

**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE**  
**Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)**  
**(1-10 June 2022)**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, we would like to join other delegations in congratulating you on your election. We would like to express Türkiye's full support to you for the success of the meeting. We would like to also thank UNOOSA Acting Director Niklas Hedman and the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of this session.

Mr. Chairman,

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its Subcommittees are unique intergovernmental platforms at the global level to discuss the challenges and achievements and enhance international cooperation, in particular with regard to scientific and space technology and long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and develop international norms and standards.

In this regard, we believe that international community should make further efforts and search all possible ways and means of taking advantage of this comprehensive structure in order to deliver our common objectives on space-related issues.

As it is one of the latest examples of these efforts, last year's agreement in the COPUOS on the Space2030 Agenda and its implementation plan and the subsequent adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution on the Space2030 Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development, was a significant achievement.

In addition, we are pleased that 21 Guidelines on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities were adopted. We believe that the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities will facilitate information sharing and capacity building in this field and address the new challenges.

We would like to express our support for the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resources Activities. We believe that the Working Group will contribute significantly to the discussions regarding the potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources.

Mr. Chairman,

The existing international legal regime governing outer space provides a sound basis for space activities.

All states should be encouraged to adhere to the existing legal regime. As one of the few member states party to all UN Space Treaties, we call upon those who have not yet done so to sign and ratify all five Treaties in order to ensure a safe, secure, sustainable and peaceful outer space.

In addition, Türkiye supports initiatives and exploration of non-binding measures aimed at addressing legal gaps and challenges toward achieving the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

On the other hand, we firmly believe that any current and future international legal framework should not impose significant difficulties, unattainable standards or thresholds for countries in their space activities.

Mr. Chairman,

Guided by the word and spirit of the international treaties, Türkiye has long been expanding its space activities and capabilities.

In this regard, Turkish Space Agency aims to strengthen the industry, improve scientific infrastructure and develop human resources in the field of space technology.

In line with these progressive national policies, Türkiye announced its National Space Program on 9 February 2021.

As a part of Turkish National Space Program, Turkish Space Agency along with the relevant Turkish institutions aims to conduct a 2 phase Moon Research Program. In phase 1 of the National Moon Program, Türkiye started developing a spacecraft capable of orbiting Moon and making a hard landing till 2024. The spacecraft is to carry state of the art hybrid propulsion system developed in Türkiye. Outputs of the program will be shared with the scientific community.

In phase 2 of the Moon Research Program, Türkiye aims to develop a spacecraft capable of making a soft landing on the Moon surface and releasing a rover for scientific studies till 2029.

Türkiye believes that systematic coordination of deep space and Moon activities through the United Nations can contribute greatly to the success and development of such activities. Türkiye also attaches great importance to the discussion on defining legal gaps regarding utilization of material space resources in line with the 5 UN Treaties on outer space.

Mr. Chairman,

Lastly, referring to our statement during the 61st session of the Legal Subcommittee, we would like to stress that regarding International Moon Day, we cannot accept cooperation with UNOOSA and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the UN in the context outlined in the Moon Village Association's conference room papers submitted to the COPUOS and its Subcommittees.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our full support for the COPUOS, UNOOSA and to you for a successful meeting.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.