

Kingdom of the Netherlands – Agenda-item 10 Future role and method of work of the Committee  
CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Kingdom of the Netherlands – Agenda-item 10 – **Future role and method of work of the Committee**

Madame Chair, distinguished delegates,

Madame Chair, thank you for giving me the floor. The Netherlands considers that the efficiency and effectiveness of the Subcommittee requires our constant attention. In that light, I would like to raise two issues.

First, my Government considers that the Subcommittee should ensure that its reports are action-oriented, to enable the Member States to take up the issues discussed during our meetings. The increasing activity in Outer Space, including both an increase of objects launched into outer space and a diversification of activities conducted in outer space, requires that the legal frameworks are carefully considered. And that this is done in a way that States can adopt the outcomes of our meetings and implement them in their space activities.

Second, the Netherlands would call for a prudent management of our agenda. The agenda of the Subcommittee is now contains many items, and some of them have been on the agenda for decades. Especially under the present circumstances, where only four, instead of six, hours are available per day for plenary discussion, a balance should be found between the length of the agenda on the one hand, and the time available during our meetings on the other. Therefore, expansion of the agenda should not be considered unless it is guaranteed that the workload of the subcommittee will not increase. I would like to thank my French colleague for referring to the fact that we have also raised this in the STSC. To achieve that, the Netherlands believes that the Subcommittee should only consider adding an item to the agenda if and when it will have been decided which item will be removed.

I thank you for your attention.