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X Key International and Political Developments

X Decision to Act

SMPAG WORKING GROUP ON LEGAL ISSUES IN PLANETARY DEFENSE

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ABSTRACT

In 2016 the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG) mandated by the United Nations, established a working group to investigate the legal issues relating to planetary defense, in particular asteroid deflection missions. The group is a mix of experts in the fields of public international law and space law and scientists/engineers from Austria, Belgium, ESA, Germany, Italy, Mexico, United Kingdom, and United States.

The tasks of the group at present are to:

- formulate and prioritize relevant legal questions and issues requiring clarification in regard to the work of SMPAG.
- consider the legal questions/issues in the context of international law.
- propose a roadmap of actions to cover outstanding issues.

The legal areas the group will consider may include:

- the legal basis for international responsibility and authorization in the case of a NEO impact threat emergency.
- the liability of states for potential damage caused as a result of a planetary defense mission.
- the roles of public and private entities in planetary defense missions.
- the permissibility and legal implications of different types of deflection method.

Preliminary results of this group's work will be presented at the conference.

Comments:

Oral. The session could be either Decision to act or Key International and Political Developments.