

Kingdom of the Netherlands – Agenda-item 8 – **Future role and method of work of the Committee**

Mr Chair, distinguished delegates,

Mr Chair, thank you for giving me the floor. The Kingdom of the Netherlands considers that the efficiency and effectiveness of the Sub-Committee requires our constant attention. In that light, I would like to raise the following issues.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomes the changes that have been made to the agenda, and to the order in which the items are discussed. Unlike Cicero, I will start with our usual stance on items of the agenda, rather than end with it, which is that we remain of the view that expansion of the agenda should not be considered unless it is guaranteed that the workload of the Sub-Committee will not increase. And that, to achieve that, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, believes that the Sub-Committee should only consider adding an item to the agenda if and when it will have been decided which item will be removed.

My delegation is pleased with the content of Agenda-item six. However, we still think that the Sub-Committee consider the merits of merging the Agenda-items on Space Traffic Management, Space Debris Mitigation and Remediation and Small Satellites, as they all essentially relate to the same subject matter, that is the safe and sustainable use of outer space, not only today but also for future generations. While the debate on these issues remains important, and should take place, repetition should be avoided.

Also, we think that in each of these items, pragmatism should be considered: we should endeavour to make the step from saying that changes are required, to actually making these changes, and to that end, to proposing regimes that can be put in place. Especially in the field of Space Traffic Management, the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers that steps should be taken to improve regulation. To that end, we would support the creation of a study group to explore ways and means to manage space traffic better.

Finally, Mr Chair, I wish to give my full and strong support to the comment just made by the United Kingdom on the involvement of non-governmental actors in the work of this Committee, including permanent observers. Their input is indispensable. Without them, our work would be ineffective and frankly quite pointless.

I thank you for your attention.