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Results of the intersessional informal consultations on the composition of the bureaux of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies

Note by the Secretariat

1. With regard to the unresolved issue of the composition of the bureaux of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies for the third term, starting with the forty-sixth session of the Committee, in 2003, the Committee agreed at its forty-fifth session,¹ in 2002, that Austria would hold intersessional informal consultations, including with the chairmen of the regional groups, with a view to reaching consensus before its forty-sixth session, in 2003.
2. Pursuant to that agreement, Austria convened a series of consultations in informal meetings with all the members of the Committee, with the chairmen of the regional groups and with the members of each of the regional groups.
3. As a result of those deliberations, the members of the Committee reached the agreement presented below, on the basis of the measures relating to the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, contained in the report of the Committee on the work of its fortieth session,² in 1997, which were endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/56 of 10 December 1997, in order to provide the basis for the election of the officers of the Committee at the beginning of its forty-sixth session.

I. Extension of the term of office of the current bureau of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

4. The term of office of the current Chairman of the Committee, Raimundo González Aninat (Chile), would be extended for a period of one year, starting with the forty-sixth session of the Committee, in 2003, up to the beginning of the



forty-seventh session, in 2004. Likewise, the term of office of the current First Vice-Chairman, Driss El Hadani (Morocco), and of the current Second Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur, Harijono Djodihardjo (Indonesia), would also be extended for one more year. The term of office of the current Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, Karl Doetsch (Canada), and of the current Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee, Vladimír Kopal (Czech Republic), would cover the full period of their current term of office up to the beginning of the forty-first session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the beginning of the forty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee, in 2004.

II. Future composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

5. With effect from the sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees in 2004, the term of each of the five offices of the Committee and its subcommittees would be for a period of two years, with a pattern of equitable geographical rotation being established in the following order: (a) Group of African States; (b) Group of Asian States; (c) Group of Eastern European States; (d) Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and (e) Group of Western European and Other States.

6. In accordance with this sequence and with effect from the sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees in 2004, the officers to be elected for the five offices should be determined by the regional groups in the following order (see annexes I and II): Chairman of the Committee; Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee; Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee; First Vice-Chairman of the Committee; and Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee.

7. With effect from 2004, the agreement on all the officers should be reached two years prior to the officers' assumption of their respective responsibilities. That agreement should be reflected in the Committee's report accordingly. Since every aspect of the establishment of the bureaux should be agreed upon by consensus, each regional group should ensure, with effect from 2004, that agreement within the group on the officer to be determined is reached two years prior to the beginning of the next term of the bureaux. This should ensure a consensus decision on the candidates from all five regional groups. In the case of later changes, such as in a case where an officer designated by a regional group is unable to assume his or her responsibilities for reasons of force majeure, the officer's country of origin and the respective regional group would designate another official as his or her replacement. Each regional group should determine a modality of decision-making to reach agreement on the candidate to be presented for consensus decision by the Committee, so that, in accordance with the traditional practice of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies, agreement on all officers of the bureaux can be reached through consensus. All member States of the Committee are eligible to be elected to any office in the bureaux. As a transitory measure, the Committee would agree at its forty-sixth session, in 2003, on the officers of the bureaux for the term starting in the year 2004.

8. With a view to assisting the officers of the bureaux of the Committee and its subcommittees in the general conduct of the Committee's business and to actively

promoting and ensuring coordination, continuity of expertise and experience, and equitable and greater participation in the work of the Committee and its subcommittees, the five officers of the bureaux would consult, as necessary, the incoming and outgoing officers in the context of their functional responsibilities within the Committee and its subcommittees. Starting in 2004, that group would hold consultations, with the participation of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, to informally discuss, from the interdisciplinary, intersectoral and inter-institutional perspective of its composition, any pertinent matters related to the peaceful uses of outer space and to the Committee and its subcommittees, without prejudice to the role and functions of the Committee and its subcommittees. The officers, including incoming and outgoing members of the bureaux, should inform the members of the Committee and the chairmen of the regional groups of the results of their consultations.

9. This agreement would complement the current arrangements concerning the terms of office, which are reflected in the subsection entitled “Composition of the bureaux” under section A, entitled “Working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies”, of the Chairman’s package proposal, as contained in the report of the Committee on its fortieth session,³ in 1997. The other measures in section A of the Chairman’s package proposal, contained in annex III to the present document, would remain unchanged.

Notes

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/57/20)*, para. 209.

² *Ibid.*, *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/52/20)*, annex I.

³ *Ibid.*, annex I, para. 2.

Annex I

Future regional and functional rotation scheme of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies: 10-year cycle starting in the year 2004, by office

(GRULAC = Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; WEOG = Group of Western European and Other States)

