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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space  
Legal Subcommittee  
Fifty-eighth session  
Vienna, 1–12 April 2019****Draft report****XIV. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-ninth session**

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/91](#), the Subcommittee considered agenda item 15, entitled “Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-ninth session”, as a regular item on the agenda. Under the item, the Subcommittee also considered matters related to the organization of work.

2. The representatives of Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Czechia, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Romania, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States made statements under agenda item 15. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by representatives of other member States.

3. The Subcommittee had before it the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat containing a categorization of topics relating to the governance and method of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.377](#));

(b) Working paper by Belgium and Greece containing a proposal for working methods and a workplan for a new working group on legal aspects of the exploration, utilization and exploitation of space resources ([A/AC.105/C.2/2019/CRP.26](#)).

4. The Subcommittee agreed that the following items be proposed to the Committee for inclusion in the agenda of the Subcommittee at its fifty-ninth session:

*Regular items*

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of the Chair.
3. Statement by the Chair.
4. General exchange of views.



5. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law.
6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.
7. Matters relating to:
  - (a) The definition and delimitation of outer space;
  - (b) The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.
8. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.
9. Capacity-building in space law.

*Single issues/items for discussion*

10. General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation and remediation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
11. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space.
12. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management.
13. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities.
14. General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources.

*New items*

15. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its sixtieth session.
5. The Subcommittee 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.
  6. The Subcommittee noted that, in accordance with the multi-year workplan, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fifty-sixth session, held from 11 to 22 February 2019, had considered 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](#)). The Legal Subcommittee took note of the indicative list of proposals on the governance and method of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies made at that session ([A/AC.105/1202](#), annex I, appendix).
  7. In accordance with the multi-year workplan, the Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of the governance and method of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and noted that there was agreement about recommending to the Committee that it upload, on a voluntary basis, statements delivered by delegations to the web page dedicated to the session, on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.
  8. The Subcommittee took note of an additional proposal relating to the governance and method of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies to request the Secretariat to invite States Members of the United Nations to inform it (a) about their current activities in outer space and their plans for the future in that regard; (b) whether they are parties to the five United Nations treaties on outer space; and (c) whether they are members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

or plan to become members. The Subcommittee agreed that consideration of those matters would continue at the sixty-second session of the Committee, to be held in 2019.

9. The Subcommittee commended the Secretariat for its flexibility in scheduling agenda item 15 for the current session. By doing so, it had made it possible to make progress in the consideration of the agenda item and to make efficient use of the available interpretation resources. The Subcommittee also commended the Secretariat for making the schedule of meetings of the working groups available in advance of the session.

10. The Subcommittee noted that the Secretariat was consulting 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. The Secretariat was also consulting with the secretariats of other intergovernmental bodies in Vienna about their practices and methods of work in that regard. As far as practicable, the Secretariat would inform the Committee on the progress of those consultations at its sixty-second session, in the context of work under the present multi-year workplan.

11. The Subcommittee agreed that, under the item on its agenda entitled “General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources”, scheduled informal consultations were to be held at the fifty-ninth session of the Subcommittee, in 2020. Those scheduled informal consultations were to be conducted with interpretation services from and into all official languages of the United Nations and be coordinated by a moderator. The moderator was to be nominated by Belgium and Greece at the sixty-second session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in 2019.

12. The Subcommittee also agreed that the aim of those consultations was to have a broad exchange of views on the future deliberations concerning the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources, including the possible establishment of a working group under the relevant agenda item, taking into account possible future coordination with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, as appropriate.

13. The Subcommittee noted that Belgium and Greece would submit a revised proposal for the establishment of a working group under the item “General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources” for further consideration at the fifty-ninth session of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee encouraged those two delegations to conduct consultations with interested delegations on the margins of the sixty-second session of the Committee.

14. The Subcommittee took note of a proposal by the delegation of Egypt to add a new item to the agenda of the Subcommittee, to be entitled, “Space culture, a new era for civilization”. Under such an item, views could be exchanged on ways and means to ensure that any future civilization humanity may establish in space would be founded on a culture of ethics and moral principles and that the negative traits of human civilization as it currently existed on Earth not be passed on to the new space civilization. The Subcommittee requested the delegation to submit a written proposal for consideration during the fifty-ninth session of the Subcommittee.

15. The Subcommittee agreed that IISL and ECSL should again be invited to organize a symposium, to be held during the fifty-ninth session of the Subcommittee, with due account being taken of equitable geographical and gender representation among the participants in order to reflect a broad range of opinions, and that the organizers should seek the cooperation of interested academic entities for that purpose.

16. The Subcommittee noted that its fifty-ninth session had been tentatively scheduled to be held from 23 March to 3 April 2020.