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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
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**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**

**Paper submitted by Nicaragua, Pakistan, the People's Republic of
China and the Russian Federation**

1. Establish the standing open-ended Working Group (WG) on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTSSA) in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

The rationale for a standing WG

2. Outer space is a rapidly evolving environment. New hazards and challenges, including the ones of anthropogenic nature, emerge in the course of its active exploration and use.
3. As it was mentioned by the majority of member States of the COPUOS, comprehensive consideration of the ways and means to mitigate such new hazards and challenges to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities is required.
4. That is why the thorough analysis of the roots of the challenges, as well as the feasibility and effectiveness of the proposed ways and means to address them should be conducted on a permanent basis.
5. The reasons stated above, as well as the increasing number of space actors, set forth the task and confirm the necessity to periodically review the LTSSA guidelines with the aim to update them as well as to develop possible new guidelines.

Goals and objectives of the WG:

- Exchange information on implementation of the LTSSA guidelines;
- Continue consideration of the seven draft guidelines discussed by the former Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (document A/AC/105/C.1/L.367);
- Identify challenges emerging from new areas of space activities and thus requiring additional LTSSA guidelines to be possibly introduced and negotiated;
- Review of the previously agreed guidelines and their update as appropriate;
- Capacity-building, awareness raising and outreach.

6. A decision to establish the WG on LTSSA should be taken by COPUOS at its 62nd session together with the adoption of the preamble and 21 draft LTSSA guidelines on which the former WG on the LTSSA has reached consensus (document A/AC.105/C.1/L.366).
7. A draft resolution should be submitted to the 74th session of the UN General Assembly for consideration and adoption and should contain two ideas: endorsement of the preamble and 21 draft LTSSA guidelines and welcoming the establishment of the WG or request the COPUOS to establish an open-ended WG on LTSSA in case a prior relevant decision will not be taken by the COPUOS.
8. The newly established WG on LTSSA should be open to all member States of the COPUOS and will work on consensus basis. The meetings of the WG should be guided by the rules of procedure, methods of work and established practices commonly adopted at COPUOS.
9. Its work should be intergovernmental by nature. At the same time member States should be invited to hold wide national consultations with all interested actors, including space community, private sector and academia. Providing COPUOS decides so, the WG could establish informal expert groups consisting of the limited number of technical and/or legal experts with a mandate to examine specific issues relevant to the mandate of the WG.
10. The WG would establish its method of work and work plan, including modalities of the guidelines review mechanism, at its intersessional meeting. The seven draft guidelines contained in document A/AC/105/C.1/L/367 should be included into the WG work plan.
11. The review procedure might be based on a five years periods. COPUOS member States would be able on a permanent basis to bring to the attention of the WG proposals for new guidelines or for updating the existing guidelines. At the end of each 5-year review period the WG should present a report to the COPUOS that includes recommendations (if any) to update existing guidelines and/or to adopt a new ones, latter to be submitted to the UN GA in the form of a stand-alone resolution.
12. To make a proposal a for new guideline a member State should be encouraged to include in its draft a reference to an existing hazard or challenge to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and proposal on possible ways and means of addressing such hazard or challenge and mitigating its possible impacts.
13. The WG could organize its meetings on the margins of the COPUOS and its subcommittees sessions to fully use available conference service and interpretation. It could also meet intersessionally. The WG members could also use electronic communication.
