

SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT ON THE CHAIR'S NON-PAPER ON STREAMLINING THE METHOD OF WORK

Thank you Chair

1. South African would like to express its appreciation for your efforts in compiling the non-paper on streamlining the method of work of the committee and its two sub committees. As previously expressed during the LSC and STSC, we view this as a timely exercise to assist COPUOS working in a more efficient and organized manner.
2. It is no surprise that the membership of the committee has grown significantly and so have the issues that demand our timely and decisive attention. Streamlining the agenda with the aim of efficiency, effectiveness and time management will be very useful. In this regard, we welcome the proposal to merge interconnected agenda items without losing their substantive elements and support suggestions by the Chairperson.
3. South Africa sees great importance for the Committee and its sub Committees to consider and move with technological developments as displayed in commercial activities world- wide. The global space community is looking upon this Committee to provide guidance on scientific and legislative leadership to ensure safe, responsible and peaceful use of space operations. In this regard, our delegation sees that the work ahead for all the Committees' working groups will be crucial for leapfrogging the Committees work into relevance and effectiveness.
4. South African support Africa Group views for Member States to be afforded the opportunity to deliver their statements ahead of other stakeholders as is the current practice in other UN meetings and is pleased to see this suggestion reflected in your non-paper and expresses its sincere appreciation. In this regard, we urge all delegations of member States to be ready with their Country Statements in the first few days to ensure that this suggestion is realised.
5. South Africa supports the suggestion not to have parallel meetings to the plenary to accommodate smaller delegations which cannot be in different meetings simultaneously and is pleased to see this suggestion being practiced with success during this session.
6. Lastly, South Africa welcomes efforts of reducing paper wastage, such that the Office can divert funds to other important areas in furthering the work of the Committee.
7. We appreciate constructive discussions this morning and more are expected and wish to reiterate our appreciation for your efforts to improve our working methods in COPUOS
8. Thank you