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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fifty-ninth session
Vienna, 7–18 February 2022**

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of the Chair.
3. Statement by the Chair.
4. General exchange of views and introduction of reports submitted on national activities.
5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications.
6. Space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development.
7. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment.
8. Space debris.
9. Space-system-based disaster management support.
10. Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems.
11. Space weather.
12. Near-Earth objects.
13. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities.
14. Future role and method of work of the Committee.
15. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.
16. Space and global health.
17. 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.



18. Draft provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
19. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Annotations**

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee will consider the inclusion of the matter of dark and quiet skies as a single issue/item for discussion at the present session. See item 14 for further information.

2. Election of the Chair

In paragraph 41 of its resolution 76/76, adopted on 9 December 2021, the General Assembly noted that the Latin American and Caribbean States had nominated their candidate for the office of Chair of the Subcommittee for the period 2022–2023.

As announced in the official communication dated 22 October 2021 from the Office for Outer Space Affairs to States members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Latin American and Caribbean States nominated Juan Francisco Facetti (Paraguay) for the office of Chair of the Subcommittee for the period 2022–2023.

3. Statement by the Chair

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

4. 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.105/1248](#) and [A/AC.105/1248/Add.1](#)).

5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications

In paragraph 23 of its resolution 76/76, the General Assembly recognized the capacity-building activities under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, which provided unique benefits for Member States, in particular developing countries, participating in those activities.

The Subcommittee will have before it a report on the United Nations/Austria Symposium on Space Applications for Food Systems, held online from 7 to 9 September 2021 ([A/AC.105/1254](#)), and a report on the United Nations/ United Arab Emirates/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on Space Technology for Socioeconomic Benefits, on the theme “Space exploration: a source of inspiration, innovation and discovery”, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 22 to 24 October 2021 ([A/AC.105/1256](#)).

6. Space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development

In paragraph 11 of its resolution 76/76, 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.

** The annotations are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Subcommittee.

7. 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 11 of General Assembly resolution 76/76, the Subcommittee will continue its consideration of this item.

8. Space debris

In paragraphs 15 and 16 of its resolution 76/76, the General Assembly addressed the issue of 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 that the Secretariat has received from Member States and international organizations ([A/AC.105/C.1/120](#) and [A/AC.105/C.1/120/Add.1](#)).

9. Space-system-based disaster management support

In paragraphs 24 and 25 of its resolution 76/76, the General Assembly recognized the significant achievements made and the advisory support provided to Member States within the framework of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) since its establishment in 2006.

The Subcommittee will have before it a report on the United Nations/Islamic Republic of Iran Workshop on Space Technology Applications for Drought, Flood and Water Resource Management, held online from 9 to 11 August 2021 ([A/AC.105/1253](#)), and a report on activities carried out in 2021 in the framework of UN-SPIDER ([A/AC.105/1250](#)).

10. Recent developments in global navigation satellite systems

In paragraph 26 of its resolution 76/76, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction the continuous progress made by the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in its capacity as executive secretariat of ICG, towards achieving compatibility and interoperability among global and regional space-based positioning, navigation and timing systems and in the promotion of the use of global navigation satellite systems and their integration into national infrastructure, particularly in developing countries.

The Subcommittee will have before it a report on the activities carried out in 2021 in the framework of the ICG workplan ([A/AC.105/1249](#)) and a report on the United Nations/Mongolia workshop on the applications of global navigation satellite systems, held in Ulaanbaatar from 25 to 29 October 2021 ([A/AC.105/1252](#)).

11. Space weather

The Subcommittee, at its fifty-eighth session, extended the work of the Expert Group on Space Weather for a further year to enable the Expert Group to compile a draft final report for consideration by the Subcommittee at its fifty-ninth session, including draft final recommendations to address and better serve the space weather-related needs of member States in the context of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, through improved international collaboration, and including recommendations directed towards the implementation of the guidelines relating to space weather in the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities ([A/AC.105/1240](#), paras. 160–165).

The Subcommittee will have before it the draft final report of the Expert Group ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.401](#)).

12. Near-Earth objects

In paragraph 14 of its resolution 76/76, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction the work carried out by the International Asteroid Warning Network and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group to strengthen international cooperation to mitigate the potential threat posed by near-Earth objects, with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs serving as the permanent secretariat of the Advisory Group.

The Subcommittee will continue to consider the work being undertaken by the Network and the Advisory Group ([A/AC.105/1240](#), paras. 169–184).

13. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities

In paragraph 3 of its resolution 76/76, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction the adoption by the Committee of the preamble and 21 guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, as contained in annex II to the report of the Committee on its sixty-second session, and the establishment, under a five-year workplan, of a working group under the agenda item on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities of the Subcommittee, noted that the Committee had encouraged States and international intergovernmental organizations to voluntarily take measures to ensure that the guidelines were implemented to the greatest extent feasible and practicable, and emphasized that the Committee served as the principal forum for continued institutionalized dialogue on issues related to the implementation and review of the guidelines.

The Committee, at its sixty-fourth session, welcomed the election, at the fifty-eighth session of the Subcommittee, of Umamaheswaran R. (India) as the Chair of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities ([A/76/20](#), para. 120).

The Committee noted that the Working Group had agreed that it would hold online informal consultations from 22 to 24 November 2021 to advance discussions, and an intersessional meeting on 3 and 4 February 2022 to further advance agreement, on its terms of reference, methods of work and workplan ([A/76/20](#), paras. 123–124).

The Chair of the Working Group, with the support of the Secretariat, was requested to have the document resulting from the informal consultations in November 2021 translated into all the official languages of the United Nations for further consideration at the intersessional meeting in February 2022 ([A/76/20](#), para. 125).

