



# General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space  
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee  
Fifty-eighth session  
Vienna, 19–30 April 2021**

## **Annotated provisional agenda**

### **Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Statement by the Chair.
3. General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities.
4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications.
5. Space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development.
6. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment.
7. Space debris.
8. Space-system-based disaster management support.
9. Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems.
10. Space weather.
11. Near-Earth objects.
12. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities.
13. Future role and method of work of the Committee.
14. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.
15. Space and global health.
16. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.



17. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
18. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

## **Annotations<sup>1</sup>**

### **2. Statement by the Chair**

The Chair will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that have taken place since its fifty-seventh session. After that statement, the Subcommittee will organize its schedule of work.

### **3. General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities**

The annual written reports submitted by Member States on their space activities will be made available to the Subcommittee ([A/AC.105/1238](#), [A/AC.105/1238/Add.1](#), [A/AC.105/1238/Add.2](#) and [A/AC.105/1238/Add.3](#)).

### **4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications**

The Subcommittee will have before it a report on the United Nations/Austria symposium on the theme “Space applications for Sustainable Development Goal 13: climate action”, held in Graz, Austria, from 1 to 3 September 2020 ([A/AC.105/1231](#)).

### **5. Space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development**

In paragraph 5 of its resolution [75/92](#), the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group of the Whole.

The Working Group of the Whole will consider the item on space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development.

### **6. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth’s environment**

Pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution [75/92](#), the Subcommittee will continue its consideration of this item.

### **7. Space debris**

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat on research on space debris, safety of space objects with nuclear power sources on board and problems relating to their collision with space debris. The note contains information the Secretariat has received from Member States and international organizations ([A/AC.105/C.1/118](#) and [A/AC.105/C.1/118/Add.1](#)).

### **8. Space-system-based disaster management support**

The Subcommittee will have before it a report on activities carried out in 2020 in the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response ([A/AC.105/1239](#)).

### **9. Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems**

The Subcommittee will have before it a report of the Secretariat on activities carried out in 2020 in the framework of the workplan of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems ([A/AC.105/1237](#)).

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<sup>1</sup> The annotations are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Subcommittee.

**10. Space weather**

The Subcommittee will continue to consider the work being undertaken by the Expert Group on Space Weather ([A/AC.105/1224](#), paras. 152–170).

**11. Near-Earth objects**

The Subcommittee will continue to consider the work being undertaken by the International Asteroid Warning Network and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group ([A/AC.105/1224](#), paras. 171–186).

**12. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities**

Pursuant to the decisions and actions by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee taken by written procedure ([A/75/20](#)), and recalling paragraphs 165–168 of the report of the Committee on its sixty-second session ([A/74/20](#)) and paragraphs 195 and 196 of the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fifty-seventh session ([A/AC.105/1224](#)), and acknowledging the unique circumstances surrounding the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the bureau of the working group under the agenda item on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities should be elected at the beginning of the fifty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee ([A/75/20](#), para. 24).

The working group should also agree on its own terms of reference, methods of work and dedicated workplan at the fifty-eighth session of the Subcommittee ([A/75/20](#), para. 24).

**13. Future role and method of work of the Committee**

The Subcommittee will continue its work under the multi-year workplan for the period 2018–2021, as outlined in 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.384](#)).

The Working Group of the Whole will consider the item on the future role and method of work of the Committee.

**14. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space**

In paragraph 5 of its resolution [75/92](#), the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

The Working Group will continue its work under the multi-year workplan for the period 2017–2021 ([A/AC.105/1138](#), annex II, para. 9).

The Subcommittee will have before it the following documents:

(a) Working paper on experience in the practical application of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space and the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space, prepared by the Russian Federation ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.388](#));

(b) Working paper on an updated and risk-informed process for launching space nuclear systems in the United States of America, prepared by the United States ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.389](#));

(c) Updated preliminary analysis of how the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space contribute to the safety of space nuclear power source applications, prepared by Italy, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Space Agency ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.390](#));

(d) Draft report on the implementation of the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space and recommendations for potential enhancements of the technical content and scope of the Principles Relevant to the Use

of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, prepared by the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.391](#)).

**15. Space and global health**

In paragraph 5 of its resolution [75/92](#), the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on Space and Global Health.

The Working Group will continue its work under its multi-year workplan ([A/AC.105/1202](#), annex III, appendix I).

The Working Group will have before it the responses to the set of questions regarding policies, experiences and practices in the use of space science and technology for global health ([A/AC.105/C.1/119](#), [A/AC.105/C.1/119/Add.1](#), [A/AC.105/C.1/119/Add.2](#) and [A/AC.105/C.1/119/Add.3](#)).

**16. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, including in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries, without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union**

Pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution [75/92](#), the Subcommittee will continue its consideration of this item.

**17. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**

The draft provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Subcommittee, outlining subjects to be dealt with as single issues/items for discussion or under multi-year workplans, will be submitted to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its sixty-fourth session, in 2021.

The Working Group of the Whole will consider the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Subcommittee.

Pursuant to the decisions and actions by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee taken by written procedure ([A/75/20](#)), a symposium organized by the International Astronautical Federation on the topic of human spaceflight is to be held at the fifty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee ([A/75/20](#), para. 25).

