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English only

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**Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**  
Sixty-sixth session  
Vienna, 31 May–9 June 2023

## **Review of management of printed documents at sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees**

### **Paper submitted by the Secretariat**

#### **1. Background**

1. At its fifty-sixth session, in 2019, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee heard various proposals relating to document management, including: (a) to provide delegations with the opportunity to opt out of receiving paper copies of pre-session documents for sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies; (b) not to distribute paper copies of documents by default, but to provide delegations with the opportunity to opt in to receiving documents in hard copy; (c) to distribute documents only to member States and organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee; (d) to upload documents distributed in session to the website at the time of their physical distribution; and (e) to indicate on documents the date of their publication on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (A/AC.105/1202, annex I, appendix).

2. At its session in 2019, the Committee requested that the Secretariat inform member States of the procedure for voluntary opting out of receiving paper copies of pre-session documents (A/74/20, para. 321 (d)).

3. Owing to the preventive health measures and global travel restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees were conducted in a virtual/hybrid format. As a result of these virtual/hybrid arrangements, there was no physical distribution of paper copies of pre-session documents and conference room papers after March 2020. Distribution of such printed documents was resumed in 2023.

#### **2. Pre-session documents**

4. The table below contains the number of pre-session documents made available to delegations in printed form (excl. conference room papers).



<i>Body</i>	<i>Number of documents</i>			<i>Number of pages (based on English version)</i>		
	<i>2015</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2023</i>
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	28	33	5	446	487	131
Legal Subcommittee	16	19	5	197	224	119
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	22	13	6	477	249	177
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1057</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>427</b>

5. In 2023, secretariat of the Committee has successfully achieved significant savings in terms of printed pages of pre-session documents, by reducing the number of pre-session documents made available to delegations in printed form from 61–65 documents to 16 documents per year.

6. On average, there has been a reduction in the range of 524–630 pages per delegation per year. This achievement demonstrates the secretariat's commitment to promoting sustainability and reducing paper usage within the Committee's operations.

7. Considering that there are 151 delegations of States members and permanent observers to the Committee, the reduction achieved in printed pages of pre-session documents translates to a substantial potential saving of approximately 80,000 to 95,000 pages per year.

### 3. In-session documents: conference room papers (CRPs)

8. The table below contains the number of in-session documents (conference room papers) produced at sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees in 2021–2023:

<i>Body</i>	<i>Number of CRPs</i>			<i>Number of pages (based on English version)</i>		
	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	27	22	32	314	348	364
Legal Subcommittee	27	24	41	298	384	538
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	20	17	20+	179	232	

9. With the growing membership/observership of the Committee and the increasing number and volume of conference room papers, the importance of saving paper becomes more pronounced.

10. At the sixtieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in 2023, the STSC Working Group of the Whole requested the secretariat to inform States members of the Committee and international intergovernmental organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee about the procedure for voluntarily opting out of receiving paper copies of in-session documentation.

11. Beginning in 2023, secretariat to the Committee has implemented a United Nations secretariat-wide approach, under which pigeonholes are no longer allocated to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for the distribution of documentation packages. Instead, printed copies of documents are made available to delegations upon request.

Pre-session documents made available to delegations in printed form at sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

2015		2018		2023	
<i>Symbol number</i>	<i>Pages</i>	<i>Symbol number</i>	<i>Pages</i>	<i>Symbol number</i>	<i>Pages</i>
A/69/20	60	A/72/20	53	A/77/20	59
A/AC.105/1065	49	A/AC.105/1138	51	A/AC.105/1258	53
A/AC.105/C.1/L.341	8	A/AC.105/C.1/L.363	7	A/AC.105/C.1/L.405	7
A/RES/69/38	3	A/RES/72/78	3	A/RES/77/120	4
A/RES/69/85	7	A/RES/72/77	7	A/RES/77/121	8
A/AC.105/1069	13	A/RES/72/79	2		
A/AC.105/1073	13	A/AC.105/1129	12		
A/AC.105/1074	14	A/AC.105/1137	25		
A/AC.105/1075	16	A/AC.105/1154	19		
A/AC.105/1076	10	A/AC.105/1156	9		
A/AC.105/1077	17	A/AC.105/1157	10		
A/AC.105/1077/Add.1	13	A/AC.105/1158	14		
A/AC.105/1077/Add.2	8	A/AC.105/1159	3		
A/AC.105/1078	23	A/AC.105/1160	8		
A/AC.105/1079	9	A/AC.105/1161	12		
A/AC.105/1080	16	A/AC.105/1162	10		
A/AC.105/1081	12	A/AC.105/1163	8		
A/AC.105/1082	14	A/AC.105/1164	13		
A/AC.105/1083	15	A/AC.105/1165	8		
A/AC.105/1084	6	A/AC.105/1166	33		
A/AC.105/1085	22	A/AC.105/1169	8		
A/AC.105/1086	16	A/AC.105/1170	13		
A/AC.105/1087	6	A/AC.105/1171	19		
A/AC.105/C.1/109	13	A/AC.105/1172	16		
A/AC.105/C.1/109/Add.1	5	A/AC.105/1173	10		
A/AC.105/C.1/L.340	23	A/AC.105/1174	12		
A/AC.105/C.1/L.342	15	A/AC.105/1175	14		
A/AC.105/C.1/L.343	20	A/AC.105/C.1/113	8		
		A/AC.105/C.1/114	14		
		A/AC.105/C.1/L.357	14		
		A/AC.105/C.1/L.362/Rev.1	36		
		A/AC.105/C.1/L.364	7		
		A/AC.105/L.297	9		

