



**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Sixty-second session
Vienna, 12–21 June 2019****Draft report****Chapter II****Recommendations and decisions****B. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its
fifty-sixth session****9. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities**

1. The Committee took note of the discussion by the Subcommittee under the item on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee ([A/AC.105/1202](#), paras. 229–263).

2. The Committee had before it the following:

(a) Conference room paper by Canada, France, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States entitled “Proposal by Canada, France, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America for the establishment of a working group on implementation of agreed guidelines and related aspects of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities” ([A/AC.105/2019/CRP.7](#) and [A/AC.105/2019/CRP.7/Rev.1](#));

(b) Conference room paper by China, Nicaragua, Pakistan, and the Russian Federation entitled “Proposal on the modalities of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space” ([A/AC.105/2019/CRP.10](#) and [A/AC.105/2019/CRP.10/Rev.1](#));

(c) Conference room paper by the United Kingdom entitled “Operating in space: towards developing protocols on the norms of behaviour” ([A/AC.105/2019/CRP.12](#));

(d) Conference room paper by the United Arab Emirates entitled “Proposal on the work related to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space” ([A/AC.105/2019/CRP.13](#));

(e) Conference room paper by Switzerland entitled “Meeting hosted by Switzerland on possible further work on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities: background and Chair’s summary” ([A/AC.105/2019/CRP.16](#));



(f) Non-paper by the Chair of the Committee entitled “The way forward for long-term sustainability: sustainability as enabler”;

(g) Non-paper by the Chair of the informal consultations, South Africa, entitled “Long-term sustainability (LTS) informal discussions”;

(h) Non-paper by the Chair of the informal consultations, South Africa, entitled “Draft report language for consideration by delegations”;

(i) Non-paper by the Chair of the informal consultations, South Africa, entitled “Draft report language for consideration by delegations (as at 5 p.m. on 19 June 2019)”.

3. The Committee noted with appreciation that the delegation of Switzerland had held a meeting on 11 June 2019 at the Vienna International Centre, just prior to the sixty-second session of the Committee, with the objective of sharing views, advancing mutual understanding and making progress towards reaching consensus on topics of possible further work on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. Topics discussed at the meeting included: (a) options for collaborative information-sharing and exchange with the aim of ensuring the safety and sustainability of space operations; (b) challenges posed by large satellite constellations; (c) issues associated with rendezvous and proximity operations, including active debris removal and on-orbit servicing activities; and (d) concepts relating to international coordination of space traffic.

4. The Committee noted with appreciation that the Chair of the Committee and interested delegations had held extensive informal consultations prior to and on the margins of the present session to discuss possible ways forward on the topic of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. In particular, the Committee expressed its appreciation to the delegation of South Africa for chairing informal consultations on the margins of the present session.

5. The Committee adopted the preamble and 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, as contained in [A/AC.105/C.1/L.366](#), and requested the Secretariat to reissue that document as an annex to the report of the Committee on the present session. The Committee encouraged States and international intergovernmental organizations to voluntarily take measures to ensure that the guidelines were implemented to the greatest extent feasible and practicable.

6. The Committee noted that it should serve as the principal forum for continued institutionalized dialogue on issues related to the implementation and review of the guidelines.

7. The Committee decided to establish, under a five-year workplan, a working group under the agenda item on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

8. The Committee agreed that the bureau of the working group would be elected at the beginning of the fifty-seventh session of the Subcommittee on the basis of nominations to be submitted to and circulated by the Secretariat during the intersessional period.

9. The Committee decided that the working group would agree on its own terms of reference, methods of work and dedicated workplan at the fifty-seventh session of the Subcommittee, in 2020, and that the working group would be guided by the following framework:

(a) Identifying and studying challenges and considering possible new guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. This could be done by taking into consideration existing documents including, inter alia, documents [A/AC.105/C.1/L.367](#) and [A/AC.105/2019/CRP.16](#);

(b) Sharing experiences, practices and lessons learned from voluntary national implementation of the adopted guidelines;

(c) Raising awareness and building capacity, in particular among emerging space nations and developing countries.

10. The Committee agreed the bureau of the working group would lead the work of the working group at the fifty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee with a view towards the development at that session of the working group's: (a) terms of reference; (b) methods of work, including ways of incorporating input from non-governmental organizations, industry and the private sector through States members of the Committee; and (c) workplan. The Committee noted that, in carrying out its work, the working group could take into consideration, inter alia, conference room papers A/AC.105/2019/CRP.7/Rev.1, A/AC.105/2019/CRP.10/Rev.1, A/AC.105/2019/CRP.13 and A/AC.105/2019/CRP.16. The Committee noted that the meetings of the working group would be supported by interpretation services in all six official languages of the United Nations.
