</p> <p>Scheduled informal consultations on space resources</p> <p>Technical presentations</p> <p>Meeting of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space</p>
Friday, 27 March	<p>Item 4. General exchange of views</p> <p>Item 5. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law</p> <p>Item 14. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities</p> <p>Scheduled informal consultations on space resources</p> <p>Technical presentations</p> <p>Meeting of the Working Group on the “Space2030” Agenda</p>	<p>Item 4. General exchange of views</p> <p>Item 5. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law</p> <p>Item 14. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities</p> <p>Technical presentations</p> <p>Meeting of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space</p>
Week of 30 March–4 April 2020		
Monday, 30 March	<p>Item 4. General exchange of views</p> <p>Item 5. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and</p>	<p>Item 8. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space</p> <p>Item 9. Capacity-building in space law</p> <p>Item 11. 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</p> <p>Technical presentations</p>

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
	non-governmental organizations relating to space law Item 14. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities Technical presentations Meeting of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space	Meeting of the Working Group on the “Space2030” Agenda
Tuesday, 31 March	Item 8. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space Item 9. Capacity-building in space law Item 11. 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 Technical presentations Meeting of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space	Item 8. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space Item 9. Capacity-building in space law Item 11. 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 Technical presentations
Wednesday, 1 April	Item 10. Future role and method of work of the Committee Item 12. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space Item 16. Proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee Technical presentations Meeting of the Working Group on the “Space2030” Agenda	Item 10. Future role and method of work of the Committee Item 12. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space Item 16. Proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee Technical presentations
Thursday, 2 April	Item 10. Future role and method of work of the Committee Item 12. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space Item 16. Proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee Technical presentations	Adoption of the report of the Working Group on agenda item 6 ^b Adoption of the report of the Working Group on agenda item 7 (a) ^c Adoption of the summary report of the Working Group on the “Space2030” Agenda Adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee Technical presentations
Friday, 3 April	Adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee	Adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee

^a 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 [74/82](#), will meet during the session to consider item 6. The Legal Subcommittee will resume its consideration of item 6 on Thursday, 2 April, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.
 - ^c The Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, to be reconvened in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution [74/82](#), will meet during the session to consider item 7 (a). The Legal Subcommittee will resume its consideration of item 7 (a) on Thursday, 2 April, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.
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