



# General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space  
Fifty-ninth session  
Vienna, 8-17 June 2016**

## **Draft report**

Addendum

## **Chapter II**

### **Recommendations and decisions**

#### **B. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fifty-third session**

##### **10. 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.105/1109, paras. 213-248).

2. The Committee endorsed the recommendations and decisions on the item made by the Subcommittee regarding the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, reconvened under the chairmanship of Peter Martinez (South Africa) (A/AC.105/1109, paras. 221 and 222).

3. The Committee had before it the following:

(a) Draft report of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities: working paper by the Chair of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.1/L.343), which had previously been made available to the Subcommittee at its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions and the Committee at its fifty-eighth session;

(b) Note by the Secretariat on an updated set of draft guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities (A/AC.105/L.301);



(c) Working paper entitled “Proposal by Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Romania, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America for an expert group on space objects and events” (A/AC.105/L.302);

(d) Working paper submitted by the Russian Federation entitled “Considerations on the set of prime requirements and factors that should shape the policy of international information-sharing serving safety of space operations” (A/AC.105/L.303), which had first been made available to the Subcommittee at its fifty-third session as a conference room paper;

(e) Working paper submitted by the Russian Federation entitled “Reviewing opportunities for achieving the Vienna Consensus on Space Security encompassing several regulatory domains” (A/AC.105/L.304), which had first been made available to the Subcommittee at its fifty-third session as a conference room paper;

(f) Proposal by Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom entitled “Long-term sustainability of outer space activities: proposal to adopt a first set of guidelines together with a renewed workplan for the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee” (A/AC.105/L.305);

(g) Proposal by Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom entitled “Long-term sustainability of outer space activities: proposal to adopt a first set of guidelines together with a renewed workplan for the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee” (A/AC.105/2016/CRP.11);

(h) Proposal by Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States entitled “Long-term sustainability of outer space activities: proposal to adopt a first set of guidelines together with a renewed workplan for the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee” (A/AC.105/2016/CRP.11/Rev.1);

(i) Proposal by Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States entitled “Long-term sustainability of outer space activities: proposal to adopt a first set of guidelines together with a renewed workplan for the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee” (A/AC.105/2016/CRP.11/Rev.2);

(j) Conference room paper submitted by the United Arab Emirates entitled “Long-term sustainability of outer space activities: proposal to adopt a first set of

guidelines together with a renewed workplan for the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities” (A/AC.105/2016/CRP.12);

(k) Working paper submitted by the Russian Federation entitled “Further ideas on a set of goals of achieving the Vienna Consensus on Space Security and the need for thorough reflection on the modalities of addressing the tangled issues associated with space traffic management and the justifiability of intense expectations of early decisions in this area” (A/AC.105/2016/CRP.13);

(l) Working paper entitled “Proposal by Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Romania, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America for an expert group on space objects and events” (A/AC.105/2016/CRP.16);

(m) Conference room paper by the Chair of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities entitled “Guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities” (A/AC.105/2016/CRP.17).

4. The Committee noted that the Working Group had held a productive intersessional meeting on 6 and 7 June, just prior to the current session of the Committee. The Committee also noted that the Working Group had met during the current session, using available interpretation services, and that the Chair of the Working Group and interested delegations had held daily informal consultations to further advance their work on the preamble and the draft guidelines.

5. The Committee noted that the Working Group had made substantial progress in developing a set of guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, but noted that the various draft guidelines developed by the Working Group were at different stages. The Committee also noted that the Working Group had made substantial progress in developing a preambular text containing background information and a description of the scope and status of the guidelines, including a definition of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, as well as addressing issues relating to implementation.

6. The Committee agreed that consensus had been reached on the text of the following guidelines, as reflected in the annex to the present report and in A/AC.105/2016/CRP.17:

(a) Guideline 1: Adopt, revise and amend, as necessary, national regulatory frameworks for outer space activities;

(b) Guideline 2: Consider a number of elements when developing, revising or amending, as necessary, national regulatory frameworks for outer space activities;

(c) Guideline 3: Supervise national space activities;

(d) Guideline 4: Ensure the equitable, rational and efficient use of the radio frequency spectrum and the various orbital regions used by satellites;

(e) Guideline 12: Improve accuracy of orbital data on space objects and enhance the practice and utility of sharing orbital information on space objects;

(f) Guideline 13: Promote the collection, sharing and dissemination of space debris monitoring information;

- (g) Guideline 16: Share operational space weather data and forecasts;
- (h) Guideline 17: Develop space weather models and tools and collect established practices on the mitigation of space weather effects;
- (i) Guideline 25: Promote and support capacity-building;
- (j) Guideline 26: Raise awareness of space activities;
- (k) Guideline 27: Promote and support research on and the development of ways to support sustainable exploration and use of outer space;
- (l) Guideline 28: Investigate and consider new measures to manage the space debris population in the long term.

