

**Sweden's statement under Agenda item 3 at the Sixtieth Session of the  
Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful  
Uses of Outer Space**

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates

Please allow me first to welcome you as a Chair of the Legal Subcommittee. I would also like to thank Director Di Pippo and the Office for Outer Space Affairs, for the excellent preparation of this session, despite the difficult circumstances. Let me assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation. Sweden aligns itself with the statement by the European Union. Please, allow me to add the following in a national capacity.

Sweden has been an actor in space for more than 50 years. We have a capable space industry, cutting-edge research and the space centre, Esrange with more than 600 successful launches of sounding rockets, in northern Sweden. Last October the government inaugurated a test bed facility at the Esrange Space Center, where rocket engines and reusable space technology can be developed and tested. The government is continuing investments in Esrange, with the aim of developing a capacity to launch small satellites into orbit.

In 2020, the government also started a national inquiry with the task to propose a modernized national space law. It will present its results this autumn. This process is an important part of our national implementation of the Long-Term Sustainability guidelines.

All this work also forms part of implementing Sweden's new national space strategy which was adopted in 2018. The strategy underlines the importance of international cooperation and puts space as a global common. Sweden remains committed to promoting the preservation of a safe, secure and sustainable space environment and the peaceful use of outer space on an equitable and mutually acceptable basis.

Space is undergoing rapid changes, opening up many new opportunities. At the same time, this is also creating new challenges which underlines the need for multilateral solutions.

COPUOS and its Subcommittees are unique platforms for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, including on the development of international norms and standards regulating space activities.

Sweden welcomes the agreement on the composition of the Bureau of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities reached at the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. We look forward to taking this important work forward. We also welcome the discussions in the STSC on the effects of satellite systems on terrestrial-based astronomy and look forward to continued deliberations on this topic. Sweden further welcomes a continued fruitful and enhanced exchange between the two subcommittees and respective working groups, contributing to the overall achievements of the Committee.

For this session of the Legal Subcommittee, Sweden welcomes the scheduled informal consultations on exploration, exploitation, and utilization of space resources. We welcome the initiatives and efforts by member states in order to establish a new working group on this issue, in particular the substantive and inclusive preparatory work by Germany and Finland. We hope that the Legal Subcommittee will be able to reach consensus on the establishment of a new working group as a timely and appropriate next step to work on legal aspects related to space resources activities and to ensure that these are conducted in a safe, sustainable and peaceful manner and in accordance with international law.

Sweden also welcomes the progress made by the Space2030 Agenda Working Group over the past two years and hope that this process can be finished during 2021, so that we can deliver on the mandate received by the General Assembly.

We look forward to a fruitful and productive session. Thank you for your attention.