

Germany, Item 8

UNCOPUOS
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Agenda Item 8: Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its 61st session

Statement by Germany

Honorable Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

Germany would like to thank UNOOSA for the excellent organization of this year's session of the Legal Subcommittee as well as for the preparation of the report. We would also like to commend the chair Nomfuneko Majaja for her excellent leadership in these challenging times. Despite those challenges, political and technical, the Subcommittee was able to reach consensus on important decisions.

We highly appreciate that consensus was reached on the Workplan for the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resources Activities. Germany considers it important, to **uphold and strengthen the rule of international space law and multilateral decision making** in COPUOS and its Subcommittees, especially the Legal Subcommittee. We are convinced that a timely discussion and ideally consensus on general principles on space resource activities is key to maintaining outer space a domain of peaceful exploration and use. To foster international cooperation and avoid conflict/misunderstandings, it is crucial to establish a common ground before such activities become a reality.

Together with Finland, Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal and Romania we submitted a working paper to facilitate consensus on the Working Plan and we stand ready to further contribute to its success.

Germany strongly believes, that under the able leadership of ambassador Misztal and Professor Freeland as well as the sincere commitment of the States Member to this committee, we will be able to reach agreement on a set of recommendations.

These recommendations should help to ensure the rules that were established by the UN space treaties will be applied to space resource activities in a manner that do not impede technological progress and private space activities, while at the same time realizing the promise of Art. I Outer Space Treaty to benefit all humankind.

The UN space treaties remain the legal foundation for activities in outer space and their universal acceptance and application should be our goal. In this regard, Germany welcomes the conclusion of the work on the document “Bringing the benefits of space to all countries: a guidance document on the legal framework for space activities” which hopefully contributes to further acceptance and application of the treaties. Germany would like to express its gratitude and appreciation to the outgoing chair of the Working Group, Bernhard Schmidt-Tedd, for his able leadership.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

before concluding, I want to reiterate, that Germany is committed to:

- preserving outer space as a global common,
- safeguarding the freedom of exploration and use of outer space as the province of all humankind and
- shaping the future global governance of outer space activities.

All of us rely increasingly on space infrastructure and therefore have to ensure, that outer space and celestial bodies are explored and used in a sustainable manner. COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee have a very **positive track record in developing international space law**. Therefore, Germany is committed to maintaining the Legal Subcommittee as the central forum for developing the legal regime of outer space. We are committed to work towards the development of legally binding rules on space debris, international space traffic management as well as an international regime for the utilization and exploitation of space resources.

Thank you for your kind attention.