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 Pre-session documents made available to delegations in printed form at sessions of the Legal Subcommittee
 

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2015		2018		2023	
<i>Symbol number</i>	<i>Pages</i>	<i>Symbol number</i>	<i>Pages</i>	<i>Symbol number</i>	<i>Pages</i>
A/AC.105/889/Add.15	3	A/72/20	53	A/77/20	59
A/AC.105/1067	43	A/AC.105/1122	49	A/AC.105/1260	40
A/AC.105/C.2/L.295	7	A/AC.105/C.2/L.303	7	A/AC.105/C.2/L.323	8
A/RES/69/38	3	A/RES/72/77	7	A/RES/77/120	4
A/RES/69/85	7	A/RES/72/78	3	A/RES/77/121	8
A/AC.105/889/Add.15	3	A/RES/72/79	2		
A/AC.105/889/Add.16	3	A/AC.105/1039/Add.10	8		
A/AC.105/1039/Add.4	6	A/AC.105/1039/Add.11	3		
A/AC.105/1039/Add.5	3	A/AC.105/1112/Add.4	2		
A/AC.105/1080	16	A/AC.105/1112/Add.5	2		
A/AC.105/1080/Add.1	7	A/AC.105/1155	5		
A/AC.105/1088	57	A/AC.105/1167	47		
A/AC.105/1089	8	A/AC.105/1169	8		
A/AC.105/C.2/106	19	A/AC.105/865/Add.20	2		
A/AC.105/C.2/107	10	A/AC.105/865/Add.21	2		
A/AC.105/C.2/L.282	2	A/AC.105/C.2/113	11		
		A/AC.105/C.2/L.302	4		
		A/AC.105/C.2/L.305	5		
		A/AC.105/C.2/L.306	4		

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Pre-session documents made available to delegations in printed form at sessions of the  
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

2015		2018		2023	
<i>Symbol number</i>	<i>Pages</i>	<i>Symbol number</i>	<i>Pages</i>	<i>Symbol number</i>	<i>Pages</i>
A/69/20	60	A/72/20	53	A/77/20	59
A/AC.105/1088	57	A/AC.105/1167	47	A/AC.105/1279	49
A/AC.105/1090	44	A/AC.105/1177	43	A/AC.105/1285	47
A/AC.105/L.292	10	A/AC.105/L.312	9	A/AC.105/L.333	10
A/RES/69/38	3	A/RES/72/77	7	A/RES/77/120	4
A/RES/69/85	7	A/RES/72/78	3	A/RES/77/121	8
A/68/189*	22	A/RES/72/79	2		
A/AC.105/1080	16	A/AC.105/1143	8		
A/AC.105/1080/Add.1	7	A/AC.105/1168	14		
A/AC.105/1080/Add.2	9	A/AC.105/1179	15		
A/AC.105/1085	22	A/AC.105/1180	13		
A/AC.105/1091	21	A/AC.105/L.313	6		
A/AC.105/1093	9	A/AC.105/L.315	29		
A/AC.105/C.1/L.343	20				
A/AC.105/C.2/L.282	2				
A/AC.105/L.293	4				
A/AC.105/L.294	17				
A/AC.105/L.295	16				
A/AC.105/L.296	16				
A/AC.105/L.297	9				
A/AC.105/L.298	16				
ST/SPACE/61/Rev.1	90				