

**Statement of the delegation of
The Islamic Republic of Iran
Before the sixtieth Session of
The Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS**

31 May- 10 June 2021

**Agenda Item 14: General exchange of views on potential legal models for
activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources.**

“In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful”

Madam Chair,

The I.R. Iran reaffirm its commitment to the peaceful use and exploration of outer space and emphasizes on universal and equal access to outer space for all countries without discrimination, regardless of their level of scientific, technical and economic development, and the equitable and rational use of outer space for the benefit of all humankind; the non-appropriation of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, by claim of sovereignty, use, occupation or any other means.

Madam Chair,

Forging any accords out of international organizations like Artemis Accords has some flows as follow:

1-Procedurally any multilateral space accords should be negotiated in the open-ended transparent and democratic framework of the UN COPUOS.

2-The Artemis Accords refer to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, while most of member States to the Accord are not a member to the Moon Agreement 1979.

3-Such accords are trying to amend the Moon Agreement out of its envisaged amendment provisions.

4- If there is a need to negotiate any accord due regard to further progress in the exploration and use of moon and other celestial bodies, it shall not be triggered out of the UN international organization procedures and as a result, such accords are imposed to COPUOS, let alone the Moon Agreement has its own review and amendment mechanism.

In this vein, the establishment of a working group titled "exploration and exploitation of space resources" under the auspices of the LSC of COPUOS to take a consensus- based multilateral approach is the only way to fully explore this issue.