

**Item 3: General Exchange of Views**  
*Czech Republic*

Madam Chair,

On behalf of the delegation of the Czech Republic, allow me to congratulate you on your election as a Chair of the Legal Subcommittee and wish you success in this position. Unfortunately, last year we were not able to fully experience your able guidance due to the cancellation of the session of the LSC. All the more so, we are looking forward to this year's session. Let me express our sincere appreciation to you and to the Office for Outer Space Affairs for all the hard work in preparing for this hybrid meeting and inter-sessional assistance. Without your tremendous effort, we would not be here today to celebrate the 1000th meeting of LSC as you mentioned at the beginning of this session.

We would like to join other representatives in commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Human Flight in Outer Space. Further, we also would like to recall the 45th anniversary of the entry into force of the Registration Convention which provides for the rules of international law on the registration of space objects launched into Outer Space and which nowadays comes more to the attention of States due to the increase of launches every year. With more objects launched into Outer Space there is more risk of collision and space debris. We believe that the registration of space objects in Outer Space is nowadays more necessary than ever.

Madam Chair,

The Czech Republic welcomes the revised draft of the 2030 Space Agenda and its implementation plan and believes it is an important step towards strengthening the cooperation in Outer Space activities and in implementation of international space law. The Czech delegation also supports the thematic priority 2 identified by the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five UN Treaties on Outer Space.

My delegation is well aware of the fact that progressive scientific and technical developments and increased participation of private actors in Outer Space activities create a need to strengthen and intensify the work of the Legal Subcommittee, including closer cooperation with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and to focus the discussions on the topical legal issues connected with these developments, such as space debris, space traffic management, small satellite activities or the utilization of space resources. In this respect, we believe that following the guidelines of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability in Outer Space Activities may bring more safety to space operations. Further, we welcome the establishment of the bureau of the WG LTS 2.0. which paves the way for the resumption of its activities.

Madam Chair,

Concerning agenda item 10 - legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures and remediation, the Czech delegation would like to reiterate its long-standing support for the consideration of the issue of space debris in both Legal and Scientific and Technical Subcommittees of the COPUOS. The Czech Republic appreciates and tries to support any new ideas, initiatives and measures on space debris prevention and removal, adopted both on international and national levels. The Czech Republic is, for instance, taking active part in the ESA's ClearSpace-1 mission. The Czech delegation, as one of the initiators of the compendium of space debris mitigation standards, welcomes recent updates and additions to the database, which is available on the website of the Office of Outer Space Affairs, and encourages other States and relevant organisations to contribute to the compendium.

Similarly, the Czech delegation supports the discussion on item 13 which relates to the application of international law to small-satellite activities and has previously provided written comments to the questionnaire on this topic. We believe that the consideration of the applicability and application of principles of general international space law, as well as non-binding international recommendations and guidelines, to the use of small satellites by various actors should, inter alia, provide useful information to States, which are currently preparing their national laws on space activities, including provisions on the registration of space objects.

Madam Chair,

The Czech delegation also supports the discussion on agenda item 14, concerning potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources and welcomes the scheduled informal consultations. We are firmly convinced that all member States share the same goal and therefore we welcome this Subcommittee's deliberations on potential legal models to govern activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources. In this context, the Czech Republic as one of the co-sponsors supports the proposal contained in the non-paper of Finland, Germany and others, for establishing a dedicated Working Group. We believe that the LSC COPUOS is the adequate forum to have inclusive, multilateral discussions and the best way to go ahead is by establishment of such a Working Group. Therefore, we hope that States will reach a consensus on its establishment.

Madam Chair,

As regards international cooperation in the peaceful uses of Outer Space, the Czech Republic is a member of various organisations on regional level such as the EU, ESA, EUMETSAT and ESO. The Czech Republic considers international cooperation, bilateral as well as multilateral, regional as well as worldwide, to be the most efficient approach how to support its space science and space technology development and contribute to the sustainable development of Outer Space activities.

In November 2020, the Czech Republic organized a national space week which has become a periodical outreach activity, originally set up in 2018 as a commemoration of 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of

the ESA membership of the Czech Republic. General public, policy makers, students and others participated in 9 days of hybrid conferences, workshops, discussions as well as other accompanying events. The Czech Space Week was considered a great success.

In concluding, allow me to emphasize that the Czech delegation will continue to provide strong support for the work of the Subcommittee.

Thank you, Madam Chair.