Office	First year: 2004 <i>(agreement in 2003)^b</i>	Second year: 2005 <i>(agreement in 2003)^b</i>	Third year: 2006 <i>(agreement in 2004)^b</i>	Fourth year: 2007 <i>(agreement in 2004)^b</i>	Fifth year: 2008 <i>(agreement in 2006)^b</i>	Sixth year: 2009 <i>(agreement in 2006)^b</i>	Seventh year: 2010 <i>(agreement in 2008)^b</i>	Eighth year: 2011 <i>(agreement in 2008)^b</i>	Ninth year: 2012 <i>(agreement in 2010)^b</i>	Tenth year: 2013 <i>(agreement in 2010)^b</i>	First year: 2014 ^a <i>(agreement in 2012)^b</i>	Second year: 2015 <i>(agreement in 2012)^b</i>
Chairman of the Committee	Group of African States	Group of African States	WEOG	WEOG	GRULAC	GRULAC	Group of Eastern European States	Group of Eastern European States	Group of Asian States	Group of Asian States	Group of African States	Group of African States
First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	GRULAC	GRULAC	Group of Eastern European States	Group of Eastern European States	Group of Asian States	Group of Asian States	Group of African States	Group of African States	WEOG	WEOG	GRULAC	GRULAC
Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Group of Asian States	Group of Asian States	Group of African States	Group of African States	WEOG	WEOG	GRULAC	GRULAC	Group of Eastern European States	Group of Eastern European States	Group of Asian States	Group of Asian States
Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	Group of Eastern European States	Group of Eastern European States	Group of Asian States	Group of Asian States	Group of African States	Group of African States	WEOG	WEOG	GRULAC	GRULAC	Group of Eastern European States	Group of Eastern European States
Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	WEOG	WEOG	GRULAC	GRULAC	Group of Eastern European States	Group of Eastern European States	Group of Asian States	Group of Asian States	Group of African States	Group of African States	WEOG	WEOG

^a The system of rotation will follow the same sequence after the tenth year of the cycle; thus, the distribution of responsibilities will be the same in 2014 as in 2004, the same in 2016 as in 2006 etc.

^b Year in which agreement is to be reached within the regional groups and among the members of the Committee.

Annex II

Future regional and functional rotation scheme of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies: 10-year cycle starting in the year 2004, by regional group

<i>Regional group</i>	<i>First year: 2004 (agreement in 2003)^b</i>	<i>Second year: 2005 (agreement in 2003)^b</i>	<i>Third year: 2006 (agreement in 2004)^b</i>	<i>Fourth year: 2007 (agreement in 2004)^b</i>	<i>Fifth year: 2008 (agreement in 2006)^b</i>	<i>Sixth year: 2009 (agreement in 2006)^b</i>	<i>Seventh year: 2010 (agreement in 2008)^b</i>	<i>Eighth year: 2011 (agreement in 2008)^b</i>	<i>Ninth year: 2012 (agreement in 2010)^b</i>	<i>Tenth year: 2013 (agreement in 2010)^b</i>	<i>First year: 2014^a (agreement in 2012)^b</i>	<i>Second year: 2015 (agreement in 2012)^b</i>
Group of African States	Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Committee
Group of Asian States	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee
Group of Eastern European States	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC)	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee
Group of Western European and Other States (WEOG)	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Second Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	First Vice-Chairman of the Committee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee	Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee

^a The system of rotation will follow the same sequence after the tenth year of the cycle; thus, the distribution of responsibilities will be the same in 2014 as in 2004, the same in 2016 as in 2006 etc.

^b Year in which agreement is to be reached within the regional groups and among the members of the Committee.

Annex III

Measures in section A of the Chairman's package proposal, as contained in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on its fortieth session, in 1997^a

Composition of the bureaux

- Every aspect of the establishment of the bureaux should be agreed upon by a consensus of the Committee.
- The bureaux will consist of the five current offices: Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee; Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee; and Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
- The five offices should rotate among the five regional groups, with one office being allocated to each of the regional groups: African Group, Asian Group, Eastern European Group, Latin American and Caribbean Group, and Group of Western European and other States.
- Consultations should be held among the regional groups two sessions before the beginning of the next term to agree on the current officer(s) to be re-elected, if any, and to determine which group will be responsible for which office, taking into account the principle of rotation. This is generally in line with the practice of the General Assembly for electing officers for its Main Committees.
- The qualifications for candidates to the offices of the bureaux should include: (a) demonstration of interest in the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies; (b) recognized experience and background relevant to the work of those bodies; and (c) commitment to fulfilling the tasks entrusted during the tenure.
- The term of each office should be three years; no regional group should hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms.
- When any officer cannot complete a term, the regional group holding the office concerned should nominate a candidate to be elected at the beginning of the session that immediately follows the termination of that officer's tenure; if such an election takes place in either of the subcommittees, it should be approved retroactively by the Committee at its session during the same year.
- The election of chairmen of working groups established by the Committee and the two subcommittees should be excluded from the above arrangements, and should follow the current practice.

Agenda structures

- "Review of the status of the five international legal instruments on outer space" should be included as an item on the agenda of the Legal

^a Text is taken from *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/52/20)*, annex I.

Subcommittee. The Legal Subcommittee should give consideration to the possible inclusion of new items on “Comparison of the norms of space law and those of international environmental law” and “Review of existing norms of international law applicable to space debris” and other items such as those listed in A/AC.105/639, paragraph 54.

- Any proposal for including additional items in the agendas of the Committee or its subcommittees should be accompanied by a work plan, goals to be pursued and a time frame for consideration of the proposed items.
- Any additional item may be included in an agenda or any item already under consideration may be deleted from an agenda with the approval of the General Assembly.

Duration of sessions

- Consensus agreement should be reached on the agenda structures before determining the alternative meeting pattern.
 - The new meeting pattern should be two weeks each for the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee, in February and in March, respectively, and one and one half weeks for the Committee in June, with the total meeting time being five and one half weeks.
 - The Committee may decide on an ad hoc basis to extend or shorten the duration of a particular session whenever there is such a need.
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