

**Portugal Statement**  
**Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses**  
**of Outer Space | 63<sup>rd</sup> session**

**Agenda Item 4, “General Exchange of Views”**

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente

Chair, Distinguished Representatives

1. As this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor in this session, I would like to congratulate you, Professor Ripol, on your election as Chair of the Legal Subcommittee and assure you of our best cooperation in the years to come, also congratulating the outgoing Chair for her guidance over the last years and to express the Secretariat our recognition for their excellent work in supporting the current session and the ongoing works.
2. Further to the statement delivered earlier by the distinguished representative of the European Union - which we fully support in all its extension, including the references to the situation in Ukraine -, we would like to convey some additional points in this Subcommittee.

Chair,

3. At the invitation of Member States, the UN Secretary-General issued eleven Policy Briefs containing more detail on certain proposals from Our Common Agenda, to support Member States in their preparations for the Summit of the Future. In Policy Brief 7 “For all humanity: The future of Outer Space governance” the extraordinary changes underway in outer space are examined and assessed the sustainability, safety, and security impacts of these changes on present and future governance, focusing of tree main topics for discussion: Space Traffic Management, Space Resources and Space Debris.

4. Portugal has been actively contributing to this outer space dialogue. Together with UNOOSA, Portugal will host the High-Level Conference **Management & Sustainability of Space Activities**, on the road to the Summit of the Future. The Conference will be held in Lisbon, next 14 and 15 of May.
5. The Conference was preceded by two online symposiums, centred main topics for discussion. The first symposium, focused on the technical perspective, was held last November, and had received contributions from participants from more than 12 different countries.
6. It was followed live by more than 700 attendees and posteriorly the different sessions were visualized more than 500 times on YouTube. Its outcomes were presented during the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in CRP n.º 34, as of February 7<sup>th</sup>, namely in chapter IV.
7. The second symposium focused the policy aspects of the Space Traffic Management, Space Resources and Space Debris, and its speakers and moderators came from a wide range of countries such as Japan, Philippines, Australia, India, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Brazil, United States, South Africa, France, Netherlands, Greece, Canada, Austria, Kenya, and Portugal.
8. As well as from circa 20 international organizations [such as ESA, European Commission, International Institute of Space Law, European Centre for Space Law, Space Generation Advisory Council, COSPAR, NASA, ESPI, Milo Institute, Secure World Foundation, NOAA, ESG, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Moon Village Association, International Astronomical Union, Karman Project, ISU, Lunar Policy Platform, IADC]
9. The symposium was held this March and was comprised by 9 sessions held in five days, covering three different time zones. It had more than 400 registered participations, with more than 970 live attendees, and still counting the non-live views. The main outcomes of this policy symposium will be present to this subcommittee in a Conference room paper to be submitted.

10. Portugal would like to thank to all involved in the virtual symposium, in supporting all these activities. Portugal would also like to express its appreciation for the great work of the UNOOSA team in supporting all these activities.
  11. The High-Level Conference to be held in May should look beyond the Summit of the Future to discuss, in an open forum, the future of Management and Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.
  12. Fueled by the inputs of the preparatory events, the Conference is going to discuss on the needs and ways to reinforce space governance and further strengthen the sustainability of human space activities and its consequences, aiming to provide contributions to an effective framework of international coordination and collaboration.
  13. A call was made to the Regional Groups to designate elements to participate in drafting the outcome of the Conference, and we would like to reiterate that it will not overlap the zero draft ongoing works in New York.
1. We remain available and welcome delegations that wish to inquire and engage in this process.

Thank you, Chair.