



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
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Statement
By

The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Before
The sixty-fifth session of the COPUOS

**Agenda Item 8: Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its 61th
session**

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Vienna

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

Mr. Chair, Distinguished delegates;

At the outset, my delegation would like to thank Ms. Nomfuneko MAJAJA as the chair of the meetings for the excellent conduct of this year’s session of the Legal Subcommittee as the unique forum for the exchange of views on legal aspects of outer space activities. We also want to thank the acting secretariat and his staff for the excellent organization of this session in such challenging circumstances. In addition to statements that my delegation made during the last LSC meetings, we would like to highlight some important issues under this agenda item.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that any activity aiming at the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources should be conducted in accordance with 5 basic treaties and principles of international space law, and any activity by States, individually or as a club of countries, out of the United Nations frameworks should be avoided.

Based on Outer Space Treaty 1967, Article 1, “the exploration and use of outer space shall be the common province of all mankind”. Furthermore, in accordance with the Article 11 of the Moon Agreement, the “Moon and its natural resources are the common heritage of mankind” and “an international regime should be established to govern the exploitation of such resources”. The main purposes of such an international regime for outer space are fairly described in the Moon Agreement in a way to consider not only the interests and needs of developing countries, but also the efforts of those countries which have contributed directly or indirectly to the exploration of the moon.

Having in mind the above-mentioned facts and considering the current state of space technology innovations, establishing an international regime for governing the exploration and exploitation of space resources under COPUOS is crucial. This is a real need of international community that the more later we proceed to establish the regime, the much looser we will be. In this vein, a successful procedure needs a collective and united measure by all States to block any fragmentation among COPUOS member States. Such an international regime should address developing as well as developed countries' benefits and viewpoints. A recent agreement between a few States which is going forward out of international organizations is a clear deviation of basic principles.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that establishing an international regime consistent with the international space law could serve as a rational and sustainable basis for exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources and it should be one of the main outputs of the Space Resources Working Group.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished delegates;

Referring to the meetings of the Legal Subcommittee in recent years, including the latest in 2022, serious concerns have been repeatedly raised by developing countries on GSO. These Member States have requested for the reaction of the COPUOS to the shortcomings of equitable access to geostationary orbit. Based on that, several suggestions have been made to the Legal Subcommittee on how to address this issue, some of them are as follow:

1. To establish a working group in the Legal subcommittee.
2. To modify the current GSO-related agenda item of the STSC in order to consider technical aspects of the issue.

3. To establish an inter-governmental panel of experts.
4. To cooperate with the ITU on issues related to equitable utilization of orbital resources.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in line with the views of many Member States, supports any serious action to be taken by LSC toward the improvement of equitable utilization of GSO and has previously elaborated its views in the CRP.26 and CRP.21 respectively submitted to the 58th session of STSC and the 60th session of LSC.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman