



Ministry of Economic Affairs  
and Employment of Finland

## **Finland's Statement in the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Vienna, 1 June – 10 June 2022, Agenda Item 8 – Report of the Legal Subcommittee**

*Thank you, Mr. Chair.*

*Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,*

We thank Ms Nomfuneko Majaja of South Africa for her excellent leadership in conducting the session despite the challenges posed by the hybrid format.

Finland recognizes the importance of the Legal Subcommittee as an indispensable forum for the exchange of views on legal aspects of outer space activities and for fostering international cooperation in this regard.

*Mr. Chair,*

Finland considers that international cooperation, coordination, and information sharing with regards to all aspects of space activities is key to enable reaching the goals of both sustainable and safe use of outer space.

The issue concerning safety and sustainability of space activities is a growing concern to all space actors and the society. Finland considers that the development of a global Space Traffic Management (STM) regime, which contributes towards creation, development and implementation of common international rules, is timely and essential.

We also consider that there is a need to consider the legal aspects of the Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS) in the LSC.

Finland believes that the five United Nations treaties on outer space, together with the UN General Assembly sets of principles as well as other related documents and resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly are the cornerstones of international space law. Finland is of the opinion that having binding guidance at international level for the conduct of space activities brings predictability and creates conditions for tackling global problems.

*Mr. Chair,*

At national level, the Finnish Act on Space Activities has been in force since 2018. Recently, the Government has launched a proposal for new additional legislation for public consultations concerning the reception, use and distribution of remote sensing data produced by Finnish satellites as well as the use of ground stations located in Finland for the reception and distribution of data.

The legislation aims to take into account the rapid development of technology and the preconditions for business operations. Remote sensing and ground stations offer many new business opportunities, which is why a balance must be found between national security and the promotion of business operations. The preconditions for data-based research must also be ensured. The aim should be to create a predictable and legally clear operating environment in order to promote effective supervision, competitiveness and growth in the sector.

Finland is of the opinion that exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources are best to be coordinated at international, multilateral level for the peaceful and sustainable exploration and use of outer space, that is carried out in accordance with international law and in the benefit and interests of all States. Finland welcomes with great appreciation the establishment of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities in the Legal Subcommittee. We are pleased that delegations were able to find consensus on the work plan of the Working Group during the sixty-first session of the LSC. We are looking forward to starting the work on substantive issues.

The delegations of Finland and Germany co-operated to produce a working paper, which was supported by a number of delegations. The working paper conveyed the endorsement of the draft Work Plan submitted by the Co-Chairs and provided preliminary input on elements of the first dedicated International Space Resources Conference under the auspices of the United Nations. In this context, we wish to reiterate the importance of coordination between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) and the Legal Subcommittee, in order to keep the legal development related to space activities aligned with major scientific and technical advances and to promote understanding and acceptance of existing legal instruments.

We wish to congratulate the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Working Group, Andrzej Misztal and Steven Freeland, for their efforts to further the topic. We also wish to thank all the delegations for their active participation and constructive discussions during the last session of the Legal Subcommittee.

*Finally, Mr. Chair,*

We wish to extend our gratitude to the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL) and the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) organising once again the space law symposium, this year the topical theme of “National Laws and Regulations to Ensure Space Sustainability”.

*Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates, I thank you for your attention.*