



General Assembly

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**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fifty-seventh session
Vienna, 3–14 February 2020**

Draft report of the Working Group of the Whole

1. In accordance with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution [74/82](#), the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fifty-seventh session, reconvened its Working Group of the Whole.
2. From 7 to 13 February 2020, the Working Group held [...] meetings, with P. Kunhikrishnan (India) as Chair. The Working Group considered the following items:
 - (a) Space technology for sustainable socioeconomic development;
 - (b) Future role and method of work of the Committee;
 - (c) Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
3. The Working Group had before it the note by the Secretariat entitled “Governance and method of work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies” ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.384](#)).
4. The Working Group recalled that, at its sixty-first session, in 2018, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had agreed to the multi-year workplan on the governance and method of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.
5. The Working Group noted that, in accordance with the multi-year workplan, consideration of 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](#)) would continue at the sessions of the Legal Subcommittee and the Committee to be held in 2020, under the respective agenda items on the future role and method of work of the Committee.
6. The Working Group discussed the large number of requests for scientific and technical presentations to be made during the sessions of the Subcommittee. The Working Group acknowledged the value of such presentations, while noting the need to better balance the consideration of agenda items in plenary, the delivery of presentations and the work of working groups undertaken with the benefit of interpretation services.
7. The Working Group therefore agreed on the following measures:
 - (a) Working Group meetings are to be held before the delivery of presentations at each meeting of the Subcommittee;



(b) When delegations request the scheduling of presentations, they are to indicate which of their presentations they wish to be given priority consideration, given that there may not be enough time at a session to accommodate all requests;

(c) Presentations by national delegations are to be made before presentations by permanent observers;

(d) A maximum of three presentations per meeting are to be scheduled, as previously agreed by the Subcommittee at its fifty-second session, in 2015 (see [A/AC.105/1088](#), para. 275 (c));

(e) The length of each presentation is to be limited to 12 minutes.

8. The Working Group noted other measures proposed by delegations, such as limiting the number of presentations per delegation, scheduling presentations only in the latter part of afternoon meetings and establishing a time-bound period prior to each session within which requests for presentations should be communicated to the Secretariat. The Working Group agreed that such proposed measures, among others, should be further discussed under the multi-year workplan referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5 above.

9. The Working Group noted the possible benefit of setting a deadline for the Secretariat to receive requests by non-members of the Committee to attend sessions as observers and recommended that the Secretariat set a deadline of one week prior to the opening of sessions. The Working Group noted that the Secretariat would inform non-members of the Committee of that deadline at the regular briefings for permanent missions held prior to each session of the Committee and its subcommittees.

10. The Working Group noted that the Secretariat would continue to consult with the Conference Management Service of the United Nations Office at Vienna on possible measures to be instituted to enhance the administration and logistical arrangements of the sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees and, in that connection, would explore practices used by the secretariats of other intergovernmental bodies in Vienna.

11. The Working Group of the Whole noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [74/82](#), the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would submit to the Committee its proposal for the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-eighth session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2021.

12. The Working Group considered the list of substantive items contained in the provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session of the Subcommittee ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.383](#)) and recommended that the same substantive items should be considered at the fifty-eighth session of the Subcommittee.

13. The Working Group noted that, in accordance with the agreement reached by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session, in 2007 ([A/AC.105/890](#), annex I, para. 24), the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) would organize a symposium to be held at the fifty-eighth session of the Subcommittee. The Working Group also noted that IAF would present to the Committee, at its sixty-third session, in 2020, a proposed topic for the symposium.

14. At its [...] meeting, on [...] February, the Working Group adopted the present report.