

United Nations
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Sixty-sixth session
Vienna, 31 May–9 June 2023
Item 13 of the provisional agenda
Future role and method of work of the Committee

Non-Paper for streamlining the method of work.

Non-Paper Submitted by COPUOS Chair.

1. The Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) presents this proposal for the consideration of member states in relation to Item 13 of the provisional agenda: Future role and method of work of the Committee. The proposal suggests that, during the discussion of this agenda item, member States engage in comprehensive deliberations regarding measures aimed at enhancing the meeting structure. Furthermore, it calls for the development and presentation of a series of measures, potentially achieving an emerging consensus, to be adopted by the Committee.
2. To initiate this discussion, member States are encouraged to draw upon the viewpoints expressed during the Sixtieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Sixty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee, as well as the views expressed in previous sessions of the Committee and its Subcommittees.
3. The proposals outlined below are hereby submitted for the deliberation of the Committee, with the purpose of assessing their potential for consensus and subsequent adoption. Member States are encouraged to thoroughly consider these proposals and determine which among them exhibit the capacity to obtain a consensus agreement and to be adopted.
 - (a) With the exception of the General Exchange of Views, all agenda items shall be discussed consecutively. For all agenda items, member States shall be given the first opportunity to speak, followed by permanent observers.
 - (b) Streamline the agenda of the main Committee by merging interconnected agenda items without affecting substantive discussions.
 - (c) To encourage informal discussions and enhance exchanges among member States, the Secretariat should, when practicable, seek measures to avoid scheduling working group informal meetings concurrent to the plenary meetings and instead utilize designated time slots before the morning session and during the lunch break for informal meetings.



Furthermore, the Secretariat should, when practicable, facilitate interpretation services for informal discussions, where formal plenary meetings conclude earlier than scheduled. These measures aim to support inclusive and productive engagement during informal discussions.

- (d) In line with sustainability initiatives, an effort to minimize paper waste is being undertaken by the Secretariat. To achieve this, member States and international inter-governmental organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee will be requested to indicate in their accreditation submission if they wish to receive Conference Room Papers in hard copy to be distributed in their respective pigeon holes. By providing documents in printed form upon specific request, the Secretariat aims to reduce overall paper consumption and promote sustainable practices within the organization.