

**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 (6.b): The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit

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

Thank you Madam Chair and good day to you and to all the distinguished delegates.

This statement is in line with the views of many other member States and contains the observation of the I.R. of Iran regarding the current deficiencies in providing equitable access to the geostationary orbit which is categorized under the regular agenda item 6(b) of the Legal Subcommittee. The three proposals included in this statement can be considered as a way forward for achieving the objectives of this agenda item.

It is a long time in the Legal Subcommittee that many member States have expressed their concerns regarding equitable access to geostationary orbit. Considering the previous session of the Legal Subcommittee, these concerns are reflected in 10 different statements of the report of the fifty-eighth session. It is worth mentioning that expressing concerns regarding this issue is not dedicated to the Legal Subcommittee and the same statements have been raised regularly during the discussions under agenda item 16 of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, so we kindly request the Legal Subcommittee, which is also valid for STSC, to not simply record and report these concerns as observed so far, but to take serious actions toward a solution.

This delegation would like to draw the attention of the meeting to a couple of examples that clarify why the sufficiency of the current regime regulating the use of this orbit is in question and why many States are not able to locate even one satellite with economical characteristics in this orbit.

The first reason is that the technical characteristics of the Plan resources which was defined by the ITU as a permanent resource for all member states go back to many years ago and the latest available development in technology has not been taken into account.

The second reason is that some frequency bands such as Ka-band and higher bands were not considered in the establishment of Plan resources, due to the technological limitation of that time, which made those bands unpopular for satellite communications. Therefore, it is necessary to preserve a spectrum share for the States who will use these bands with delay and avoid saturation of geostationary orbit in these frequency bands.

In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran is pleased to provide the following proposals for consideration by the Legal Subcommittee at its sixtieth session:

- a) The first proposal to the Legal Subcommittee is to re-establish a working group for agenda item 6(b). This delegation believes that it is very important that the related discussions take place within a working group, so in this way, the efforts and activities of this Subcommittee will be better directed.
- b) The second proposal is to facilitate the work of the Legal Subcommittee on this complicated issue, by addressing it, in both Legal and Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. This proposal was also raised by this delegation at the recent session of STSC, and supported by some member States, finally some delegations suggested that this proposal be re-introduced again in the Legal Subcommittee, so that if the meeting convinced about the existence of technical aspects in this issue, recommend to the next session of the COPUOS, stating the importance and effectiveness of adding the same topic to the agenda of STSC dedicated to developing ways and means to ensure equitable access to GSO.

- c) The third proposal to the Legal Subcommittee is based on the fact that International Telecommunication Union has the main role in the management of frequency and orbital resources and as stated many times by member states, any practical solution for improving equitable access to geostationary orbit could be reached with the involvement of ITU. Based on that, the I.R of Iran proposes the Legal Subcommittee to officially invite the Radiocommunication Sector of ITU (ITU-R) to cooperate on the studies related to this issue and also to comment on the effectiveness and feasibility of the solutions which will be proposed by this Subcommittee.

This delegation suggests that, this invitation be sent to the ITU-R Study Group 4 and Working Party 4A because they have been always involved in the studies related to the issue of equitable access to GSO. Accordingly, the I.R. of Iran prepared a draft for this invitation which is attached to our CRP for consideration by this Subcommittee. [We believe this type of communication is considered as a support to the work of ITU and should be continued based on the future contribution of member States under agenda item 6(b) of the Legal Subcommittee.]

Finally, I kindly request you, Madam Chair, to seek the opinion of this meeting regarding the acceptance of these three proposals,

- The first one on establishing an appropriate working group for agenda item 6(b).
- The second one, on making a recommendation to COPUOS to state the technical aspects of this issue and to recommend that this issue be opened also in STSC.
- And the third one, on sending an invitation to ITU-R which is also drafted in our CRP document, and has been sent to secretariat, for consideration by the Legal Subcommittee.

And by this I finish my intervention, thank you Madam Chair