



General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee
Sixty-third session
Vienna, 15–26 April 2024**

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, and ways and means, including capacity-building, to promote their implementation.
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. Future role and method of work of the Committee.
9. General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources.
10. 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.
11. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space.
12. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management.
13. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities.



14. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its sixty-fourth session.
15. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Annotations¹

2. Election of the Chair

At its sixty-sixth session, in 2023, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space noted that the Western European and other States had endorsed the candidature of Santiago Ripol Carulla (Spain) for the office of Chair of the Legal Subcommittee for the period 2024–2025 ([A/78/20](#), para. 394, and [A/AC.105/2023/CRP.14](#)).

In paragraph 44 of its resolution 78/72, entitled “International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space”, the General Assembly reiterated, with regard to the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subcommittees for the period 2024–2025, that the Committee and its subcommittees should elect their officers at their respective sessions in 2024 in accordance with that composition.

5. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law

The Subcommittee will have before it note by the Secretariat containing information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law ([A/AC.105/C.2/121](#)).

6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity-building, to promote their implementation

In paragraph 4 of its resolution 78/72, the General Assembly agreed that the Legal Subcommittee, at its sixty-third session, should reconvene its Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space.

At its sixty-sixth session, held from 31 May to 9 June 2023, the Committee agreed to merge the items entitled “Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space”, “National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space” and “Capacity-building in space law” into an item entitled “Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity-building, to promote their implementation”, and noted that, at the sixty-third session of the Subcommittee, the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space would consider, in that regard, if any amendments to its title would be necessary.

The Subcommittee will have before it the report on the United Nations Conference on Space Law and Policy: the Outer Space Treaty for the twenty-first century, held online from 28 to 30 November 2023 ([A/AC.105/C.2/1322](#)).

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**

At the sixtieth session of the Legal Subcommittee, in 2021, the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space had agreed that it would be reconvened only every second year ([A/AC.105/1243](#), annex II, para. 6).

In that connection, at the sixty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee, in 2023, the Chair of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space

¹ The annotations are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Subcommittee.

noted that new documentation under the item on matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space would not be prepared by the secretariat for the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee, to be held in 2024, but would be prepared for the sixty-fourth session, in 2025, and biennially thereafter ([A/AC.105/1285](#), annex II, para. 9).

The Subcommittee will continue to consider the item on matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and 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 ([A/78/20](#), para. 266).

8. 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 the Legal Subcommittee and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to allow for discussion of cross-cutting issues ([A/74/20](#), para. 321 (h)).

The Legal Subcommittee will continue to consider the item on the future role and method of work of the Committee ([A/78/20](#), para. 266).

At the sixty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, held in Vienna from 29 January to 9 February 2024, the Working Group of the Whole noted that informal consultations led by the delegation of Romania had been held on the establishment of an action team to study a potential consultative mechanism for lunar activities within the framework of the Committee. The Working Group noted the importance of that matter and the desirability of having a dedicated forum to further assess lunar and cislunar coordination and consultation activities. The Working Group requested the delegation of Romania to submit its proposal on the establishment of an action team within the framework of the Committee to the Legal Subcommittee at its sixty-third session, in 2024, under the Legal Subcommittee’s agenda item on the future role and method of work of the Committee, for further discussion, so that the final decision could be made by the Committee at its sixty-seventh session, in 2024 ([A/AC.105/1307](#), annex I, para. 9).

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

The Subcommittee will consider the item on general exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources as an item under a workplan at its sixty-third session ([A/78/20](#), para. 266).

In paragraph 4 of its resolution 78/72, the General Assembly agreed that the Legal Subcommittee, at its sixty-third session, should reconvene its Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities.

The Subcommittee will have before it an 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](#)).

As mandated in 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), a dedicated international conference is to be convened under the auspices of the United Nations, in accordance with the terms of reference of the Working Group ([A/76/20](#), annex III) and in conjunction with the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee. The International Conference on Space Resources will therefore be held in the afternoon of 15 April 2024.

10. 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 Subcommittee will consider 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, as a single issue/item for discussion on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its sixty-third session ([A/78/20](#), para. 266).

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

The Subcommittee will consider the item on general exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space as a single issue/item for discussion on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its sixty-third session ([A/78/20](#), para. 266).

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

The Subcommittee will consider the item on general exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management as a single issue/item for discussion on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its sixty-third session ([A/78/20](#), para. 266).

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

The Subcommittee will consider the item on general exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities as a single issue/item for discussion on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its sixty-third session ([A/78/20](#), para. 266).

14. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its sixty-fourth session

At its sixty-third session, the Legal Subcommittee will submit to the Committee its proposal for the draft provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Subcommittee.

