

Canadian Statement
Agenda Item 7 – Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its sixty-second session
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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Sixty Sixth session, Vienna, 31 May – 9 June, 2023

Chair, distinguished representatives,

Canada expresses its gratitude to the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs, and in particular Mr. Niklas Hedman as Acting Director of UNOOSA, for orchestrating a successful Legal Subcommittee. We were pleased to see the Chair, Ms. Nomfuneko Majaja, presiding over this session in person and we thank her for her leadership over the past two years. While this session of the LSC featured some lively discussions on interesting topics, one important organizational matter remains outstanding.

The Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource did not reach consensus on the organization of an international conference in 2024. In order to hold that conference, and keep the working group on schedule to complete its work as established in the work plan, a decision must be made at this session of the Committee. Canada encourages delegations to work constructively with each other and the Chair and Vice-Chair to make a decision on the time and location of the conference. Canada welcomes the proposal by Luxembourg and Belgium to host the conference and cover many of the associated costs. Canada also expresses gratitude to the States that generously offered to explore funding to support participation by a diverse collection of member States. The intercessional period that is available to us now could be used to make decisions regarding the agenda for the conference and other details, so those issues need not delay the crucial decision on time and place.

Discussions at this year's session of the LSC highlighted the interest of member States in space debris, space traffic management and the use of small satellites. These topics are interrelated and might benefit from being combined so that the relationship between them can be better understood and addressed. With that approach in mind, general exchanges on these topics may, in the future, produce ideas for more focused efforts in the form of a working group. This model of work

resulted in the creation of the Space Resource Activities Working Group and can lead to practical outcomes that are beneficial for all space actors.

Chair,

Canada was pleased with the decision of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five UN Treaties on Outer Space to consider the topic of information exchange under Article XI of the Outer Space Treaty at next year's session. This is an underutilized provision of the Outer Space Treaty with great potential for improving transparency and understanding between all nations. It is also another example of the way in which the Outer Space Treaty can continue to serve the needs of the international space community. Canada encourages all member States to examine the notifications already provided under Article XI, recorded on the UNOOSA website under the "Space Treaty Implementation" tab, in order to familiarize themselves with its past use and inspire ideas for future uses of this mechanism.

Chair,

It is Canada's view that the LSC works best and delivers the most value when we examine practical legal issues relevant to existing challenges faced by States in the peaceful use and exploration of outer space. The LSC has accomplished tremendous work throughout its history, including the conclusion of the space treaties, the elaboration of several important UN General Assembly resolutions on topics ranging from nuclear power sources to registration practices, and other products such as the Compendium on Space Debris Mitigation Standards. These accomplishments clearly demonstrate the positive outcomes of our collective work on specific topics of importance to space faring nations. It is Canada's sincere hope that the LSC can continue to deliver similar results in future sessions through our focused effort and diligent work.

Thank you. Chair.