

# **Draft programme for the joint panel discussion of the First and Fourth Committees on possible challenges to space security and sustainability**

**Prepared by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Office for Disarmament Affairs**

## **Mandate**

By its resolution 71/90, the General Assembly “*decides* to convene, within existing resources, a joint half-day panel discussion of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee) and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to constitute a joint contribution by the First and Fourth Committees to the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies ...”

## **Draft programme<sup>1,2</sup>**

The 60th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space took note of the proposed concept note by the Secretariat on the joint panel discussion and made recommendations for consideration jointly by the First and Fourth Committees of the General Assembly, as contained in document A/72/20, paragraph 339. Those recommendations are reflected in the draft programme.

### **Thursday, 12 October 2017**

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|---------------------------|--|
| 10:00-10:15 a.m.          | Opening of the panel discussion by the Chairs of the First and Fourth Committees   |
| 10:15-10:30 a.m.          | Keynote addresses by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs  |
| 10:30 a.m.-<br>12:00 p.m. | Presentations by invited panellists (TBD) from the broader space community, including academia, civil society, industry and the private sector, taking into account gender-balanced representation and youth representation <sup>3</sup> |
|                           | A question and answer session will follow each presentation  |
| 12:00-1:00 p.m.           | Interactive dialogue by Member States  |

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\* A/71/150

<sup>1</sup> A Co-Chairs’ summary of the panel discussion and interactive dialogue will be issued after the conclusion of the panel discussion

<sup>2</sup> The half-day session is organized as part of a broader set of observances endorsed by COPUOS for the 50th anniversary of the Outer Space Treaty and is being conducted without prejudice to the established rules of procedure and working methods for either the First Committee or the Fourth Committee

<sup>3</sup> Abstracts of the presentations will be circulated to Member States as soon as possible in advance

## **Indicative themes of the panel discussion in support of the interactive dialogue**

The panel discussion will address the general topic of possible challenges to space security and sustainability, taking into account ongoing deliberations within the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Conference of Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission related to addressing possible challenges to space security and sustainability.

The overarching theme is the 50th anniversary of the Outer Space Treaty, taking into account its past, present and future. The Outer Space Treaty<sup>4</sup> provides a common ground for a comprehensive dialogue in the First and Fourth Committees in view of the 50th anniversary of the Treaty.

The panel presentation is intended to serve as a starting point for the subsequent interactive discussion.

The following indicative themes and related indicative questions are suggested to promote a comprehensive debate and serve as the frame for the overall joint panel discussion, and to promote a focused and structured interactive dialogue among delegations:

1) *The Outer Space Treaty - 50 years in service for the peaceful uses of outer space and in maintaining international peace and security:*

- Considering that the achievements in space exploration and the development of space science and technology and their applications and spin-offs have exceeded all expectations at the time when the Treaty entered into force, how does the Treaty continue to serve all States, regardless of their level of development, in facilitating international cooperation and coordination for the benefit of space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy for the safety, security and sustainability of outer space activities?
- What measures need to be considered to achieve universalization of the Treaty, and what increased role could regional and interregional cooperation and coordination play in advancing the peaceful exploration and use of outer space?

2) *The legal regime of outer space and global governance of outer space activities:*

- Are recent scientific, technological and military developments, as well as the increasing participation of new space actors, giving rise to a need to strengthen or supplement the legal and global governance regime for outer space activities, in order to ensure security and sustainability?
- What role can voluntary non-legally binding instruments play in supplementing legally binding treaties and instruments to secure the future sustainability of outer space activities and the use of space assets and systems for the benefit of all nations and their economic, social and cultural development?

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<sup>4</sup> Most notably its Articles III and IV

3) *Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes:*

- How can United Nations bodies best facilitate the implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities in order to ensure the safety of space operations and the security of space assets and space systems, and ultimately to assist in maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and in helping to prevent an arms race in outer space?
- What role could the broader space community have in this regard, including international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, industry and private sector, and academia and civil society?

4) *Efforts to ensure space sustainability for all nations:*

- Considering that outer space activities continue to hold immense potential to further advance human knowledge, drive socioeconomic progress and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, what measures for capacity-building, training, and information exchange would facilitate efforts to ensure the security and sustainability of outer space activities for all nations, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development?
- What increased role could the United Nations system play in promoting and building the necessary capacity of all nations to be able to explore and use space, including access to space-derived data and information, access to the participation in and the benefits of space exploration efforts, and access to continuous safe and secure space operations?