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

Draft report

Annex IV

Report of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities

1. In accordance with paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution [76/76](#), the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fifty-ninth session, reconvened its Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.
2. The Working Group held meetings from 8 to 16 February 2022, with Umamaheswaran R. (India) as Chair.
3. In addition to the meetings that the Working Group held with the benefit of interpretation services during the present session, it also held informal meetings on the margins of the session.
4. The Working Group had before it the following:
 - (a) Working paper by the Chair of the Working Group entitled “Draft terms of reference, methods of work and workplan of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities” ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.400](#));
 - (b) Conference room paper by the Chair of the Working Group entitled “Draft terms of reference, methods of work and workplan of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities” ([A/AC.105/C.1/2022/CRP.13](#));
 - (c) Conference room paper by the European Space Agency entitled “Report on the implementation of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities in the European Space Agency” ([A/AC.105/C.1/2022/CRP.14/Rev.1](#));
 - (d) Conference room paper by France entitled “General presentation of French activities and views concerning the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, in relation with the implementation of the 21 guidelines ([A/74/20](#), annex II)” ([A/AC.105/C.1/2022/CRP.20](#));
 - (e) Conference room paper by the United Kingdom entitled “United Kingdom update on its reporting approach for the voluntary implementation of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities” ([A/AC.105/C.1/2022/CRP.22](#)).



5. The Working Group recalled that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its sixty-second session, in June 2019, had adopted the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (A/74/20, para. 163 and annex II), had decided to establish, under a five-year workplan, a working group under the agenda item on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities of the Subcommittee (A/74/20, para. 165) and had also decided that the working group would agree on its own terms of reference, methods of work and dedicated workplan (A/74/20, para. 167).
6. The Working Group also recalled that it had been convened during the fifty-eighth session of the Subcommittee, in April 2021 (A/AC.105/1240, para. 195), had met during the sixty-fourth session of the Committee, in August and September 2021 (A/76/20, para. 121), had held online informal consultations from 22 to 24 November 2021 and had held an intersessional meeting on 3 and 4 February 2022, just prior to the fifty-ninth session of the Subcommittee.
7. On 16 February 2022, Working Group agreed on and adopted its terms of reference, methods of work and workplan, as contained in the appendix to the present report.
8. The Working Group also agreed that the Chair, with the support of the Secretariat, would, following the fifty-ninth session of the Subcommittee, invite States members of the Committee, organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee and relevant United Nations entities, subject to the relevant provisions of paragraphs 15 and 16 of the terms of reference, methods of work and workplan, to provide information and views on the topics in paragraphs 4 and 6 of the terms of reference, methods of work and workplan, requesting input in a format deemed appropriate.
9. The Working Group further agreed to hold informal consultations, in a hybrid format, in November 2022.
10. On 16 February 2022, the Working Group considered and adopted the present report.

Appendix

Terms of reference, methods of work and workplan of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities

I. Introduction

1. At its sixty-second session, in 2019, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space adopted the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (A/74/20, annex II). The Committee encouraged States and international intergovernmental organizations to voluntarily take measures to ensure that the Guidelines were implemented to the greatest extent feasible and practicable (A/74/20, para. 163).

2. The Committee noted that it should serve as the principal forum for continued institutionalized dialogue on issues related to the implementation and review of the Guidelines (A/74/20, para. 164).

3. At the same session, the Committee decided to establish, under a five-year workplan, a working group under the agenda item on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/74/20, para. 165).

4. The Committee also decided that the working group would agree on its own terms of reference, methods of work and dedicated workplan, and that the working group would be guided by the following framework (A/74/20, para. 167):

(a) Identifying and studying challenges and considering possible new guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. This could be done by taking into consideration existing documents, including, inter alia, documents A/AC.105/C.1/L.367 and A/AC.105/2019/CRP.16;

(b) Sharing experiences, practices and lessons learned from voluntary national implementation of the adopted Guidelines;

(c) Raising awareness and building capacity, in particular among emerging space nations and developing countries.

5. At its fifty-eighth session, in 2021, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee elected Umamaheswaran R. (India) as Chair of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities and convened the Working Group (A/AC.105/1240, para. 195).

II. Terms of reference

6. The Working Group will be guided by the framework defined in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its sixty-second session (A/74/20, para. 167), which comprises the following:

(a) Identifying and studying challenges and considering possible new guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. This could be done by taking into consideration existing documents, including, inter alia, documents A/AC.105/C.1/L.367 and A/AC.105/2019/CRP.16;

(b) Sharing experiences, practices and lessons learned from voluntary national implementation of the adopted Guidelines;

(c) Raising awareness and building capacity, in particular among emerging space nations and developing countries.

