

**RSSSA Advisory Committee**  
**Notes of Meeting #05**  
**18 April 2024**

**Participants:**

Acting Deputy Chair – Daniel Denis (Global Affairs Canada)  
Andrew Davidson (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada)  
Joanne Gabrynowicz (University of Mississippi, USA)  
Sarah Gallagher (Western University)  
Brian Gallant (Space Canada)  
Alex Kaptein (Airbus Defense & Space, Germany)  
Eric Laliberté (Canadian Space Agency)  
Wade Larson (Earth Daily)  
Gordon Rigby (Macdonald Dettwiler and Associates)  
Brian Statham (Department of National Defence)

**Observers:**

Estelle Chou (Global Affairs Canada)  
Daniel Denis (Global Affairs Canada)  
Maj Roger Dib (Global Affairs Canada)  
Stephanie Ferraira (Macdonald Dettwiler and Associates)  
Thomas Gillon (invited guest)  
Alex Goyes (presenter, Transport Canada)  
Ian Hobler (presenter, Canadian Space Agency)  
Ruby Szpeflicki (SatCan)

**Absence:**

Chair – Michelle Mendes (SatCan)  
Mathieu Benoit (Natural Resources Canada)  
Wesley Wark (Centre for International Governance Innovation)  
Christine Tovee (Wyvern)

**Summary:**

This RSSSA Advisory Committee Meeting marked the fifth in a planned series of meetings. This meeting had presentations on three topics: the WRC (presented by a Committee Member), Canada's commercial launch regulations (presented by Transport Canada, TC), and the Space Regulation Modernization (presented by the Canadian Space Agency, CSA). The order of the discussion, compared to other meetings, was adjusted to accommodate the guest speakers.

**Agenda – 18 April 2024:**

1. Welcome
2. Regrets / New Business / Approval of Agenda / Approval of last meeting notes
3. Topic 1 – WRC update
4. Topic 2 – Canadian commercial launch regulation (presented by TC)
5. Topic 3 – Space Regulation Modernization (presented by CSA)
6. Administration Items

7. Update Section
8. Possible Future Topics
9. New Business
10. Roundtable
11. Adjournment

## **1. Welcome:**

- The Acting Deputy Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Guest introduction:
  - Presenter from Transport Canada (TC): Alex Goyes.
  - Presenter from Canadian space Agency (CSA): Ian Hobler.
  - Tom Gillon as an invited guest while waiting for his contract with GAC to be renewed.

## **2. Regrets / New Business / Approval of Agenda / Approval of last meeting notes**

### *New Business / Request of recording meeting discussions:*

- The Secretariat request to record the sessions for the purpose of capturing the meeting notes.
- Upon completion of drafting the notes, the recording will be deleted.
- Remark for presentations: slides & presentation will not be part of the meeting notes; only a summary overview of the topic. Committee Members' remarks may be included.
  
- Regrets from Michelle Mendes, Mathieu Benoit, Wesley Wark and Christine Tovee.
- Agenda approved by Committee.
- Approval of Meeting Notes #4 (Jan 2024) –the Committee Members accepted the notes. To be distributed after today's meeting.

## **3. Topic 1 – WRC update**

- A Committee Member presented an update on WRC and the 5G's access to X-Band & Ka-Band, and the impact on remote sensing space operations.

### *Remarks:*

- The next WRC is in 2027.

### *Action Item:*

1. 5G Frequency Access: OPI GAC  
GAC to consult internally to determine the most productive way of supporting through UNOOSA (United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs).  
Target Date: none set.

## **4. Topic 2 – Canadian commercial launch regulation**

- TC and CSA presented on the progress of Canada's commercial launch regulations.
- Objective: To inform the Committee Members on the topic.

*Remarks:*

- A Committee Member inquired on “environment assessment”; to which TC elaborated that environmental protection is considered when a commercial entity selects a site for their commercial space launch capability.
- Other aspects that are considered for authorising a commercial launch are the international obligations and best practices, such as “dark and quiet sky”.