## Annex

### Organization of work

1. The work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fifty-eighth session has been scheduled without precedent for any future organization of work and taking into account the extraordinary situation caused by the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which has had unprecedented and multifaceted effects.
2. Owing to travel and meeting restrictions resulting from the pandemic, the session will be held in a hybrid format. If restrictions resulting from pandemic-related developments preclude the holding of the session in such a format, the Chair of the Subcommittee will convene consultations with a view to reaching consensus on an organization of work through a new decision.
3. Meetings with full interpretation services will be limited to two 2-hour meetings per day for the duration of the session.
4. The number of statements to be made at each meeting under item 3, entitled “General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities”, may be limited, as necessary, in order to allow sufficient time for other agenda items to be considered as planned for each meeting. Statements should be limited to seven minutes in duration. The Chair should remind delegations when one minute remains and should interrupt the delivery of the statement when seven minutes have elapsed.
5. The Secretariat will upload statements that have been voluntarily submitted by States for uploading to the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in a timely manner. Upon submitting statements for interpretation purposes, delegations are to inform the Secretariat as to whether the statement may be uploaded to the website.
6. The work of the Subcommittee has been scheduled so as to afford the working groups that will be convened under items 5, 12–15 and 17 the maximum amount of time available. Formal meetings of working groups will receive interpretation services. Informal meetings of working groups and informal consultations under agenda items, as deemed necessary, will be held without interpretation services. The scheduling of such informal meetings will take into account the desirability of avoiding overlap in their scheduling, to the maximum extent possible.
7. Owing to the limited meeting hours available with full interpretation services at the fifty-eighth session, technical presentations will be delivered without interpretation and scheduled from 10 to 11 a.m. and from 5 to 6 p.m. Central European Time (CET). Technical presentations may be delivered in any of the six official languages of the United Nations, without simultaneous interpretation. Such presentations should be closely linked to the agenda items of the Subcommittee and should not exceed 12 minutes in duration. Delegations will be reminded when one minute remains, and delivery of the presentation will be interrupted when 12 minutes have elapsed.
8. Within one week after the closure of the session, delegations of States members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space may provide language-related comments on the reports of working groups and the report of the Subcommittee adopted during the session.
9. An indicative schedule of work is provided below. It will be formally adopted at the first meeting of the Subcommittee. Any further changes to the indicative schedule may be decided by the Subcommittee no later than 48 hours before the start of the scheduled meeting.

**Indicative schedule of work\***

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning (11 a.m.–1 p.m. CET)</i>	<i>Break (1–3 p.m. CET)</i>	<i>Afternoon (3–5 p.m. CET)</i>
<b>Week of 19–23 April 2021</b>			
Monday, 19 April	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Statement by the Chair Item 3. General exchange of views	Informal meeting of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 10. Space weather Item 12. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities <sup>a</sup> Item 14. Nuclear power sources <sup>b</sup>
Tuesday, 20 April	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 10. Space weather Item 12. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities <sup>a</sup> Item 14. Nuclear power sources <sup>b</sup>	Informal meeting of the Working Group on Space and Global Health	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 7. Space debris Item 15. Space and global health <sup>c</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities
Wednesday, 21 April	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 7. Space debris Item 13. Future role and method of work of the Committee <sup>d</sup> Meeting of the Working Group of the Whole	Informal meeting of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 15. Space and global health <sup>c</sup> Item 5. Space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development <sup>d</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space Meeting of the Working Group on Space and Global Health
Thursday, 22 April	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 5. Space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development <sup>d</sup> Item 11. Near-Earth objects Meeting of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities	Informal meeting of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 11. Near-Earth objects Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications Meeting of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space Meeting of the Working Group on Space and Global Health

\* At its thirty-eighth session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that member States would continue to be provided with an indicative schedule of work, which would be without prejudice to the actual timing of consideration of specific agenda items (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/50/20)*, paras. 168 and 169 (b)).

<i>Date</i>	<i>Morning (11 a.m.–1 p.m. CET)</i>	<i>Break (1–3 p.m. CET)</i>	<i>Afternoon (3–5 p.m. CET)</i>
Friday, 23 April	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 8. Disaster management support Meeting of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities	Informal meeting of the Working Group on Space and Global Health	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 8. Disaster management support Item 9. Global navigation satellite systems Meeting of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space Meeting of the Working Group on Space and Global Health
<b>Week of 26–30 April 2021</b>			
Monday, 26 April	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 9. Global navigation satellite systems Item 6. Remote sensing Meeting of the Working Group of the Whole	Informal meeting of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities	Item 16. Geostationary orbit Item 17. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Subcommittee <sup>d</sup> Item 13. Future role and method of work of the Committee <sup>d</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities
Tuesday, 27 April	Item 6. Remote sensing Item 16. Geostationary orbit Item 17. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Subcommittee <sup>d</sup>		Symposium organized by the International Astronautical Federation on the topic of human spaceflight
Wednesday, 28 April	Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space Adoption of the report of the Working Group on Space and Global Health Adoption of the report of the Working Group of the Whole		Adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities
Thursday, 29 April	Item 18. Report to the Committee		Item 18. Report to the Committee
Friday, 30 April	Item 18. Report to the Committee		Item 18. Report to the Committee

<sup>a</sup> The Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, to be convened pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 75/92, will meet during the session for its consideration of item 12. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Wednesday, 28 April, in order to endorse the report of the Working Group.

- <sup>b</sup> The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution [75/92](#), will meet during the session for its consideration of item 14. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Wednesday, 28 April, in order to endorse the report of the Working Group.
- <sup>c</sup> The Working Group on Space and Global Health, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution [75/92](#), will meet during the session for its consideration of item 15. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Wednesday, 28 April, in order to endorse the report of the Working Group.
- <sup>d</sup> The Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution [75/92](#), will meet during the session for its consideration of items 5, 13 and 17. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of those items on Wednesday, 28 April, in order to endorse the report of the Working Group.