The Subcommittee will have before it a working paper by the Chair of the Working Group containing the draft terms of reference, methods of work and workplan of the Working Group ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.400](#)).

14. Future role and method of work of the Committee

Pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 76/76, the Subcommittee will continue its consideration of this item.

The Working Group of the Whole will consider the future role and methods of work of the Committee.

The Subcommittee will have before it a 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](#)), made available to the Committee and its Subcommittees during their sessions in 2021.

The Committee, at its sixty-fourth session, endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee in which it had encouraged the Office for Outer Space Affairs to engage with all relevant stakeholders, such as the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and others, on the matter of dark and quiet skies as it related to the mandate of the Committee and its Subcommittees, and to present the outcomes of that engagement, including findings for furthering the discussion on the matter, to the Subcommittee for consideration at its fifty-ninth session, in 2022. In that regard, the conference on dark and quiet skies for science and society to be organized by the Office jointly with

the Government of Spain and IAU, planned to be held in October 2021, could provide input to a focused discussion on opportunities for international cooperation on the item (A/AC.105/1240, para. 233, and A/76/20, para. 128).

The Subcommittee will have before it a report on the United Nations/Spain/IAU Conference on Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society, held online from 3 to 7 October 2021 (A/AC.105/1255) and a note by the Secretariat containing a summary of discussions on dark and quiet skies for science and society (A/AC.105/1257).

The Committee, at its sixty-fourth session, noted that an agreement on how to procedurally address the above-mentioned matter could possibly be reached in the intersessional period before the fifty-ninth session of the Subcommittee (A/76/20, para. 299).

15. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

In paragraph 11 of its resolution 76/76, 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 extended multi-year workplan (A/AC.105/1240, para. 246 and annex II, para. 5).

The Subcommittee will have before it a working paper prepared by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Space Agency containing reflections on further steps to enhance the safety of nuclear power source applications in outer space (A/AC.105/C.1/L.395).

The Subcommittee will also have before it a document issued for the fifty-eighth session of the Subcommittee containing a 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).

16. Space and global health

In paragraph 11 of its resolution 76/76, 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, para. 5 and appendix I).

The Subcommittee will have before it a draft resolution on space and global health (A/AC.105/C.1/L.402) and the draft report of the Working Group on Space and Global Health on the work conducted under its multi-year workplan, prepared by the Chair of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.1/L.403).

17. 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 11 of General Assembly resolution 76/76, the Subcommittee will continue its consideration of this item.

18. Draft provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

The draft provisional agenda for the sixtieth 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-fifth session, in 2022.

The Working Group of the Whole will consider the draft provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Subcommittee.

In accordance with the agreement reached by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session, in 2007 ([A/AC.105/890](#), annex I, para. 24), and by the Committee at its sixty-fourth session, in 2021 ([A/76/20](#), para. 148), the industry symposium to be organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs at the fifty-ninth session of the Subcommittee should be on the topic of dark and quiet skies.

Annex

Organization of work

1. The work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its fifty-ninth 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 4, 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 6, 13–16 and 18 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-ninth session, technical presentations will be delivered without simultaneous interpretation and scheduled from 9.45 to 10.45 a.m. and from 5.15 to 6.15 p.m. Central European Time (CET). Technical presentations may be delivered in any of the six official languages of the United Nations. 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 (1.30–2.45 p.m. CET)</i>	<i>Afternoon (3–5 p.m. CET)</i>
Week of 7–11 February 2022			
Monday, 7 February	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Election of the Chair Item 3. Statement by the Chair Item 4. General exchange of views	Informal meeting of the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 11. Space weather Item 13. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities ^a Item 15. Nuclear power sources ^b
Tuesday, 8 February	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 11. Space weather Item 13. Long-term sustainability of outer space activities ^a Item 15. Nuclear power sources ^b	Informal meeting of the Working Group on Space and Global Health	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 8. Space debris Item 16. Space and global health ^c Meeting of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities
Wednesday, 9 February	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 8. Space debris Item 14. Future role and method of work of the Committee ^d Meeting of the Working Group of the Whole	Informal meeting of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 16. Space and global health ^c Item 6. Space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development ^d 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, 10 February	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 6. Space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development ^d Item 5. United Nations Programme on Space Applications 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 4. General exchange of views Item 12. Near-Earth objects Item 5. 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 (1.30–2.45 p.m. CET)</i>	<i>Afternoon (3–5 p.m. CET)</i>
Friday, 11 February	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 12. Near-Earth objects Item 9. 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 4. General exchange of views Item 9. Disaster management support Item 10. 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
Week of 14–18 February 2022			
Monday, 14 February	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 10. Global navigation satellite systems Item 7. 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 4. General exchange of views Item 17. Geostationary orbit Item 18. Draft provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Subcommittee ^d Item 14. Future role and method of work of the Committee ^d Industry symposium organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs on the topic of dark and quiet skies
Tuesday, 15 February	Item 7. Remote sensing Item 17. Geostationary orbit Item 18. Draft provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Subcommittee ^d Meeting of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities		
Wednesday, 16 February	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, 17 February	Item 19. Report to the Committee		Item 19. Report to the Committee
Friday, 18 February	Item 19. Report to the Committee		Item 19. Report to the Committee

^a The Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 76/76, will meet during the session for its consideration of item 13. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Wednesday, 16 February, in order to endorse the report of the Working Group.

^b The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 76/76, will meet during the session for its consideration of item 15. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Wednesday, 16 February, in order to endorse the report of the Working Group.

- ^c The Working Group on Space and Global Health, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 76/76, will meet during the session for its consideration of item 16. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of the item on Wednesday, 16 February, in order to endorse the report of the Working Group.
- ^d The Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 76/76, will meet during the session for its consideration of items 6, 14 and 18. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of those items on Wednesday, 16 February, in order to endorse the report of the Working Group.