

AGENDA ITEM 5
GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
KEN HODGKINS
THE HAGUE INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the President of the Hague Institute for Global Justice, Lady Sohair Salam Saber, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing me to present the Hague Institute's request for permanent observer status in COPUOS as contained in document A/AC.105/C.1/2022/CRP 7.

In 2020, the Hague Institute for Global Justice launched a program entitled "The Off-World Approach" to address the role of civil society in the future space enterprise. The Off-World Approach is the first international, non-governmental organization established to examine all aspects of the future space enterprise in five decades and it is guided by a Council of leading experts in all aspects of the space enterprise. The first meeting of the Council was convened on September 14, 2021, Co-Chaired by myself and Lady Sohair.

Governing new and innovative commercial space ventures will require a nimble and comprehensive vision. There is no appetite in the space sector for decades-long negotiations on new binding legal instruments. Instead, a rich menu of legal and policy concepts that space actors can choose from and adapt to their own circumstances and goals is urgently needed. Yet, these policy options must balance civil society's needs with mounting space security challenges, that, if left

unchecked, could render the global commons of space less than useful. As we proceed through the 21st Century and beyond, there must be thoughtful consideration given to the totality of the role of civil society in the future space enterprise. We must look at mechanisms that will provide a regular and sustainable platform for all stakeholders to express their vision on global stability, economic growth, societal well-being, and the rule of law. New institutions or confederations not traditionally associated with space should also be examined to bring new perspectives to the space enterprise.

The Off World Approach is guided by the following cross-cutting concepts:

- ♣ Transparency
- ♣ Predictability
- ♣ Interoperability
- ♣ The Rule of Law
- ♣ Fair and Equal Governance
- ♣ Sustainability of the Space Environment
- ♣ Use of Space Systems for Sustainability on Earth
- ♣ Freedom of Scientific Inquiry and Data Exchange
- ♣ Permissive International and Domestic Frameworks for Civil Society
- ♣ Wisdom and Lessons Learned for the Next Generation of Space
Entrepreneurs
- ♣ Capacity-building for the global community to reap the benefits of space
exploration to meet their needs

- ♣ Develop bottom up “best practices” for the utilization of space resources
- ♣ Integrate civil society into governmental policy decision-making regarding outer space.

The Off -World Approach provides a reliable and objective venue for civil society and government to set the path from Earth to the Moon, Mars, and beyond. But to be part of this construct, participants must commit to transparency, interoperability, sustainability, economic well-being, and the rule of law. The Off- World Approach is not an arbiter of geopolitical differences but an advocate for practical solutions to make the space enterprise meaningful to everyday life worldwide. We must not limit the future by clinging only to what is familiar. Rather, the focus should be to discover what is possible. The need for an innovative approach to space exploration writ-large is not a reflection of failure but progress. It is the result of the natural evolution of space exploration and exploitation and space diplomacy. What started as a few states acting under Cold War pressures has grown into a global endeavor that requires new thinking to meet emerging space development needs once again. This process of developing new space ventures followed by new international approaches should be expected to continue.

The current crisis in Europe has disrupted the geo-political equation and now we must seek innovative ways and means to maintain stability in space. With this in mind, the Institute has initiated a variety of projects under the umbrella of The Off-World Approach which will establish a common vision to ensure that civil space exploration and development is conducted in a manner that prevents conflict and supports cooperation, peace, and prosperity. The projects are intended to enhance safety, reduce uncertainty, and promote the sustainable and beneficial use of space for all humankind.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.