7. The Committee agreed that the text of the following draft guidelines, as reflected in A/AC.105/2016/CRP.17, required further discussion:<sup>1</sup>

- (a) Guideline 6: Enhance the practice of registering space objects;
- (b) Guideline 7: Commit, in national legal and/or policy frameworks, to conducting space activities solely for peaceful purposes;
- (c) Guideline 8: Implement operational and technological measures of self-restraint to forestall adverse developments in outer space;
- (d) Guideline 9: Implement policy aimed at precluding interference with the operation of foreign space objects through unauthorized access to their on-board hardware and software;
- (e) Guideline 10: Refrain from intentional modifications of the natural space environment;
- (f) Guideline 11: Provide contact information and exchange information on space objects and orbital events;
- (g) Guideline 14: Perform conjunction assessment during all orbital phases of controlled flight;
- (h) Guideline 15: Develop practical approaches for pre-launch assessment of possible conjunctions of newly launched space objects with space objects already present in near-Earth space;
- (i) Guideline 18: Ensure the safety and security of terrestrial infrastructure that supports the operation of orbital systems and respect the security of foreign space-related terrestrial and information infrastructures;
- (j) Guideline 19: Ensure the safety and security of terrestrial infrastructure that supports the operation of orbital systems;
- (k) Guideline 20: Develop and implement criteria and procedures for the preparation and conduct of space activities aimed at the active removal of space objects from orbit;

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<sup>1</sup> The ideas contained in guideline 5 were assimilated into guideline 6, and therefore the text of guideline 5 no longer appears.

(l) Guideline 21: Establish procedures and requirements for the safe conduct, in extreme cases, of operations resulting in the destruction of in-orbit space objects;

(m) Guideline 22: Develop criteria and procedures for the active removal of space objects and, under exceptional circumstances, for the intentional destruction of space objects, specifically as applied to non-registered objects;

(n) Guideline 23: Promote and facilitate international cooperation in support of the long-term sustainability of outer space activities;

(o) Guideline 24: Share experience related to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and develop new procedures, as appropriate, for information exchange;

(p) Guideline 29: Establish normative and organizational frameworks for ensuring effective and sustained implementation of the guidelines and subsequent activity on their review and enhancement.

8. The Committee requested that the content of A/AC.105/2016/CRP.17 be made into a working paper, available in the six official languages of the United Nations, following the current session of the Committee.

9. The Committee agreed that the guidelines listed in paragraph 6 above constituted a first set of guidelines, on which negotiations had been carried out and concluded. The Committee also agreed to continue to discuss the draft guidelines listed in paragraph 7 on a priority basis, with a view to developing a second set of guidelines, which would be brought together with the first set to form a full compendium of guidelines, to be adopted by the Committee and submitted to the General Assembly for endorsement in 2018. The Committee further agreed that, prior to such submission, it might be necessary to make minor changes to all the guidelines with a view to having a harmonized compendium.

10. The Committee requested that the General Assembly note that the guidelines in the annex of the present report represented only a first set of guidelines, that a second set would be completed, and that a full compendium of guidelines would be forwarded to the Assembly for adoption at its seventy-third session, in 2018.

11. The Committee noted that the first set of guidelines was now ready for States and international intergovernmental organizations to consider implementing.

12. The Committee agreed that it was important to develop a clear procedure for reviewing, amending and/or revising the guidelines. The Committee also agreed that the development of such a procedure should be considered by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee under the agenda item on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities during its fifty-fourth session, in 2017, and, if necessary, at its fifty-fifth session, in 2018.

13. The Committee noted that, while the Working Group had made significant progress in its consideration of many of the guidelines, additional time was needed for the consideration of the remaining guidelines and for the subsequent compilation of the full compendium. In view of that, the Committee agreed to extend the mandate of the Working Group for a further two years. In that connection, the

Committee agreed on the following programme of work for finalizing the report of the Working Group and the full compendium of guidelines:

- 2016 Hold an intersessional meeting to continue substantive discussions on the proposed guidelines listed in paragraph 7 of the present report and proposed guidelines contained in documents before the Working Group at the fifty-ninth session of the Committee and to consider proposals for the development of procedures for the review and amendment of agreed guidelines and for the consideration of proposals for new guidelines in the future. The informal translation and terminology reference group will continue its work to address questions of translation and terminology in the guidelines and the report of the Working Group.
- 2017 Continue to consider the proposed guidelines listed in paragraph 7 of the present report. Consider the draft report of the Working Group, including the topics recommended therein for further consideration by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Continue to consider proposals for the development of procedures for the review and amendment of agreed guidelines and for the consideration of proposals for new guidelines in the future. Consider and agree on the manner in which the results of the Working Group will be presented to the General Assembly and begin to consider the elements to be contained in the appropriate instrument to refer the guidelines to the General Assembly. The informal translation and terminology reference group will continue its work to address questions of translation and terminology in the guidelines and the report of the Working Group, with a view to resolving all outstanding translation and terminology issues in the products of the Working Group.
- 2018 Finalize the report of the Working Group and the second set of the guidelines during the fifty-fifth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, for presentation to and review by the Committee at its sixty-first session. Harmonize the two sets of guidelines to produce a compendium of guidelines for adoption by the Committee and referral to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session. Finalize the instrument through which the compendium of guidelines will be referred to the General Assembly.
14. The Committee agreed that, in order to meet the objectives set out in the above workplan, the Working Group would meet during the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the sixtieth and sixty-first sessions of the Committee, making use of existing interpretation services, and would also take advantage of other opportunities to advance its work during the intersessional periods. In that connection, the Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare such documentation, in the six official languages of the United Nations, as was necessary to support the work of the Working Group.