## **5. Topic 3 – Space Regulation Modernization**

- CSA presented on the progress of CSA led Space Regulation Modernization.
- Objective: To inform the Committee Members on the topic.

*Remarks:*

- The Space Regulation Modernization will focus on items not covered by other regulatory regimes, such as GAC’s RSSSA, ISED’s RA, and TC’s Commercial Launch.

## **6. Administration Items**

- Meeting timing review
  - A request to reconsider the meeting start time was sent to the Secretariat after the January meeting.
  - Changing the time would mean the committee meeting will go over a portion of the lunch time for those in Ontario and similar time zone; Eastern Daylight Time (EDT; GMT-4), and 5hr pm start for our German colleague in the Central European Summer Time (CEST; GMT+2).
  - The Committee exchanged comments and agreed to retain the start time to the current 10h00 am (EDT; GMT-4); thus 07h00 in Western Canada.
- Chair Replacement
  - Unfortunately, our member must step down from their role as Chair.
  - From ToR Section 2.4: “*The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the Director from amongst the external stakeholders.*”
  - The Acting Deputy Chair requested for the Committee Members to propose people that could take the role of the Chair. From that listing, one will be selected by the GAC IGN Director.

*Action Item:*

1. Proposal for a New Advisory Committee Chair: no assigned OPI.  
The Committee Members are requested to submit name of proposed people who could take the Advisory Committee’s Chair position. Suggestions are to be sent directly to the Secretariat.  
Target Date: by End of April.

## 7. Update Section

- GAC/Space Regulatory Section Update:
  - a. Staffing Clarification:
    - The Space Regulatory Section’s Deputy Director is in between contracts and will continue in his role on the following Monday, 22 April 24.
    - GAC has agreed to review the position classification of the Space Regulatory Section.
  - b. RSSSR Review/Amendment
    - The Space Regulatory Team has initiated a review of the RSSSR (the *Regulations*) and has developed a listing of potential amendments. The team will conduct one last readthrough to “finalize” this initial listing.
    - Next step will be to share this listing to the Committee Members before the next meeting in order for the Committee Members to have time to read the proposed amendments.
    - The Regulatory Team will also consult GAC’s division to coordinate regulatory amendments.
- Task Update
  - a. Related to the de-orbiting time after end of mission.
    - General support for the 5-year deorbiting after end of mission, for mega constellations and small sats, with the following caveats:
      1. “End of Mission” be well defined;
      2. Consideration for different orbits/altitude;
      3. Class of satellites.
    - The Committee Member OPI will provide a write-up, of about one paragraph, to the Secretariat.
  - c. WRC feedback.
    - i. Unfortunately, the Committee Member OPI was absent for this portion. No update was provided.

## 8. Possible Future Topics

- The main topic of discussion for the next Advisory Committee will be the RSSSR Review.
- As indicated in the “update Section”, GAC will provide a listing of amendments to the RSSSR for the Committee Members in advance to the meeting.

### *Tangent discussion on the National Space Board*

- During the discussion on “future topics”, a question and discussion related to the National Space Board and its linkage to the RSSSA Advisory Committee occurred.
- The RSSSA Advisory Committee is primarily purpose is on advising GAC’s regulators on issued or concerns related to the RSSSA.
- The “Notional Space Board” was announced earlier this week during the Federal Budget announcement.

- The Canadian government representatives are unsure exactly what the “National Space Board” is.
- An interpretation is that it is an evolution of the “ADM Space Committee”, which is an interdepartmental committee discussing space issues at the ADM level. This is Co-chaired by CSA and DND.
- Another interpretation is that it is an evolution of a DM level committee, which was originally set-up for the RCM Mission.
  
- The question regarding if the RSSSA Advisory Committee should or could contribute to the National Space Committee can not be answered at this time.

#### **9. New Business/Round Table**

- No new business was proposed.

#### **10. Next Mtg**

- The Committee Members agreed to meet in the second half of July, date to be promulgated.

*Remark Post Meeting (14 May 24):* After the 18 Apr 2024 Advisory Committee Meeting, GAC completed the RSSSR Review Table and distributed to the Members, as well as advancing the next meeting date to 20 Jun 2024.