

**UK Statement – UN COPUOS 2022 – Agenda Item 7 - Report of the Legal Sub-Committee**

Thank you Chair, distinguished delegates,

The United Kingdom would like to extend its thanks to COPUOS delegates and UNOOSA who contributed to the success of the Legal Subcommittee this year. We would also like to thank the chair, Nomfuneko Majaja for their hard work in presiding over the sessions.

The United Kingdom values the important work undertaken at the Legal Subcommittee and we will continue to work closely as a committed member of the Committee to build consensus on important areas related to the peaceful uses of outer space. We would like to call attention to some of these areas in this statement. Chair,

The UK was pleased to take part in discussions of the Working Group on Space Resources. The United Kingdom believes this is a crucial next step in working multilaterally on the critical issue of the utilisation of space resources and we will continue to work with other delegates to advance this work.

The UK would like to commend the efforts and expertise of the Chair Andrzej Misztal and the Vice Chair Steven Freeland of the Space Resources Working Group. We are appreciative of their flexibility and commitment to balancing and reflecting the views of member states. The United Kingdom remains supportive of the proposals for a dedicated

international conference to discuss issues surrounding SRU with wider civil society in 2024 and hopes that states members can come to agreement on this issue. Without the substantive input of external actors into the Working Group on Space Resources, we will not be able to achieve the outcomes we agreed as part of our workplan.

The UK was also pleased to engage with Members on the important work of the Working Group of the Five Treaties, including the recommendations for registration practices for constellations. We were glad to see pragmatic recommendations agreed by the working group. Looking ahead, we hope to share more information about the outcomes of the UNOOSA registration project at future meetings of this Working Group in relation to the Registration Convention.

The UK would like to re-emphasise our thanks and support to the new Chair, Franziska Knur, for their leadership of the Working Group.

Chair,

The UK is committed to the sustainable use of space for all and welcomes discussion on how we can work together to tackle the issue of space debris. We recognise our responsibility in this area and endeavour to play an active role in developing international best practice for the long-term sustainability of outer space. With this in mind, the UK would like to thank those who attended our side event we hosted with New Zealand titled “Enabling multi-state active debris removal and in-orbit servicing missions” and look forward to continued discussions with Members on this subject.

The UK recognises the importance of awareness raising and capacity building of space law and guidelines and is proud to be funding two UK-UNOOSA projects on the Long-Term Sustainability Guidelines and the Registration of space objects. We are pleased to have attended two successful LTS Guideline events on Sections A and B in April and May. We appreciate the hard work of UNOOSA in organising these events.

Finally, the UK welcomes the views of all Members at COPUOS and recognises the importance of contributions from international intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, who can provide valuable insights on the topics that we discuss here, across the Subcommittees and this plenary event.

Thank you for your kind attention.