

**United Nations/Chile Conference on Space Law and Policy:
Governance and Legal Perspectives on Space Activities in
Earth Orbit and Beyond**

**The establishment of the working group
on legal models for the exploration,
exploitation, and utilization of space
resources in the Legal Subcommittee**

by

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on the Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities

Space resources issue before 2019

- Debates under the agenda item in the LSC
- Discussions outside the COPUOS
- Initiative by Belgium and Greece concerning the establishment of a dedicated working group
- Proposal for scheduled informal consultations (para. 278 of the 2019 LSC Report).

Scheduled informal consultations

- Nomination of co-moderators of the consultations
- Intersessional contacts with delegations
- Initiative of Finland and Germany, supported by some other states

Establishment of the WG and adoption of its constitutive and planning documents

- 61st session of the LSC (June 2021)
 - decision to establish the Working Group
 - election of Chair and Vice-Chair
- 64 session of COPUOS (August/September 2021)
 - adoption of the Mandate, Terms of Reference and provisional elements for workplan and methods of work
- 62nd session of the LSC (March/April 2022)
 - adoption of the 5-year workplan and methods of work

Overview of the mandate and terms of reference

- Mandate: main tasks and their importance for the process
- Reporting to the LSC
- Procedural matters, including possibility of intersessional meetings when necessary
- The relevance of submissions and inputs from states
- The role of other stakeholders, including industry and academic community

Workplan and methods of work – main features

- Divided by stages that are going from collation/collection and dissemination of information, exchange of views, then the review/assessment, summaries and recommendations.
- Ambitious but realistic
- Uses agreed language from the Mandate and Terms of Reference
- Stresses the importance of participation of developing countries
- Highlights the importance of the coordination with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

Immediate steps and main challenges

- Call for submissions from states members (after the COPUOS session)
- Importance to preserve the broad, transparent and inclusive character of the proces
- Significance of the dedicated conference scheduled for 2024
- Significance of coordination with STSC

How to ensure the good result?

- More political strategic decisions
- Promote efforts to achieve general understanding and go forward
- More interaction with other bodies and entities, including those outside the COPUOS system
- Use of various communication tools with states in intersessional period
- More attention to the views of business, academia and civil society

Conclusions

- Space resources WG is yet another test of the effectiveness of the UNCOPUOS
- Should be regarded as also a test for the future of other items
- It responds to the need for multilateral approach to the space law issues
- It has to take into account other approaches too
- The result should provide the international community, including industry with clear, reliable and effective framework