Annex

Organization of work

1. At its sixty-sixth session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed on the following (A/78/20, para. 351):

(a) Future sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees are to be held in in-person format and regular-budget mandated meetings are to be webcast on United Nations WebTV, at no cost to the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(b) With the exception of the item on the general exchange of views, all agenda items of the Committee and its subcommittees are to be considered in sequential order, while the holding of working group meetings should not be precluded;

(c) For all agenda items, representatives of member States are the first to be given the opportunity to speak under an agenda item, and only then should the floor be given to representatives of observer organizations;

(d) In order to encourage informal discussions and enhance exchanges among member States, the secretariat should, when practicable, seek measures to avoid scheduling informal meetings of working groups concurrently with plenary meetings and instead utilize designated time slots before the morning meetings and during the lunch break for informal meetings;

(e) The secretariat should, when practicable and when formal plenary meetings conclude earlier than scheduled, make interpretation services available for informal discussions. These measures are aimed at supporting inclusive and productive engagement during informal discussions;

(f) Member States and international intergovernmental organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee are requested to indicate in their accreditation submission if they wish to receive conference room papers in hard copy, to be placed in their respective pigeonholes.

2. Meetings with full interpretation services will be limited to two 3-hour meetings per day for the duration of the session.

3. The work of the Legal Subcommittee has been scheduled so as to afford the working groups that will be convened under items 6 and 9 the maximum amount of time available.

4. 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 soon as discussion on an item other than item 4 has been concluded, the following item will be taken up, time permitting.

5. Statements by delegations should be limited to 5 minutes and technical presentations should be limited to 10 minutes (A/AC.105/1279, para. 79 and annex I, para. 5). A time-keeping device should be used in all sessions. The Chair of each session should remind delegations when 1 minute remains. The Chair should interrupt the delivery of the statement or presentation when the time allocated for it has elapsed (A/74/20, para. 321).

6. The secretariat will upload statements that have been voluntarily submitted by delegations for uploading to the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in a timely manner. Upon submitting statements for interpretation purposes, delegations are to inform the secretariat as to whether the statement may be uploaded to the website.

7. Technical presentations should be limited to three per meeting and should be closely linked to the agenda items of the Subcommittee. Speaking notes for technical

presentations should be provided in advance to facilitate simultaneous interpretation (A/AC.105/1088, para. 275).

8. Within one week after the closure of the session, delegations of States members of the Committee may provide language-related comments on the reports of working groups and on the report of the Subcommittee adopted during the session.

9. An indicative schedule of work is provided below. The indicative schedule of work is a general guide to the organization of the session, and the actual scheduling will depend on the requirements of the work of the Subcommittee and any organizational constraints in the course of the session.

Indicative schedule of work^a

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning (10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</i>	<i>Afternoon (3–6 p.m.)</i>
Week of 15–19 April 2024		
Monday, 15 April	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Election of the Chair Item 3. Statement by the Chair Item 4. General exchange of views	International Conference on Space Resources
Tuesday, 16 April	Item 4. General exchange of views Items 5–14 Meeting of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space ^b Technical presentations	Item 4. General exchange of views Items 5–14 Meeting of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities ^c Technical presentations
Wednesday, 17 April	Item 4. General exchange of views Items 5–14 Meeting of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space Technical presentations	Item 4. General exchange of views Items 5–14 Meeting of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities Technical presentations
Thursday, 18 April	Item 4. General exchange of views Items 5–14 Meeting of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space Technical presentations	Item 4. General exchange of views Items 5–14 Meeting of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities Technical presentations
Friday, 19 April	Item 4. General exchange of views Items 5–14 Meeting of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space Technical presentations	Item 4. General exchange of views Items 5–14 Meeting of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities Technical presentations

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning (10 a.m.–1 p.m.)</i>	<i>Afternoon (3–6 p.m.)</i>
Week of 22–26 April 2024		
Monday, 22 April	Item 4. General exchange of views Items 5–14 Meeting of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space Technical presentations	Item 4. General exchange of views Items 5–14 Meeting of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities Technical presentations
Tuesday, 23 April	Item 4. General exchange of views Items 5–14 Technical presentations	Item 4. General exchange of views Items 5–14 Technical presentations
Wednesday, 24 April	Item 4. General exchange of views Items 5–14 Technical presentations	Item 4. General exchange of views Adoption of the report of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities
Thursday, 25 April	Items 4–15 Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space	Item 15. Report to the Committee
Friday, 26 April	Item 15. Report to the Committee	Item 15. Report to the Committee

^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 4 of General Assembly resolution 78/72, will meet during the session to consider item 6. The Legal Subcommittee will resume its consideration of item 6 on Thursday, 25 April, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.

^c The Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, to be reconvened in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 78/72, will meet during the session to consider item 9. The Legal Subcommittee will resume its consideration of item 9 on Wednesday, 24 April, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.