



General Assembly

Date: 31 August

English only

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

Geneva, 28 August – 1 September 2023

Agenda Item 7

Adoption of the report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session

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

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 76/231 adopted on 24 December 2021, the General Assembly decided “to convene, beginning in 2022, an open-ended working group:

(a) To take stock of the existing international legal and other normative frameworks concerning threats arising from State behaviours with respect to outer space;

(b) To consider current and future threats by States to space systems, and actions, activities and omissions that could be considered irresponsible;

(c) To make recommendations on possible norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours relating to threats by States to space systems, including, as appropriate, how they would contribute to the negotiation of legally binding instruments, including on the prevention of an arms race in outer space;

(d) To submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session”.

2. The General Assembly also decided that “the open-ended working group shall work on the basis of consensus, hold its organizational session in Geneva for two days, and meet in Geneva for two sessions of five days each in both 2022 and 2023, with the participation of intergovernmental organizations and other entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the work of the General Assembly, as well as organizations and bodies of the United Nations, and with the attendance of other international organizations, commercial actors and civil society representatives, in accordance with established practice”. It further decided that “the Chair may also hold intersessional consultative meetings with interested parties to exchange views on the issues within the mandate of the open-ended working group”.

II. Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the sessions

3. The working group held its sessions at the United Nations Office at Geneva. The working group held its organizational session on 7 and 9 February 2022.

4. At its 69th plenary meeting, on 26 April 2022, the General Assembly, on the proposal of Chile,¹ recalling its resolution 76/231 of 24 December 2021, in which it had decided to convene, beginning in 2022, an open-ended working group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours, noted that the open-ended working group had held its organizational session on 7 and 9 February 2022, and decided that the working group shall hold its first session of five days from 9 to 13 May 2022, its second session of five days from 12 to 16 September 2022, its third session of five days from 30 January to 3 February 2023 and its fourth session of five days from 7 to 11 August 2023, unless the working group decided otherwise.

5. The working group held its first substantive session from 9 to 13 May 2022. The working group held its second substantive session from 12 to 16 September 2022. The working group held its third substantive session from 30 January to 3 February 2023. Pursuant to the decision taken by the working group at its third substantive session, the working group held its fourth substantive session from 28 August to 1 September 2023.

6. The Office for Disarmament Affairs provided substantive support and secretariat services for the working group, with the assistance of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

B. Chairperson

7. At its organizational session, on 7 February 2022, the working group elected by acclamation Mr. Hellmut Lagos of Chile as Chairperson.

C. Attendance

8. The list of participants in the substantive sessions of the working group is contained in A/AC.294/2023/INF.3.

9. At its organizational session, the working group decided that other international organizations, commercial actors and civil society as referred to in paragraph 6 of resolution 76/231, would be able to attend the public plenary meetings of the group as observers and provide written contributions on matters under consideration by the group, which would be made available at no cost to the Organization. At each substantive session, the Chair provided the working group with a list of the entities with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council for information and a list of all other relevant organizations and commercial actors for consideration on a no-objection basis.

10. The list of other international organizations, commercial actors and civil society organizations that attended the working group is contained in A/AC.294/2023/INF.2.

D. Adoption of the agenda

11. At its organizational session, the working group adopted the agenda as contained in document A/AC.294/2022/2. The agenda reads as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of the Chairperson.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of Work.
5. General exchange of views.
6. Consideration of issues contained in paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution A/RES/76/231:

¹ A/76/L.50

- (a) To take stock of the existing international legal and other normative frameworks concerning threats arising from State behaviours with respect to outer space;
 - (b) To consider current and future threats by States to space systems, and actions, activities and omissions that could be considered irresponsible;
 - (c) To make recommendations on possible norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours relating to threats by States to space systems, including, as appropriate, how they would contribute to the negotiation of legally binding instruments, including on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.
- 7. Adoption of the report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session.
 - 8. Any other business.

E. Organization of work

12. At its organizational session, the working group affirmed the applicability, *mutatis mutandis*, of the Rules of Procedure of the United Nations General Assembly to the working group. It also affirmed that all decisions by the working group should be taken on the basis of consensus by all of the United Nations Member States.

F. Documentation

13. All official documents, working papers and other documents before the working group can be found at the website of the working group: <https://meetings.unoda.org/open-ended-working-group-on-reducing-space-threats-2022>.

G. Proceedings of the working group

14. At its first substantive session, the working group held discussions under agenda items 5 and 6(a).

15. At its second substantive session, the working group held discussions under agenda items 6(b).

16. At its third substantive session, the working group held discussions under agenda items 6(c).

17. At its fourth substantive session, the working group held discussions under agenda items 5 and 7.

18. On 25 January 2023, in accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution A/RES/76/231, the Chair of the working group held an intersessional consultative meeting with representatives of commercial actors and civil society.

H. Adoption of the report

19. At its fourth substantive session, from 28 August to 1 September 2023, the working group considered agenda item 7, entitled “Adoption of the report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session” and adopted its report as contained in A/AC.294/2023/CRP.2.