7. The Working Group will attach equal importance to each of the three elements of the guiding framework set out in paragraph 6 above.
8. The Working Group will take as its legal framework the existing United Nations treaties and principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space.
9. The Working Group will produce a thorough report on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, containing the following:
 - (a) Information on the identification and study of challenges, and corresponding recommendations, as well as possible new guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities;
 - (b) Information on experiences, practices and lessons learned from voluntary implementation of the adopted Guidelines and recommendations for their further practical implementation;
 - (c) Information on and recommendations for capacity-building and awareness-raising activities, including those related to improving international cooperation in capacity-building, taking into particular consideration the requirements of emerging space nations and developing countries;
 - (d) Recommendations on future activities and work.

III. Methods of work

10. The Working Group, led by the Chair and assisted by the Secretariat, is to be guided in its work by the rules of procedure, methods of work and established practices of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Working Group makes decisions by consensus and reports to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. The Working Group will meet during the annual sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, with the benefit of interpretation services, and may request that time be granted to meet during the sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.
11. The Working Group may request the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to coordinate with the Legal Subcommittee on legal questions.
12. The Working Group may decide, on an exceptional basis, to meet in the intersessional periods to advance its work. The scheduling of any such meetings will be agreed by the member States in advance at the formal sessions and may include opportunities to participate online, if possible, so as to encourage maximum participation.
13. The Working Group will structure its discussions in a sequential, non-simultaneous and balanced manner under the leadership of the Chair, giving equal importance and an equitable amount of time to each of the three elements of the guiding framework.
14. The Working Group will invite contributions from States members of the Committee for further discussion at its meetings.
15. The Chair of the Working Group, with the support of the Secretariat, will establish and maintain a list of points of contact for each member State and permanent observer to facilitate faster and more effective dissemination of information, in addition to continuing to use formal means of communication.
16. The Working Group will be open to all States members of the Committee. International intergovernmental organizations holding permanent observer status will participate in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions. As the Working Group is intergovernmental in nature, it may decide, in accordance with the established practices of the Committee, to invite contributions of information from international organizations and non-governmental entities, including from academia,

industry and the private sector, and those contributions will be coordinated through the identified national points of contact. To that end, workshops may be held during sessions and/or intersessional periods.

17. The formal documents of the Working Group will be made available in the six official languages of the United Nations.

IV. Multi-year workplan

The five-year workplan of the Working Group for the period 2022–2026 is as follows:

2022

Adoption of the terms of reference, methods of work and dedicated workplan for the Working Group.

Identify points of contact for each member State and permanent observer.

The Chair, in consultation with the Working Group, is to invite States members of the Committee, organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee and relevant United Nations entities, subject to the relevant provisions of paragraphs 15 and 16 above, to provide information and views on the topics in paragraphs 4 and 6 above, by requesting inputs in a format deemed appropriate.

2023

Information and views are to continue to be submitted, as in 2022.

The Chair and the Secretariat are to compile information received and the Working Group is to start consultations and exchanges thereon, with the goal of developing recommendations as outlined in paragraphs 4, 6 and 9.

An agenda is to be developed for the workshop to be held in 2024.

2024

The Chair is to present an updated draft compilation of the information and views received, for the consideration of the Working Group, at the sixty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

The Working Group is to start developing recommendations and to continue consultations and exchanges, as outlined in paragraphs 4, 6 and 9.

A workshop is to be held, within existing resources, on the margins of the sixty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, with the agenda to be defined in 2023, on the topics in paragraphs 4 and 6 above, with inputs from national governmental organizations, international intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and academia.

A report on the workshop is to be prepared by the Chair with the support of the Secretariat.

Member States may organize additional technical workshops and/or technical meetings, including at the regional and international levels, and provide the outcome of those technical workshops/technical meetings to the Working Group for its consideration.

The Chair is to prepare a draft report, taking into account the work of the Working Group.

2025

The Chair is to present the updated draft report, for the consideration of the Working Group, at the sixty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

The Working Group will:

- (a) Review the draft report;
- (b) Consider any additional information and views provided;
- (c) Continue the development of a thorough report, which contains all of the elements of paragraph 9, including recommendations, in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 6 above, with a view to consolidating them and enabling the Chair to prepare a draft final report of the Working Group.

2026

The draft final report of the Working Group is to be finalized and presented to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its sixty-third session, to include the following:

- (a) Information on the identification and study of challenges, and corresponding recommendations, as well as possible new guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities;
 - (b) Information on experiences, practices and lessons learned from voluntary implementation of the adopted Guidelines and recommendations for their further practical implementation;
 - (c) Information on and recommendations for capacity-building and awareness-raising activities, including those related to improving international cooperation in capacity-building, taking into particular consideration the requirements of emerging space nations and developing countries;
 - (d) Recommendations on future activities and work.
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