

Germany, Item 6

**UNCOPUOS Legal Subcommittee
63st Session 15 – 26 April 2024, Vienna**

Statement by Germany

Agenda item 6 – Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity-building, to promote their implementation

Honorable Mister Chair, distinguished delegates,

the five UN treaties on outer space are the cornerstones of the international legal regime for human activities in outer space and on celestial bodies. To guarantee the peaceful exploration and use of outer space for all humankind, it is crucial to reach universal acceptance of and adherence to this legal regime. Hence, we thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs for disseminating key information on the status of international agreements related to outer space activities.

Last year, the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space reached consensus on a set of recommendations concerning the submission of registration information on space objects forming part of a satellite constellation. It also agreed to commence an exchange of views on the implementation of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty at this year's session.

Germany considers it important to raise awareness of article XI and to facilitate the exchange of information between States. More and more objects are being launched on a variety of missions. Sharing information on these activities, launched or planned to be launched, is necessary to fulfil other obligations under the space treaties. For example, without knowledge of the activities and mission objectives of other space actors, it is difficult to pay due regard to the corresponding interests of other states. As already mentioned in article XI of the Outer Space Treaty, information sharing promotes international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. Information is a resource that grows when it is shared. To ensure that space the exploration and use of outer space truly benefits all countries and serves the interests of all, let us all contribute to this growth.

We look forward to fruitful discussions in the working group on how we can promote information sharing and what means we have or can implement to ensure that information can be shared conveniently and accessed easily by the international community.

Honorable Mister Chair, distinguished delegates,

2025 marks the 50th anniversary of the Registration Convention. With a view to this upcoming anniversary, we invite those who have not yet done so to become a party to the Convention or, for intergovernmental organizations being permanent observers, to declare their acceptance of the rights and obligations under the Convention.

We appreciate the ongoing awareness-raising and capacity-building that OOSA provides in the field of space law and policy. For example, over the past five years, the 'Space Law for New Space Actors' project has provided institutional capacity-building tailored to the needs and requirements of Member States. We continue to support OOSA in its multi-faceted efforts to raise awareness and improve the understanding of the international space law instruments.

Furthermore, experts from Germany participate in and contribute to several international conferences and webinars aimed at promoting multilateral dialogue and a common understanding of international space law. In this context, we would also like to highlight the annual IISL/ECSL symposium held here at the Legal Subcommittee and look forward to seeing it scheduled during its traditional slot again at the next session.

Thank you for your kind attention.