



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
20 February 2019

Original: English

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fifty-sixth session
Vienna, 11–22 February 2019**

Draft report

Annex I

Report of the Working Group of the Whole

1. In accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution [73/91](#), the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fifty-sixth session, reconvened its Working Group of the Whole.
2. From 15 to 21 February 2019, the Working Group held [...] meetings, with P. Kunhikrishnan (India) as Chair. The Working Group considered the following items:
 - (a) Space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development;
 - (b) Governance and method of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies;
 - (c) Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
3. The Working Group had before it the documents listed in paragraph [...] of the report of the Subcommittee on its fifty-sixth session.
4. The Working Group of the Whole noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [73/91](#), the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would submit to the Committee its proposal for the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2020.
5. The Working Group considered the list of substantive items contained in the provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Subcommittee ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.373](#)) and recommended that the same substantive items should be considered at the fifty-seventh session of the Subcommittee.
6. The Working Group noted that, in accordance with the agreement reached by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session, in 2007 ([A/AC.105/890](#), annex I, para. 24), the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat would organize a symposium to strengthen the partnership with industry at the fifty-seventh session of the Subcommittee. The Working Group agreed that the topic for the 2020 symposium would be “Access to space for all”.



7. The view was expressed that, in organizing the symposium, the Office should aim to ensure balanced geographical, gender and generational representation.
8. The view was expressed that, inter alia, the criteria used by the Office to select private sector partners when organizing events or arranging other activities could be covered at the symposium.
9. The Working Group recalled that, at its sixty-first session, in 2018, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had agreed to the multi-year workplan on the governance and method of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.
10. The Working Group noted that, in accordance with the multi-year workplan, consideration of the note by the Secretariat on the governance and method of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.377](#)) would continue at the sessions of the Legal Subcommittee and the Committee to be held in 2019.
11. The Working Group heard proposals by delegations on the governance and method of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. Those proposals are summarized in the appendix to the present report.
12. In that regard, the Working Group noted that the Secretariat would consult with the Conference Management Service of the United Nations Office at Vienna on possible measures to be instituted in order to enhance the administration and logistical arrangements of the sessions of the Committee and its Subcommittees, and would explore practices used by the secretariats of other intergovernmental bodies in Vienna. As far as practicable, the Secretariat would inform the Committee of the progress of those consultations at its sixty-second session, in 2019, in the context of work under the present multi-year workplan.
13. At its [...] meeting, on [...] February, the Working Group adopted the present report.

Appendix

Summary of proposals on the governance and method of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

An indicative list of proposals made by delegations during the meetings of the Working Group of the Whole on the governance and method of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies is set out below.

Organization of work

1. Provide the schedule of meetings well before the sessions, including the schedule of meetings of working groups.
2. Include the schedule of meetings of working groups in the annotated provisional agenda.
3. Take into account the needs and special requirements of small delegations.

Statements

4. Reduce the time allotted for statements by States members of the Committee to 7 minutes; to 5 minutes for observer States and organizations; and to 10 minutes for regional groups under the item on the general exchange of views.
5. Upload statements on a voluntary basis to the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat in a timely manner.

Presentations and scientific and technical presentations

6. Hold presentations during lunchtime to allow more time for deliberations of the Committee and its Subcommittees and their working groups.
7. Hold presentations during plenary meetings to ensure that interpretation is provided.
8. Limit the number of technical presentations per delegation.
9. Limit the number of technical presentations per permanent observer.
10. Limit the number of technical presentations per meeting.
11. Allow only those presentations that are closely linked to the agenda items.
12. Reduce the length and quantity of technical presentations.
13. Establish selection criteria for presentations.
14. Finalize the schedule of technical presentations before the session.
15. Cluster presentations by topic.
16. Allow presentations to be delivered only after 5 p.m. and limit the number to five presentations per day.
17. Request presenters to provide abstracts.
18. Implement electronic forms for the submission of requests for presentations.

