



General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 February 2023
English
Original: Russian

Open-ended working group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours

Geneva, 30 January–3 February 2023

Agenda item 4

Organization of work

Participation of non-State actors in official plenary meetings of the Open-ended working group established under General Assembly resolution 76/231 of 21 December 2021 on reducing space threats through the adoption of norms rules and principles of responsible behaviours

Working paper submitted by the Russian Federation*

1. The Russian Federation notes that the issue of non-State actors' participation in official plenary meetings of the Open-ended working group has remained unresolved since the Group held its organizational session in Geneva in February 2022. We note the continuing lack of consensus among United Nations States Members on this issue.
2. We emphasize that only Member States have the right to make oral statements at the Group's official plenary meetings. Non-State actors can speak exclusively during the specialized informal segment of the Group's session, or at the Chair's informal intersessional consultative meetings.
3. The Chair's ruling on 30 and 31 January that non-State actors could speak at the Group's official plenary sessions failed to take account of the Russian Federation's opinion and departed from the principle of consensus established by the Group's mandate. Under the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Group's Chair is not authorized to make such a ruling which constitutes an abuse of his duties as Chair and undermines the fundamental principle of consensus on which the Group's work is predicated in accordance with General Assembly resolution 76/231.
4. Accordingly, we consider the Chair's ruling to be null and void in the context of the Group's activities. In the absence of consensus on this issue among delegations and any understandings recorded in the Group's mandate regarding possible statements by non-State actors during its plenary meetings, we reserve the right to regard such statements as having no official status and being of an informal nature and we are also opposed to any mention of them.
5. In order to put the Group's activities back on a constructive tack and make them consonant with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and the principle of consensus established in its mandate, we urge the Chair of the Group to continue working to reach a consensus decision on this matter, or to note that this is impossible.

* This document was submitted after the deadline owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.

