

**TERMS OF REFERENCE  
FOR THE  
SPACE MISSION PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP'S AD-HOC  
WORKING GROUP ON LEGAL ISSUES**

This document constitutes the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group's (SMPAG) Ad Hoc Working Group on Legal Issues (SMPAG Legal WG) 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 Legal WG was established under the mandate of SMPAG at its 6th meeting in February 2016 and started its work in November that year.

### **1. Scope**

The work of the SMPAG Legal WG 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**

First findings of the SMPAG Legal WG should be presented to SMPAG before the end of 2018. 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 Legal WG members will be nominated by a SMPAG member on behalf of his/her organization and will be appointed upon consensus by SMPAG. SMPAG may also invite supporting experts or observers to participate in meetings of the SMPAG Legal WG.

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

Membership is normally limited to 15 legal experts and 5 technical experts; 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 Legal WG by:

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

#### **5. Meetings**

Regular meetings of the SMPAG Legal WG 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 Legal WG members provide their own funding and resources to support their participation in the SMPAG Legal WG.

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