United Nations
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

History, Structure, Agenda, and Current Work

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United Nations System

Six principal organs of the United Nations (in no particular order) [UN Charter, Article 7.1]:

- The General Assembly (UNGA)
- The Security Council (The P-5 are USA, UK, France, Russia, China)*
- The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- Trusteeship Council (suspended in 1994)
- The International Court of Justice (ICJ)
- The Secretariat

*Non-permanent SC members: Angola, Malaysia, New Zealand, Spain, Venezuela (2015, ‘16)
COPUOS in the United Nations System

Main Committees to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The First Committee</th>
<th>Disarmament and International Security</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Second Committee</td>
<td>Economic and Financial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Third Committee</td>
<td>Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Fourth Committee</td>
<td>Special Political and Decolonization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Fifth Committee</td>
<td>Administrative and Budgetary</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Sixth Committee</td>
<td>Legal</td>
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+ Procedural Committees, and Standing Committees

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee deals with a variety of subjects which include those related to decolonization, Palestinian refugees and human rights, peacekeeping, mine action, outer space, public information, atomic radiation and University for Peace. COPUOS reports to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (4th Committee).

Meanwhile, the UN Conference on Disarmament (CD) reports to the Disarmament and International Security Committee (1st Committee). However, the CD has been deadlocked for almost 20 years.
17 December 1966

Mr. Kurt Waldheim (Austria) addressing the Committee on the Draft Treaty on Exploration and Uses of Outer Space.

UNGA First Committee

17 December 1966  UN General Assembly First Committee.
Mr. E.E. Seaton (United Republic of Tanzania) (right) and Mr. Arthur J. Goldberg (USA) addressing the Committee on the Draft Treaty on Exploration and Uses of Outer Space. United Nations, New York.

10 September 1962
Second Session of COPUOS

(first row, left to right):
Ambassador T. P. Plimpton (USA), speaking
Miss. J.A.C. Gutteridge (UK)
Mr. El Sayed Raouf El Reedy (United Arab Republic)
Ambassador Platon Morozov (USSR).

9 September 1963  Fourth Session of COPUOS

## History of COPUOS and Space Law

### Instrument

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Resolution/Convention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>UNGA Res. 1348 (XIII) COPUOS <em>ad hoc</em> committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>UNGA Res. 1472 (XIV) COPUOS permanent committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>UNGA Res. 1721 (XVI) <em>International Cooperation Resolution</em></td>
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<td>1963</td>
<td>UNGA Res. 1962 (XVIII) <em>Legal Principles Declaration</em></td>
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<td>1967</td>
<td><strong>Outer Space Treaty</strong></td>
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<td>1968</td>
<td><strong>Rescue Agreement</strong></td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td><strong>Liability Convention</strong></td>
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<td>1975</td>
<td><strong>Registration Convention</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td><strong>Moon Agreement</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>UNGA Res. 37/92 <em>Direct Broadcasting Principles</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>UNGA Res. 41/65 <em>Remote Sensing Principles</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>UNGA Res. 47/68 <em>Nuclear Power Sources Principles</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>UNGA Res. 51/122 <em>International Cooperation Declaration</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>UNGA Res. 62/217 <em>Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Nuclear Power Sources Safety Framework</td>
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</table>
1959: 24 Member States
2016: 83 Member States

(Question: Must States be party to the OST before becoming a Member of COPUOS?)
COPUOS Members and Observers

Observers

Cote d’Ivore, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Panama, the Holy See, Sovereign Order of Malta.

**Intergovernmental Organizations:**
The European Union (EU), Economic and Social Order for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), the Association of Remote Sensing Centres in the Arab World, the European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO), the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Telecommunications Satellite Organization (EUTELSAT-IGO), the International Mobile Satellite Organization, the International Organization of Space Communications, the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization and the Regional Centre for Remote Sensing of North African States, and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT)
OBSERVERS

Non-Governmental Organizations:
the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), the International Academy of Astronautics, the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), the International Institute of Space Law (IISL), the International Law Association (ILA), the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, the National Space Society (NSS), the Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water (PSIPW), the Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP), the Secure World Foundation (SWF), the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) and the World Space Week Association (WSWA).
# 2016 Schedule of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subbody</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>53\textsuperscript{nd} Scientific and Technical Subcommittee</td>
<td>15 – 26 February 2016</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
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<tr>
<td>55\textsuperscript{th} Legal Subcommittee</td>
<td>4 - 15 April 2016</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59\textsuperscript{th} Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space</td>
<td>8 – 17 June 2016</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
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</table>
2014 Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
2010 COPUOS in the UN Vienna “M” Building, normally used by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
2010 COPUOS in the UN Vienna “M” Building, normally used by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
Back in the traditional COPUOS room, UNOV “E” building, in 2014
Working Groups of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
(all at http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/)

1. Working Group of the Whole

2. Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space

3. Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities
   Chair: Peter Martinez (South Africa). 2014 completed the preliminary draft guidelines on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. 33 non-binding guidelines for actors in space. Will be brought to COPUOS in June 2014 for further discussion prior to the 2015 STSC, where he hopes to achieve consensus on the draft guidelines. If successful, the final report could be presented to COPUOS in 2015 and possibly the UNGA thereafter.
   A/AC.105/C.1/L.339 at http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of the Chair.
3. Statement by the Chair.
4. General exchange of views.
5. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law.
6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.
7. Matters relating to:
   (a) The definition and delimitation of outer space;
   (b) The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.
8. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.
10. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

11. General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

12. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space.

13. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management.

14. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small satellite activities.

15. Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

16. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-sixth session.
Working Groups of the Legal Subcommittee

   Chair: Jean-Françoise Mayence (Belgium) - Bernhard Schmidt-Tedd (Germany)

2. Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space.
   Chair: Prof. José-Monserrat Filho (Brazil)

   Established 2013, workplan to 2017. Chair: Prof. Setsuko Aoki (Japan)
Draft Provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Committee

The Committee recommended that the following items be considered at its fifty-ninth session, in 2016:

1. Election of Officers
2. General exchange of views.
3. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
6. Space and sustainable development.
7. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
8. Space and water.
9. Space and climate change.
10. Use of space technology in the United Nations systems.
11. Future role of the Committee.
12. Other Matters.

2016 COPUOS Agenda
(all at http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/)
Questions / Comments?
Thank You!

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