

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR THE
SPACE MISSION PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP'S LEGAL WORKING GROUP**

This document constitutes the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group's (SMPAG) Legal Working Group (SMPAG-LWG) and describes the basic principles of its work and purpose, namely, to advise the SMPAG on legal measures for near-Earth object threat mitigation (see ToR SMPAG).

The SMPAG LWG was established under the mandate of SMPAG at its 6th meeting in February 2016 and started its work in November that year. The first version of the ToR was approved by the full SMPAG at its meeting of 11, October 2017.

1. Scope

The work of the SMPAG LWG includes:

- Describing the existing legal context, in particular international law, relevant to the work of SMPAG.
- Identifying, formulating and prioritizing relevant legal questions and issues requiring clarification.
- Where necessary, suggesting possible ways forward to deal with legal questions and issues.
- Providing legal advice to SMPAG as required.

2. Report of findings

Findings of the SMPAG LWG should be presented to SMPAG. It will be the prerogative of the SMPAG to decide how to act on these findings.

3. Membership

The SMPAG Legal WG consists of legal experts and technical experts. The legal experts work on the legal questions, while the technical experts are responsible for clarifying aspects of the SMPAG work program, as required, and answering any technical questions raised by the legal side.

Members will be employees of national space agencies or other governmental departments and agencies, or representatives designated by such departments or agencies.

New SMPAG LWG members will be nominated by a SMPAG member on behalf of their organization and will be appointed upon consensus by SMPAG. SMPAG may also invite supporting experts or observers to participate in meetings of the SMPAG LWG.

SMPAG LWG members may nominate a substitute representative in case they are unable to attend a meeting themselves. Any member may withdraw from the membership of the SMPAG LWG at any time.

Membership is normally limited to two nominations per SMPAG delegation; exceptions may be authorized by SMPAG.

The SMPAG Legal WG's work is facilitated by a group coordinator, whose job it is to help with the organization of meetings, preparation of documents, text input, internal communication, and similar matters.

4. Relation to the SMPAG

The SMPAG will direct and prioritize the activities of the SMPAG LWG by:

- proposing issues and questions to be considered by the SMPAG LWG,
- participating in the meetings of the SMPAG LWG through its technical experts,
- assessing reports and any other products from the SMPAG LWG, and
- appointing the group coordinator and new members of the SMPAG L WG.

5. Meetings

Regular meetings of the SMPAG LWG will be organized by the group coordinator in connection with the SMPAG meetings. Extra meetings, in person or online, may be organized as needed.

6. Terms and Conditions

The SMPAG LWG members provide their own funding and resources to support their participation in the SMPAG LWG.

These ToR may be modified or terminated by consensus of SMPAG.