

Report of Working Group II on agenda item 5

1. At its 368th plenary meeting, on 21 February 2018, the Disarmament Commission adopted its agenda for the 2018 substantive session (A/CN.10/L.80/Rev.1) and decided to allocate to Working Group II agenda item 5, entitled “In accordance with the 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 the transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space.” At its 369th meeting on 2 April 2018, the Commission elected Jeroen Cooreman (Belgium) Chair of Working Group II.
2. Working Group II held 10 meetings between 3 and 18 April. The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management served as secretariat of the Working Group and the Office for Disarmament Affairs served as adviser to the Working Group.
3. At its first meeting, on 3 April 2018, the Working Group held a general exchange of views and heard an introduction to the report of the Secretary-General on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities (A/72/65) by the Director and Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Thomas Markram.
4. The Working Group held deliberations during which delegations exchanged views and made written and oral proposals. During the course of this session, Australia submitted a conference room paper (A/CN.10/2018/WG.2/CRP.1), as did the Russian Federation (A/CN.10/2018/WG.2/CRP.2). The States members of the League of Arab States also submitted a conference room paper (A/CN.10/2018/WG.2/CRP.3).
5. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings on 5 April 2018, delegations exchanged views and began and concluded a discussion of the “implementation of measures contained in the report of the group of governmental experts (A/68/189*).” At its 2nd meeting, the Working Group also heard presentations by Peter Martinez, Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) Working Group on Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, and Victor Vasiliev, Chair of the 2012-2013 Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building measures in Outer Space.
6. At its 4th meeting, on 10 April 2018, the Working Group exchanged views and began and concluded a discussion of the “relationship between outer space transparency and confidence-building measures and measures on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.”

7. At its 5th and 6th meetings on 12 April 2018, the Working Group exchanged views and began and concluded a discussion on “building understanding on TCBMs and other aspects related to maintaining international peace and security in outer space.” The Working Group also heard a presentation by the Chair of the Conference on Disarmament’s subsidiary body on prevention of an arms race in outer space, Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota.
8. At its 7th meeting, on 16 April 2018, the Chair introduced a paper, dated 13 April, taking into account written and oral proposals made by delegations. The paper was presented under the Chair’s own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegations. The Working Group completed a first reading of the Chair’s paper dated 13 April.
9. At its 8th meeting, on 16 April 2018, the Chair circulated a revised text of his paper dated 16 April and the Working Group began and completed a first reading of the revised Chair’s paper. The Chair circulated a revised text of his paper dated 16 April (evening) following the 9th meeting.
10. At its 9th meeting, on 18 April 2018, the Chair circulated a revised text of his paper dated 18 April and the Working Group began and completed a reading of the Chair’s paper. The Working Group agreed to convert the Annex of the paper (Chair’s summary of discussions) into a stand-alone non paper under the Chair’s own responsibility. Following the 9th meeting of the Working Group, the Chair circulated a revised text of his paper dated 18 April as a conference room paper (A/CN.10/2018/WG.II/CRP.4). This paper was also presented under the Chair’s own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegations. The Working Group agreed to continue its discussion of the Chair’s paper at the next session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission.
11. At its 10th meeting, on 18 April 2018, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 5.
12. At its 10th meeting on 18 April 2018, the Working Group also recorded its appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat.