

Brazil, Item 14

General Exchange of Views on Potential Legal Models for Activities in Exploration, Exploitation and Utilization of Space Resources

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Madam Chair,

As this is the first time that I am addressing this meeting, I would like to express our full support to your work. We have full confidence in your leadership and look forward to a very productive session.

I would also like to thank the Director of the Office of Outer Space Affairs, Ms. Simonetta di Pippo, and her staff for maintaining their usual high standards in the organization of this Session, despite the challenging circumstances the world still faces.

Brazil would like to associate itself with the statement of the Group of 77 + China, delivered by Ambassador Solano, of Costa Rica, and we would like to add some remarks in our national capacity.

Madam Chair,

Brazil has on several occasions expressed the view that this was a topic that warranted consideration by this Subcommittee, as shown by the records of our statement in previous sessions.

Our core view is that a jointly agreed regime to regulate space resources activities can greatly contribute to strengthening the space sector and boosting the space economy, while fostering international cooperation and reducing tensions and the risk of conflict in outer space. We are therefore encouraged by developments in recent years, which attest to the growing interest in the discussion of the legal aspects associated with activities associated with the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources.

In that regard, we would like to express our appreciation to Mr. Andrej Misztal, of Poland, and Mr. Steven Freeland, of Australia, for their joint work in preparing a plan for informal consultations on this topic. Without prejudging or ruling out any possible outcomes, we believe that the draft plan provides us with a solid roadmap to help us focus on the most relevant issues and we look forward to participating actively in these consultations.

We also welcome the contributions to the draft plan presented by Member States and compiled in CRP.8, circulated just before this session. While we still need to study the document in greater detail, we see that it contains a number of key elements that need to be addressed in this discussion. We also look forward to engaging in discussions on the working paper submitted by Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, which provides a solid proposal for a working group on space resources.

Madam Chair,

This Subcommittee has the mandate to guide such a discussion. In our statement in the 58<sup>th</sup> session, we expressed our view of COPUOS and its Subcommittees as bodies that have the experience and expertise required to address the legal challenges of space activities - together, they embody the spirit of multilateralism that is a prerequisite for the negotiation of a governance model that can foster the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources under the umbrella of the UN Treaties and Principles on Outer Space and with due regard to the principles of international space law.

We see this is an urgent discussion and a call for action by this body. In the absence of an internationally agreed framework, Governments will develop their own domestic legislation to support their space industry, as some already have. While competition can be constructive and a driver for improvement and development, it can also lead to heightened tensions in outer space, which is something we should all strive to avoid.

Conversely, if we can negotiate a system of governance, we can promote the right balance between competition and cooperation, and pave the way for a sustainable space resource economy. A scenario in which private operators can

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work across borders under a regime that offers transparency, predictability, safety and the required assurances tends to increase the push for the preservation of space as a peaceful and sustainable environment.

As Brazil acknowledges the promise of great benefits that can be derived from a thriving space resource economy, we must also reiterate the importance of ensuring that new space actors be given opportunities and conditions to participate on an equal footing and also reap the benefits of space activities, in line with the provisions of the Outer Space Treaty. The space resource economy can drive the development of space industries across the globe. When discussing a possible framework for space resources, we should examine how this to make the space economy more inclusive to foster progress, peace and prosperity and afford the benefits of space to all of humankind.

Thank you.