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

United Nations General Assembly, October 2014
COPUOS in the United Nations System

Main Committees to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

The First Committee: Disarmament and International Security
The Second Committee: Economic and Financial
The Third Committee: Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian
The Fourth Committee: Special Political and Decolonization
The Fifth Committee: Administrative and Budgetary
The Sixth Committee: Legal

+ 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.
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.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Instrument</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>UNGA Res. 1348 (XIII) COPUOS <em>ad hoc</em> committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>UNGA Res. 1472 (XIV) COPUOS permanent committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>UNGA Res. 1721 (XVI) <em>International Cooperation Resolution</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>UNGA Res. 1962 (XVIII) <em>Legal Principles Declaration</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td><em>Outer Space Treaty</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td><em>Rescue Agreement</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td><em>Liability Convention</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td><em>Registration Convention</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td><em>Moon Agreement</em></td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>UNGA Res. 47/68 <em>Nuclear Power Sources Principles</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>UNGA Res. 51/122 <em>International Cooperation Declaration</em></td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1959: 24 Member States
2017: 84 Member States

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

- There are 36 states which are a party to the Outer Space Treaty, but which are not members of COPUOS: Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Cyprus, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North), Denmark, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Guinea-Bissau, Iceland, Ireland, Jamaica, Kuwait, Laos, Lithuania, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nepal, Norway, Papua New Guinea, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Seychelles, Singapore, Togo, Tonga, Uganda, Yemen, and Zambia.

- The 16 states which are Member States of COPUOS, but which are not party to the Outer Space Treaty: Albania, Armenia, Bolivia, Cameroon, Chad, Columbia, Costa Rica, Ghana, Iran, Jordan, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Oman, Philippines, Senegal, and Sudan.
Observers

Cote d’Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Panama, the Holy See, Sovereign Order of Malta (list incomplete).

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),

+ IATA (2016)
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).
## 2017 Schedule of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subbody</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>54\textsuperscript{th} Scientific and Technical Subcommittee</td>
<td>30 Jan. - 10 Feb. 2017</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56\textsuperscript{th} Legal Subcommittee</td>
<td>27 Mar. - 7 Apr. 2017</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60\textsuperscript{th} Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space</td>
<td>7 - 16 June 2017</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Structure of UN Office for Outer Space Affairs

Office of the Director
- Register on Space Objects
- Public Outreach
- Youth

Committee, Policy and Legal Affairs Section

Space Applications Section

Programme on Space Applications
- Vienna

UN-SPIDER
- Bonn

ICG
- Beijing
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)
2010 COPUOS in the UN Vienna “M” Building, normally used by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
Back in the traditional COPUOS room, Board Room D, since 2014
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 2018, and possibly the UNGA thereafter.


March 25, 2017. First day of the 56th Legal Subcommittee. Vienna, Austria.
1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Statement by the Chair.
3. General exchange of views.
4. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law.
5. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.
6. 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.
7. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.
8. Capacity-building in space law.
9. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.
10. 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.
11. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space.
12. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management.
13. 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 Subcommittee.
Working Groups of the Legal Subcommittee

   Chair: 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)

Symposium organized by the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law on the theme “Legal models for exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources 50 years after the adoption of the Outer Space Treaty”
   http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/oosadoc/data/documents/2017/aac.105c.21/aac.105c.21.301add.1_0.html

2. Draft declaration on the 50th Anniversary of the Outer Space Treaty
   http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/oosadoc/data/documents/2017/aac.105c.22017crp/aac.105c.22017crp.28_0.html

3. UNISPACE+50 preparatory work
   • CRP 5. UNISPACE+50: Status of preparations
     http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/oosadoc/data/documents/2017/aac.105c.22017crp/aac.105c.22017crp.5_0.html
   • CRP 14. UNISPACE+50 thematic priority 2, entitled “Legal regime of outer space and global space governance: current and future perspectives” — draft working method.

**NOTE: Final 56th LSC Report is not published yet! Look for it for all final language, at**
2017 COPUOS Agenda

Draft Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Committee (June 7-16)

The Committee recommended that the following items be considered at its 60th session, in 2017:

1. General exchange of views.
2. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
5. Space and sustainable development.
7. Space and water.
8. Space and climate change.
10. Future role of the Committee.
11. Other matters.
| STSC Session  
(30 Jan to 10 Feb) | LSC Session  
(27 Mar to 7 Apr) | COPUOS Session  
(7-16 June) | UN-Space | 2nd HLF: Space as a driver for socioeconomic sustainable development | Outreach activities | Other UNOOSA Activities/Anniversary years |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| • Start of preparatory work for UNISPACE+50 outcomes in line with the Thematic Priorities  
• Marking the 50th anniversary of the Outer Space Treaty | • Start of preparatory work for UNISPACE+50 outcomes in line with the Thematic Priorities  
• Marking the 50th anniversary of the Outer Space Treaty | • Start of preparatory work for UNISPACE+50 outcomes in line with the Thematic Priorities  
• Marking the 50th anniversary of the Outer Space Treaty | • Venue, dates TBD | • Paris Space Week  
(dates TBD)  
• 33rd Space Symposium (3-6 April)  
• International Human Space Flight Day (12 April)  
• IAC, Adelaide, Australia (25-29 Sept.)  
• 72nd GA session  
• ISEF  
• World Space Week  
(4-10 October) | • 50th anniversary of Outer Space Treaty:  
• LSC and COPUOS to mark the anniversary  
• 72nd GA Session: 1st GA Committee and 4th GA Committee joint meeting / A special event in the presence of SG and other dignitaries/A dedicated GA declaration/outreach for UNISPACE in 2018  
• International Day of Human Space Flight/ World Space Week: dedicated to OST anniversary events |

**United Nations/United Arab Emirates - High Level Forum: Space as a Driver for Socio-Economic Sustainable Development**

**DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, 06 - 09 NOVEMBER 2017**

Organized jointly by  
the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the United Arab Emirates Space Agency  
Hosted by  
Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre  
## UNISPACE+50


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>STSC Session</th>
<th>LSC Session</th>
<th>COPUOS Session (18 - 29 June)</th>
<th>UN-Space</th>
<th>3rd HLF: Space as a driver for socioeconomic sustainable development</th>
<th>Outreach activities</th>
<th>Other UNOOSA Activities/Anniversary years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2018 | * UNISPACE+50 outcomes | * UNISPACE+50 outcomes | * 18-19 June: Dedicated events, seminar and symposia, involving civil society, commercial sector, media.  
  * 20 June: Opening of COPUOS session and UNISPACE+50  
  * Adoption of the UNISPACE+50 declaration and Plan of Action | * UNISPACE+50 outcomes | * Venue, dates TBD | * UN HQ, NY, January: Special Briefing on UNISPACE+50  
  * International Day of Human Space Flight (12 April)  
  * World Space Week (4-10 October) (on outcomes of UNISPACE+50)  
  * 73rd GA session: special event to present outcomes of UNISPACE+50 | * UNISPACE+50 YEAR: 73rd GA session: Special event to present outcomes of UNISPACE+50 |
Questions / Comments?

Thank You!

Chris Johnson
cjohnson@swfound.org