

Brazil - Item 3 – General Exchange of Views

Madam Chair,

Thank you for giving me the floor. In addition to the remarks delivered by Ambassador Solano, of Costa Rica, on behalf of the G77 + China, my delegation would like to present some specific comments under this agenda item.

Brazil has long recognized the benefits that space exploration missions can generate for humankind. In this regard, we reiterate our firm commitment to the notion that space should only be used for peaceful purposes, remain free from conflict and be used in a cooperative and collaborative manner to improve life on Earth. Indeed, the promotion of sustainable development cannot be achieved without recourse to space technologies.

But for the promise of benefits to humankind to be realized, we must work together to determine the rules that will help us guide our efforts, promote cooperation and understanding, and reduce the risk of conflict. This is where this Subcommittee play an essential role as the key multilateral forum where Member States can share their concerns and negotiate mutually agreed legal solutions that can both foster the progress of the space sector and contribute to the preservation and protection of outer space. Even when we cannot find consensus on more controversial issues, we act as a forum of dialogue, which allows us to have a better understanding of the different perspectives and concerns of the international community. By promoting dialogue, we can improve transparency, build confidence, and eventually negotiate solutions that reduce tensions and alleviate concerns. By complementing the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, we help pave the way for the realization of the huge potential of space for the betterment of humankind.

Madam Chair,

Brazil bears witness to the power of cooperation and the interplay between scientific and technical cooperation and the development of space law. The Brazilian Space Agency is now a participant in the International Space Exploration Coordination Group (ISECG), an arrangement which brings together some 30 space agencies of nations engaged in major exploration missions of the Moon, Mars and celestial bodies. The constructive relationship and the exchange of experiences and lessons learned among participants provides a

better understanding of the challenges and difficulties associated with the practical elements of space missions. This, in turn, contributes to a better-informed debate about what the gaps are in our international space law framework.

An important example of Brazil's commitment to the regulation of space activities and international cooperation is the joint statement of intentions regarding our participation in the Artemis Program, which was signed in December 2020 by the Brazilian Minister of Science, Technology and Innovations, astronaut Marcos Pontes, and NASA administrator, Jim Bridenstine. Brazil expects to become a formal party to the Artemis initiative in the next few weeks, and this expresses our endorsement of the international space law principles embodied in the Artemis Program. We believe that the experiences resulting from the Artemis Program can result in added benefits to humankind and also provide a push for multilateral discussions on a possible framework for the governance and sustainability of space activities in the Celestial Bodies.

Madam Chair,

Brazil remains firmly committed to the principles enshrined in the United Nations Treaties and Principles on the Use of Outer Space and other international space law instruments. At the same time, we believe that we must continue to work together to find solutions to existing and future concerns and challenges.

In that regard, Madam Chair, we are encouraged by the agreement reached on the composition of the bureau of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities during the 58th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, last April. As we greet the chair of the LTS Working Group, Mr. Umamaheswaran, of India, and express our firm interest in contributing actively to our discussions there, we would also like to express our appreciation to the delegations of Japan, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates for their contributions and their commitment to multilateralism, which was expressed in their flexibility in accommodating different positions. We hope this spirit of cooperation will inspire and guide delegations in our future work so that we can, once again, deliver the answers required by the international community.

Thank you.