

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on behalf of the Czech delegation for your election as Chair of the Legal Subcommittee and to extend our best wishes for success in this position.

I would also like to express our sincere appreciation to the Office of Outer Space Affairs and the Secretariat for their excellent work in preparing this meeting and for their continuous support during the intersessional period.

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, including the condemnation of Russia's military aggression against Ukraine.

Mr. Chair,

The Czech Republic stresses the fundamental role of the UN space treaties as the cornerstone of international space law, affirming that all activities in outer space must conform to the established international legal framework.

As one of the founding members of COPUOS and a nation with a longstanding tradition in international space law, the Czech Republic supports a multilateral approach to the use of outer space. COPUOS, a unique multilateral body tasked with regulating the legal aspects of space activities, holds particular significance in this regard. We maintain that the development of international space law should be realized primarily through this multilateral forum. Initiatives undertaken outside COPUOS must be implemented and interpreted fully in accordance with the existing international law, reflecting the binding consensus of the international community.

Mr. Chair,

Regarding agenda item 9, the Czech Republic strongly supports the continuing work of the COPUOS Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities and commends recent expert meeting, organized by Belgium and Luxembourg, which gathered preliminary inputs for the International Conference on Space Resources held on Monday. The International Conference provided unique opportunity to discuss issues pertinent to this topic. We emphasize the importance of seizing this momentum and encourage efforts to ensure that the working group effectively accomplishes its mandate by 2026.

Mr. Chair,

Next I would like to address agenda item 10 concerning space debris mitigation. The Czech government has a long-standing commitment to this topic. As one of the initiators of the compendium of space debris mitigation standards, we appreciate the contributions and recent additions to this valuable database. Simultaneously, we urge other Member States and relevant international stakeholders to share their practices in this field, facilitating further development of the database.

The topics of space debris mitigation, as well as topics on the application of international law to small-satellite activities and the legal aspects of space traffic management, underscore the importance of ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. This sustainability

entails prioritizing transparency, information sharing, and proper registration of all space objects launched into outer space. It also involves thorough consideration of legal implications of cutting-edge technologies and related current activities, including the issues of large constellations and the protection of dark and quiet skies.

In this regard, closer collaboration between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee is crucial to reach a consensus on globally acceptable governance for space traffic management and other related matters.

Mr. Chair,

To conclude, I would like to reaffirm our steadfast commitment to the work and objectives of the Legal Subcommittee. The Czech Republic stands prepared to contribute to the proper development of international space law and standards, ensuring transparent, fair and sustainable exploration, exploitation and use of outer space.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.