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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-eighth session
Vienna, 1–12 April 2019
Item 14 of the provisional agenda*
General exchange of views on potential legal models
for activities in exploration, exploitation, and
utilization of space resources**

**Proposal for Working Methods and Work Plan of the Working
Groupon Legal Aspects of the Exploration, the Utilization and
the Exploitation of Space Resources, (with reference to
document [A/AC.105/C.2/L.311](#))**

Working paper by Belgium and Greece

Introduction

With respect to the discussions held within the Legal Subcommittee during its 58th session on document [A/AC.105/C.2/L.311](#), it is hereby proposed to establish an ad hoc Working Group on Legal aspects of the Exploration, the Utilization and the Exploitation of Space Resources.

The ad hoc Working Group will assess the existing international legal framework as applicable to activities involving the exploration, the utilization and/or the exploitation of space resources, as well as the need for further development of such a framework.

Working Methods:

1. The ad hoc Working Group reports to the Legal Subcommittee.
2. The meetings of the Working Group are guided by the rules of procedure, methods of work and established practices related to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Working Group takes decisions by consensus.
3. The Working Group will meet with interpretation services during the sessions of the Legal Subcommittee in 2020, 2021 and 2022. The Working Group may hold informal consultations on the margins of the sessions. The Working Group may also decide to hold intersessional meetings, as necessary, to advance its work.

* [A/AC.105/C.2/L.308](#).



4. The Working Group will engage with permanent observers of the Committee in accordance with rules of procedure, methods of work and established practices related to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In accordance with its workplan below, the Working Group may decide – as appropriate - to engage with further non-governmental actors.
5. The Working Group will take advantage of electronic communication via the List of Focal Points of the Working Group to share information, and of a dedicated Working Group’s webpage on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

Workplan (2020-2022)

2020:

- (a) The Working Group will invite presentations by governmental and non-governmental actors, as well as by relevant for a, upon proposal by Member States of the Committee.
- (b) Relevant information on the projects and activities of their respective governmental and non-governmental entities involving the exploration, the utilization and/or the exploitation of space resources can be provided by Member States wishing to do so. Due consideration would also be given to contribution from the Scientific & Technical Subcommittee. The consideration of such information would only be aimed at finding a shared factual basis to facilitate legal discussions.
- (c) The Working Group will compile principles, binding and non-binding instruments of international law that may be applicable or relevant to the previously mentioned projects and activities.

2021:

The Working Group will assess issues, questions and comments addressed by governmental and non-governmental entities from Member States with respect to the application and the implementation of the previously identified principles and instruments.

2022:

- (a) The Working Group will formulate draft solutions or answers on the basis of existing international law to issues, questions or comments assessed the previous year.
- (b) The Working Group may identify needs for further reflection on issues or potential legal gaps which would require possible development of international legal framework and international cooperation mechanisms, through binding or non-binding instruments.
- (c) The findings of the Working Group under (a) and (b) will be reported to the Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee will review the possibility to extend the work plan of the Working Group considering the need identified at the end of its initial mandate.
