



Permanent Mission of Italy
International Organisations - Vienna

**63rd SESSION OF THE
LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE (LSC)**

**Statement by
Ambassador Debora Lepre**

Item 4: general exchange of views

Vienna, 15 April 2024

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Mister Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and I shall add few remarks in my national capacity.

Let me first congratulate you, Mister Chair, for your **election as President of the Legal Sub-Committee**. Please count on our full support for a successful session. I also express **our appreciation for all the preparatory work carried out by UNOOSA** in the organization of the session.

Mister Chair,

Italy believes that the Legal Subcommittee is a pivotal body for **promoting and strengthening the international legal regime governing outer space** activities and the international cooperation in this domain.

We recognize the invaluable role played by the existing United Nations treaties on outer space, which consolidated a legal regime under which exploration and peaceful use of outer space have flourished.

My delegation wishes to recall the fundamental role played by the 1967 **Outer Space Treaty and to call on all parties to fully respect it**, in particular the obligations set forth in Article IV that obligates States Parties not to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, install such weapons on celestial bodies, or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner.

At the same time, we recognize new legal challenges brought about by the **impressive developments of space technologies** as well as the diversification and increase in number of the actors involved.

In particular, as reaffirmed during the recent **G7 Industry, Technology and Digital Ministerial Meeting**, under the Italian Presidency, we need to strengthen our efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

This requires also measures to **reinforce the international governance of outer space**. In this perspective, Italy wishes to underline that non-legally binding instruments, such as the 2007 Orbital Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the 21 Guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities adopted in 2019, represent significant tools to address those new legal challenges.

We also reiterate that **2024, with its Summit of the Future**, represents a key year to strengthen the global space governance and we wish to see, at the end of the process, a **reinforced role for COPUOS** and its Subcommittees, as well as for **UNOOSA**.

Mister Chair,

Looking at our deliberations during the current session, allow me to highlight some important points for my delegation.

Italy is pleased to announce that the **Italian Government is currently drafting a national space law** with the goal of completing its national legal framework, outlining an authorization and supervision regime over private space activities

and defining a number of measures aimed at promoting development and innovation in the national space sector.

Italy attaches special relevance to **capacity building in space law and policy** and is particularly committed to promoting capacity-building initiatives **with emerging space countries**.

Through the University of Rome la Sapienza, Italy supported UNOOSA's project "Space Law for New Space Actors", for the organization of a Technical Assistance Mission in Morocco. The mission will take place in the second half of 2024.

Mister Chair,

To conclude, my delegation welcomes the discussions on the item on **potential legal models for space resources exploration and utilization** also in the framework of the dedicated Working Group. We take this opportunity to commend the efforts that are being successfully undertaken by Prof. Andrej Mitzal and Prof. Steven Freeland as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group.

We actively participated to the Experts Meeting in Luxembourg, held on March 26, and will participate in the International Conference on Space Resources this afternoon.

My delegation is ready to **continue to engage in the Working group deliberations during the present Session**, which will greatly profit from the excellent contributions coming from these two major events.

In this framework, we wish to recall that in 2020 **Italy signed the Artemis Accords**, which provide non-legally binding guidance for space exploration and establish a set of common principles grounded in the Outer Space Treaty, to **increase the safety of operations, reduce uncertainty, and promote the sustainable and beneficial exploration and use of space**. Thirty-six countries from different regional groups are now part of the Accords. My delegation is committed to **share our experience** in implementing the Artemis Accords within COPUOS, with UN Member States and the international space community. Thank you!