



Excellencies, Distinguished colleagues,

I refer to the Open-ended Working Group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours. The first session of the Group is scheduled to take place from 9 to 13 May 2022 in Conference room XVIII of the Palais des Nations, United Nations Office at Geneva.

At the outset I would like to express once again my most sincere gratitude for the trust you have placed on me and my country by electing me as the Chair of this Group.

You will recall that at its organizational session, 7 and 9 February 2022, the Group reached a general agreement on key issues related to organizational matters.

The Group *adopted* its agenda, as now contained in document [A/AC.294/2022/2](#).

The Group *affirmed* the applicability, *mutatis mutandis*, of the Rules of Procedure of the United Nations General Assembly to this body and that all decisions by the Group shall be taken on the basis of consensus by the United Nations Member States.

Bearing in mind operative paragraph 6 of resolution 76/231, which states that the Group shall work 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”,

the Group *affirmed* that other international organizations, commercial actors and civil society will be able to attend the public plenary meetings of the group as observers. Such entities may provide written contributions on matters under consideration by the group, which will be made available at no cost to the Organization. Pursuant to the established practice, the Chair will subsequently provide the Group with a list of observers and 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 at the beginning of the session.

I continue to consult on the specific modalities for oral contributions by these entities.

Furthermore, as indicated during the organizational session, in order to facilitate your preparation and encourage a well-structured interactive discussion under each agenda item, I intend to produce and circulate prior to each session of the Group an indicative timetable. This timetable will not be a formal programme of work, but rather a flexible and indicative framework to assist delegations in preparing for each day. It can be easily adjusted depending on the evolution of the discussion or to take into account any additional suggestion you may have. As requested by some delegations, this indicative timetable will also list the panelists I have invited to inform our discussion. Kindly note that my intention is to limit, as much as feasible, the presentations and exchange with the panelists to two hours per day in order to leave enough time for the discussion among Member States. The indicative timetable for the first session of the Group will be circulated in the coming days.

As decided by the Group, the agenda provides for a general exchange of views. Accordingly, I will open the floor at the end of each morning meeting for this purpose. In the interest of time and with view toward enabling a more focussed discussion, I invite all delegation to consider providing any general statements in writing in advance on the session for placement on the website of the Group (<https://meetings.unoda.org/meeting/oewg-space-2022>).

In additional, I reiterate my invitation to all Member States to consider providing written contributions and proposals addressing the specific substantive aspects of our mandate, as reflected in item 6 of the agenda, in order to better inform our debate. Such written contributions will be placed on the OEWG website and may be issued as official documents of the Group. For planning purposes, you may wish to indicate to the secretariat of the group ([oewg-spacethreats@un.org](mailto:oewg-spacethreats@un.org)) your intention to provide such contribution(s).

As I indicated at the organizational session, the matter of clarifying the sessions and dates of the Group has been referred to the General Assembly. It is expected that the Assembly will take action later this month, on the basis of the draft decision in document [A/76/L.50](#), which was submitted by the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations.

I remain at your disposal for consultations and any question you may have on the work of the Group.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of my highest consideration.



Hellmut Lagos,

Chairperson, OEWG on reducing  
space threats through norms, rules  
and principles of responsible behaviours