



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,
15-26 April 2024,
delivered by H.E. Laura Gil,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia**

AGENDA ITEM 7B: GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT

Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China firmly believes that geostationary orbit — a limited natural resource clearly in danger of saturation — shall be used rationally and shall be made available to all States, irrespective of their current technical capacities. That would provide States with the possibility of gaining access to the geostationary orbit under equitable conditions, bearing in mind, in particular, the needs and interests of developing countries and the geographical position of certain countries, and taking into account the processes of the ITU and relevant norms and decisions of the United Nations.
2. With the unprecedented rate at which developed countries are employing satellites to exploit the latest technology, there has been increasing awareness of the limitations of the geostationary orbit. Despite the relatively rapid development of certain developing countries in recent years, significant disparity between the ability of developed and developing countries to utilize satellite technology generally remains and it needs to be addressed appropriately.
3. The Group underscores that the geostationary orbit shall not be subject to national appropriation, and that its utilization shall be governed by applicable international law and in accordance with the principle of non- appropriation of outer space, in order to ensure the guaranteed and equitable access to orbital positions of the geostationary orbit according to the needs of all countries, in particular developing countries and countries in certain geographical positions.
4. Bearing in mind that communications satellites are an indispensable tool in the efforts to promote the development of all countries, the Group is of the view that, in order to develop adequate mechanisms to ensure the equitable access to geostationary orbit, it is necessary to keep this issue on the agenda of this Subcommittee.

I thank you, Chair.