Time management

19. Use time management devices to implement time control.

Document management

20. Provide delegations with the opportunity to opt out of receiving paper copies of pre-session documents for sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

21. Do not distribute paper copies of documents by default, but provide delegations with the opportunity to opt in to receiving documents in hard copy.
22. Distribute documents only to States members of the Committee and organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee.
23. Review the system of assigning symbol numbers to clearly reflect the relevant agenda item for each document.
24. Use the PaperSmart system.
25. Publish documents related to decision items at least two weeks in advance of the sessions.
26. Indicate on documents the date of their publication on the website of the Office.
27. Upload documents distributed in session to the website at the time of their physical distribution.
28. Ensure that new documents made available in session are brought to the attention of delegations by the Chair.

Agenda

29. Start addressing decision items earlier in the session.
30. Deal with agenda items in order.
31. Examine one item per meeting.
32. Cluster agenda items.
33. Maintain a balance between predictability and flexibility in the scheduling of agenda items.
34. Continue to apply maximum flexibility in the scheduling of items.
35. Make sure that decision items are clearly indicated in the provisional agenda and that reference is made to previous pertinent decisions by the Committee and the General Assembly.

Working groups

36. Allocate more time to the meetings of working groups.
37. Review and evaluate the mandates of working groups every five years.
38. Include the schedule of the working group meetings in the indicative schedule of work annexed to the annotated provisional agenda.
39. Working groups should be allowed to meet before technical presentations are given at each meeting.

Method of work

40. Prepare a guidance document containing information on the working methods, practices, rules and procedures of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, and those of the General Assembly.
41. Prepare guidelines on the length of written statements and presentations.
42. Provide practical information on how to follow the work of existing working groups, in particular for the benefit of new States members of the Committee.
43. Ensure that reform-related decisions are implemented on a trial basis and can be reversed if they prove ineffective or detrimental to the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

Decision-making

44. Consensus must be maintained.
45. Consider the possibility of voting on procedural matters such as those on which no consensus can be reached and which are forwarded for consideration to the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly.
46. Consider alternative ways of advancing decision-making on matters such as those mentioned in the previous paragraph.

Duration of sessions

47. Instead of shortening the sessions of the Legal Subcommittee, establish more working groups or consider a wider range of agenda items.
48. Review the possibility of adjusting the duration of Subcommittee sessions to align them with the needs of the Subcommittees.
49. Revisit the working paper submitted by Germany containing a proposal for a renewal of the structure of the agenda and organization of work of the Legal Subcommittee ([A/AC.105/C.2/L.293](#)).

Interaction with non-governmental entities, in particular those from industry and the private sector

50. Do not hold dialogues with non-governmental entities during the sessions of the Committee and its Subcommittees; hold such dialogues only in the intersessional periods and within existing resources.
51. Find new ways to better engage with non-governmental entities in view of the limited resources for conference services.
52. Increase engagement with non-governmental entities in view of the value of their contribution to the work of the Committee and its Subcommittees.
53. Organize events on the Monday and Tuesday before the session of the Committee to promote dialogue with the private sector and civil society.
54. Strengthen the criteria for international non-governmental organizations becoming permanent observers of the Committee and provide regular updates on their status with the Economic and Social Council.

Synergies and coordination

55. Recommend strengthened cooperation between the First and Fourth Committees of the General Assembly through the organization of regular joint meetings of those Committees.
56. Interaction and cooperation between the Committee, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee should be enhanced, especially with regard to cross-cutting matters.
57. Introduce measures within the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in order to enhance cooperation with the Legal Subcommittee.
58. Include an item devoted to the work of the Legal Subcommittee in the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and vice versa to allow for discussion of cross-cutting issues.
59. Organize joint sessions or meetings of both Subcommittees.
60. Establish working groups of the Committee and give them a mandate to meet during sessions of the Subcommittees.