

2018 United Nations Disarmament Commission

Working Group II: "In accordance with recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities (A/68/189), preparation of recommendations to promote the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space"

Chair's paper¹

Based on the exchanges of views, the following recommendations are proposed:

Proposed structure of recommendations to promote the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space

The Working Group's recommendations should be structured as outlined below.

I. Introduction

The Working Group should seek to contextualise its work by outlining in a succinct manner the impetus and motivation for its work, including the threat of an arms race in outer space, as well as the mandate, as contained in the agreed agenda for the Working Group, on which its work will be primarily based.

II. Objectives

The Working Group should seek to articulate how the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs) in outer space activities can contribute to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, promote the peaceful uses of outer space to the benefit of all, as well as how consideration of TCBMs within the United Nations Disarmament Commission provides for their advancement and support within a universal body.

III. Principles

The Working Group should seek to elaborate general principles that apply to the practical implementation of TCBMs with a goal of preventing an arms race in outer space in

¹ This paper is presented under the sole responsibility of the Chair and without prejudice to the positions of any delegations.

accordance with the agreed agenda item and drawing upon other fundamental principles including those contained in the United Nations charter and international law and more specifically applicable international space law.

The abovementioned sections I, II and III may draw upon *inter alia* the information contained in Sections A, B and C of Part III and in Part IV of A/68/189 to provide greater insights for the working group's deliberations in 2019 and 2020:

- Part III (General characteristics and basic principles of outer space transparency and confidence-building measures), Section A. Nature and purpose of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities
- Part III, Section B. Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities
- Part III, Section C. Criteria for transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space
- Part IV (Enhancing the transparency of outer space activities)

IV. Recommendations

The Working Group's recommendations should *inter alia* relate to the development and practical implementation of specific, voluntary and pragmatic TCBMs contained in A/68/189 that are demonstrably practicable and with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space.

The Working Group may also consider recommendations for other TCBMs in outer space activities, including the possible elaboration of additional voluntary and non-legally binding measures with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space. Criteria for their development and for testing their implementation and validation, as contained in A/68/189 as well as any criteria agreed by members of the Commission during its current cycle, should be applied as appropriate.

The recommendations should specify the roles of different actors in the practical implementation of individual TCBMs, including *inter alia* Member States, international and intergovernmental organisations, governmental and non-governmental agencies and private space actors, where relevant. They should also, where applicable, take into consideration the relevance of other measures, such as guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, including any guidelines on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities to be adopted.