



This photo shows a Group C session. It took place recently during STSC 2014 in Vienna. The Group C Working Group is chaired by Prof. Ian Mann (Canada) and Prof. Takahiro Obara (Japan), who are shown and indicated in this photo.

The following eleven pages are a concise overview of

-
- Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities
-
-

These pages are by Daniel Porras,
Project Manager,
Emerging Security Threats Programme (UNIDIR)



This pdf was circulated in
Vol. 6, Number 025, on
03 March 2014.

Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities

Daniel Porras,
Project Manager,
Emerging Security Threats Programme (UNIDIR)

What is “Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities”

Sustainability: refers to the capacity of carrying out an on-going activity at a particular rate or level

- Example: Agricultural sustainability refers to harvesting practices that do not completely deplete natural resources

Relation to Outer Space Activities: Earth orbits are a limited resource

- Impact of increasing space activities could render orbits unusable

Long-Term Sustainability within COPUOS

TOPIC IS RELATIVELY NEW TO DISCUSSIONS

- 2004: Topic is first discussed within COPUOS
- 2009: Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) of COPUOS adopts agenda item
- 2010: Working Group meets for the first time

Objective of the Working Group

To examine and propose measures to ensure the safe and sustainable use of outer space for peaceful purposes, for the benefit of all countries.

- Working within the context of sustainable development on Earth for all countries, in particular developing countries
- Measures will be voluntary, based on current best practices
- Measures will be presented in a comprehensive report containing recommended guidelines for all space actors

Organisation of the Working Group

- The Working Group meets at the STSC and in the margins of other relevant multilateral fora
- Members elected by Member States of COPUOS
- 35 focal points of contact established as of 2013
- Input from other international organisations and non-governmental organisations is welcome

Organisation of the Working Group (cont.)

- Chair: Dr Peter Martinez (South Africa)
- **Group A:** Sustainable Space Utilization Supporting Sustainable Development on Earth
- Co-Chairs: Enrique Pacheco Cabrera (Mexico)/Filipe Duarte Santos (Portugal)
- **Group B:** Space Debris, Space Operations and Tools to Support Collaborative Space Situational Awareness
- Co-Chairs: Richard Buenneke (USA)/Claudio Portelli (Italy)

Organisation of the Working Group (cont.)

- **Group C: Space Weather**
- Co-Chairs: Ian Mann (Canada)/Takahiro Obara (Japan)
- **Group D: Regulatory Regimes and Guidance for Space Actors**
- Co-Chairs: Sergio Marchisio (Italy)/Anthony Wicht (Australia)

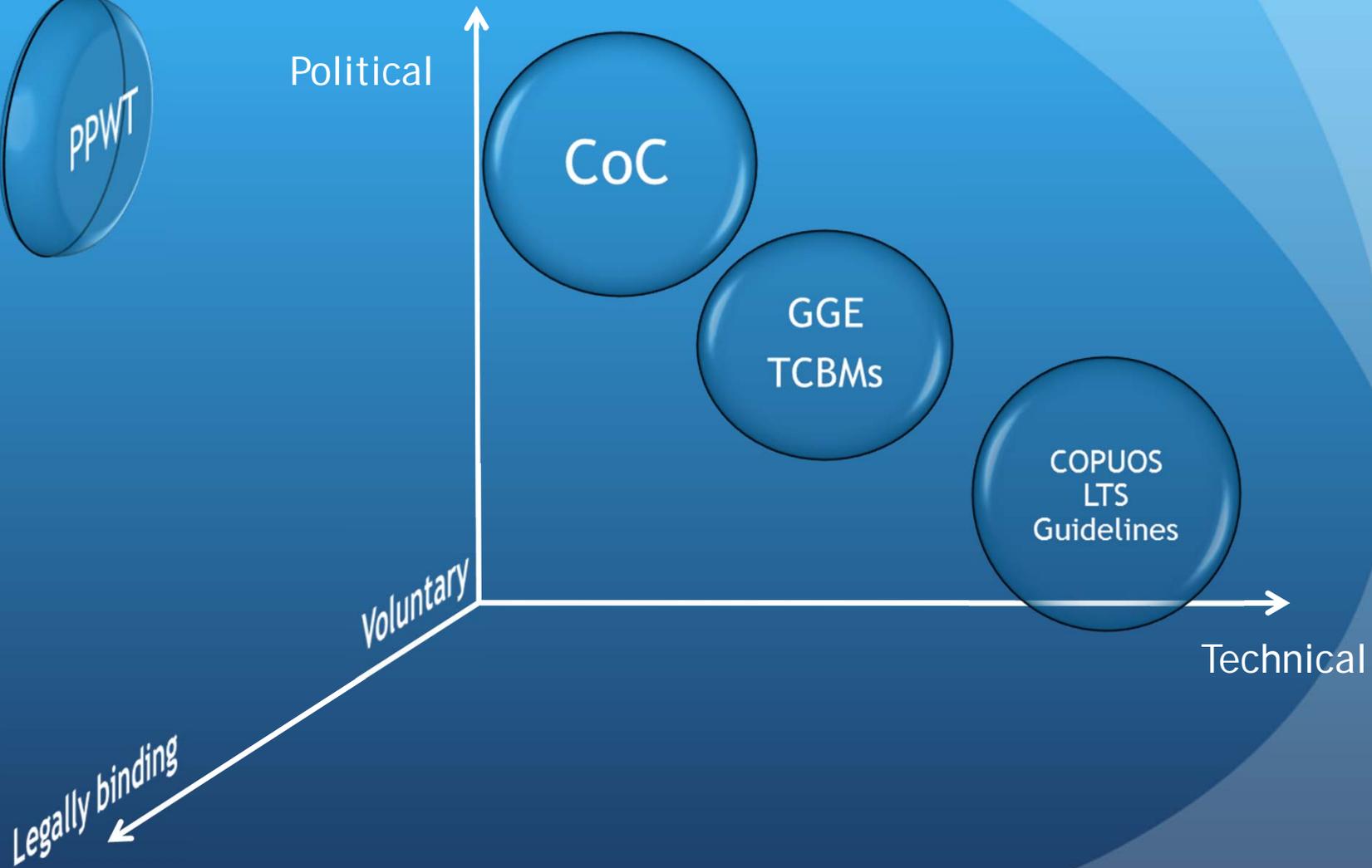
The current draft guidelines of these four groups were presented at the most recent session of COPUOS, with a request for comments.

Challenges facing the Working Group

- Different interpretation of key concepts
- Sustainability, space-faring, safety, etc.
- Established space actors are concerned that guidelines might limit freedom of activities carried out in space
- Including present and future activities
- Emerging actors are concerned that that guidelines will create new barriers to entry into outer space
- Legal/Economic implications, particularly for emerging space actors, could limit access by some

Relation to other initiatives

9



Going forward

- Working Group has presented draft guidelines to COPUOS for comments
- 2014, Working Group will begin drafting the final report and guidelines, based on input received, during STSC
- Chair will inform the Legal Subcommittee of progress achieved in the STSC

Meeting of Legal Subcomm. is expected to occur in June 2014.

Thank you