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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
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Draft report

Addendum

VI. Future role and method of work of the Committee

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 78/72, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 8, entitled “Future role and method of work of the Committee”.
2. The representatives of China, France, Indonesia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Romania, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States made statements under agenda item 8. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were made by representatives of other member States.
3. The Subcommittee had before it the following:
 - (a) Conference room paper submitted by Romania and co-sponsored by Switzerland containing a proposal on a consultative mechanism on lunar activities (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.18/Rev.1);
 - (b) Conference room paper by Portugal containing a report on the policy preparatory symposium of the United Nations/Portugal Management and Sustainability of Outer Space Activities Conference, held online from 11 to 15 March 2024 (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.33);
 - (c) Conference room paper by the National Space Society (A/AC.105/C.2/2024/CRP.30/Rev.1).
4. The Subcommittee noted that the Committee and its subcommittees served as a unique platform for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.
5. Some delegations expressed the view that it was necessary to strengthen coordination between the Committee and other United Nations bodies, mechanisms and processes, and that the work related to outer space of each of those bodies should be carried out in accordance with its respective mandate.
6. The view was expressed that the consideration of issues within the purview of the Committee should not be transferred to parallel platforms. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that four of the five items on the agenda



of the open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 78/20 related to the mandate of the Committee.

7. The view was also expressed that the work of the open-ended working group focused on threats by States to space systems, while the work conducted in the Committee focused on the safety and sustainability of space activities, and that those two discussions were relevant to each other.

8. The view was expressed that the principle of consensus followed by the Committee allowed it to make universally applicable decisions.

9. The view was expressed that it was important to retain the intergovernmental nature of the governance of outer space activities.

10. The view was expressed that the private sector and the legal community should be included in the work of the Committee.

11. Some delegations expressed the view that although non-governmental processes could benefit or supplement the work of the Committee in certain ways, such processes should not interfere with that work.

12. The view was expressed that persistent efforts should be made to achieve more diversified and institutionalized capacity-building, that continued support should be given to all regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, and that those centres should enhance their exchanges and cooperation with one another. The delegation expressing that view also expressed the view that with the rapid development of private sector activities in outer space, commercial space entities were expected to shoulder more responsibilities in terms of capacity-building.

13. Some delegations expressed that view that the subcommittees should increase coordination, interaction and synergies on cross-cutting issues, and pay greater attention to new developments and challenges in the peaceful uses of outer space.

14. Some delegations expressed the view that such cross-cutting issues might include the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, space debris, space traffic management, small satellites, megaconstellations, space resources, lunar space exploration and the prevention and resolution of conflicts arising from outer space activities.

15. The view was expressed that the Committee should establish ad hoc expert groups with respective workplans to accelerate discussions on pending issues.

16. The view was expressed that a study group should be established to explore ways and means to manage space traffic.

17. The view was expressed that the Committee should develop a binding regulatory framework on space traffic management, possibly in the form of a United Nations treaty.

18. The view was expressed that international normative efforts in space law should be complemented by national efforts.

19. The view was expressed that the issue of the cybersecurity of space activities should be included on the agenda of the Subcommittee, and that an international conference should be convened under the auspices of the Committee to exchange views on the matter.

20. The view was expressed that new items should be added to the agenda of the Committee and its subcommittees only when other items were removed.

21. Some delegations expressed the view that further consolidation of items on the agenda of the Committee and its subcommittees should be considered.

22. The view was expressed that consideration should be given to merging agenda items 10, 12 and 13, on space debris, space traffic management and small-satellite activities.

23. The view was expressed that the discussions of the Committee and its subcommittees should be closely related to agenda items.
24. The view was expressed that it was necessary to streamline the reports of the Committee and its subcommittees.
25. The view was expressed that it was important to promote the inclusiveness of the debates through commitment to multilingualism and the equal status of all working languages.
26. The Subcommittee commended the secretariat for the smooth implementation of the consecutive scheduling of agenda items.
27. The Subcommittee recalled the Committee's agreement that States and international intergovernmental organizations with permanent observer status could request to receive conference room papers in hard copy, to be placed in their respective pigeonholes (A/78/20, para. 351 (f)), and, noting the low demand, as well as the limitations imposed on the Secretariat by the liquidity crisis, agreed that pre-session documents and conference room papers would be made available to delegations electronically or printed on demand.
28. In line with the request by the Working Group of the Whole at the sixty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in January and February 2024 (A/AC.105/1307, annex 1, para. 9), the Subcommittee noted with appreciation that informal consultations on the establishment of an action team to study a potential consultative mechanism for lunar activities within the framework of the Committee, led by the delegation of Romania, had been held on the margins of the present session, and agreed that Romania would lead intersessional work, with the support of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, on the further development of a draft mandate, terms of reference and methods of work for the proposed action team, so that the decision could be made by the Committee at its sixty-seventh session, in 2024.
29. The Subcommittee noted that informal consultations had been held on 23 April, at the invitation of the delegations of Argentina, Germany and Japan, to discuss several ideas regarding ways to make progress on topics related to space traffic management and space debris.
30. The Subcommittee took note of those ideas, including a proposal to establish a study group on perspectives of space traffic management, and welcomed the organization of further consultations with a view to revisiting those ideas at the sixty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, in 2025, under the relevant agenda items, taking into account the ongoing work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, including the work of its Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.