



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
10 July 2020

Original: English

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-ninth session
Vienna, 8 September 2020**

Annotated provisional agenda*

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of the Chair.
3. Request to the Secretariat to invite member States and permanent observers, as applicable, to submit contributions to the work of the Legal Subcommittee at its sixtieth session, to be held in 2021.
4. Draft provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Legal Subcommittee.
5. Adoption of the report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

* The present provisional agenda is exceptional and is meant to mitigate the challenges posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and ensure business continuity for the Committee and its subcommittees into the cycle of meetings in 2021. It does not constitute a precedent. See official communication from the Office for Outer Space Affairs to States members of the Committee dated 16 July 2020.



Annotations**

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda will be adopted immediately after the opening of the session.

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 on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space 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).

3. Request to the Secretariat to invite member States and permanent observers, as applicable, to submit contributions to the work of the Legal Subcommittee at its sixtieth session, to be held in 2021

It is proposed that the Subcommittee request the Secretariat to invite member States and permanent observers, as applicable, to submit contributions to the work of the Legal Subcommittee at its sixtieth session, to be held in 2021. In this regard, the request to the Secretariat should be in accordance with the recommendations made by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-eighth session, in 2019.

At that session, the Legal Subcommittee made the following recommendations inviting contributions from member States and permanent observers, as appropriate, to the work at its fifty-ninth session, in 2020:

(a) The Subcommittee agreed that it was important to continue to exchange information regularly on developments in the area of national space-related regulatory frameworks and, in that regard, encouraged member States to continue to submit to the Secretariat texts of their national space laws and regulations and to provide updates and inputs for the schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities (A/AC.105/1203, para. 122);

(b) The Subcommittee recommended that States members and permanent observers of the Committee inform the Subcommittee, at its fifty-ninth session, of any action taken or planned at the national, regional or international levels to build capacity in space law (A/AC.105/1203, para. 140). Furthermore, the Subcommittee invited member States to encourage contributions at the national level for future updates to the directory of educational opportunities in space law, including the information on available fellowships and scholarships (A/AC.105/1203, para. 139);

(c) The Subcommittee agreed that States members of the Committee and international intergovernmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee should be invited to further contribute to the compendium of space debris mitigation standards adopted by States and international organizations by providing or updating the information on any legislation or standards adopted with regard to space debris mitigation, using the template provided for that purpose on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (A/AC.105/1203, para. 185);

(d) The Subcommittee encouraged States members of the Committee and international intergovernmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee to share information on their practices related to non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space for inclusion in the compendium on

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

mechanisms adopted by States and international intergovernmental organizations in that regard (A/AC.105/1203, para. 189);

(e) The Subcommittee agreed that, in accordance with the recommendations of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space of the Legal Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1203, annex I, paras. 11 and 12), States members of the Committee and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee were to be invited, as appropriate, to provide comments and responses to the two questionnaires, entitled, respectively, “Set of questions provided by the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, taking into account the UNISPACE+50 process” (A/AC.105/1203, annex I, appendix I) and “Questionnaire on the application of international law to small satellite activities” (A/AC.105/1203, annex I, appendix II);

(f) The Subcommittee recommended that the Secretariat continue to invite States members of the Committee and permanent observers, as appropriate, to submit information in accordance with the recommendations of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space of the Legal Subcommittee contained in document A/AC.105/1203, annex II, para. 9.

Scheduled informal consultations on space resources

At its fifty-eighth session, the Legal Subcommittee agreed to hold scheduled informal consultations under the agenda item entitled “General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources” (A/AC.105/1203, para. 278). Those mandated, scheduled informal consultations, which were originally scheduled to be held during the plenary meetings at the fifty-ninth session of the Subcommittee, in 2020, will instead be held during the sixtieth session of the Subcommittee, in 2021. The Moderator and Vice-Moderator of the scheduled informal consultations, as endorsed by the Committee at its sixty-second session, are encouraged to continue their intersessional work as noted by the Committee at the same session (A/74/20, paras. 258 and 259).

In that connection, it is proposed that the Subcommittee agree to hold scheduled informal consultations under the agenda item entitled “General exchange of views on the potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources” at its sixtieth session, to be held in 2021.

Symposium

The Committee, at its sixtieth session, endorsed the agreement reached by the Subcommittee 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 fifty-ninth session of the Legal Subcommittee (A/74/20, para. 263).

In that connection, it is proposed that the Subcommittee agrees to invite the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law to organize a symposium to be held during the sixtieth session of the Legal Subcommittee, in 2021, in accordance with the agreement reached by the Subcommittee at its fifty-eighth session, in 2019 (A/AC.105/1203, para. 282).

4. Draft provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Legal Subcommittee

The Committee, at its sixty-second session, agreed on the substantive items to be considered by the Subcommittee at its fifty-ninth session, in 2019 (A/74/20, para. 261).

In that connection, it is proposed that the Subcommittee decide to consider, at its sixtieth session, in 2021, the same substantive items that were recommended to be considered by the Subcommittee at its fifty-ninth session (A/AC.105/1203, para. 271).

5. Adoption of the report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

The Subcommittee will have before it the draft report on its fifty-ninth session, in English only, for its adoption.

Annex

Indicative schedule of work of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fifty-ninth session*

The schedule of work laid out below is a general guide to the dates and times when items will be addressed during the course of the session. The consideration of all agenda items can be advanced, extended or delayed, depending on the requirements of the members of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and any organizational constraints faced in the course of the session. The work of the Legal Subcommittee has been scheduled so as to be completed in one day.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning (10 a.m.–noon)</i>	<i>Afternoon (2–4 p.m.)</i>
8 September 2020	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Election of the Chair Item 3. Request to the Secretariat to invite member States and permanent observers, as applicable, to submit contributions to the work of the Legal Subcommittee at its sixtieth session, in 2021	Item 4. Draft provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Legal Subcommittee Item 5. Adoption of the report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

* 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)).