



Permanent Mission of the Federative Republic of Brazil

Item 4: *General exchange of views*

[*Check against delivery*]

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Omran Sharaf on your election as chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). Let me assure you that you will have the full support of my delegation during this session. Let me also take this opportunity to thank Mr. Niklas Hedman and the Secretariat for your contribution to the activities of the Office of Outer Space Affairs.

We would like to welcome Guatemala and Uzbekistan as new members of the COPUOS community. The growth of the Committee sends a clear signal about the role played by space activities in promoting development.

Mr. Chairperson,

A multilateral forum like COPUOS provides the dialogue space for Brazil to renew its commitments to the international principles guiding outer space use and exploration, enshrined in the five main Treaties on the peaceful uses of outer space. All countries, regardless of their state of development, are entitled to explore outer space in conditions of equality, and space exploration activities should be conducted so as to preserve international peace and security. The protection of peace and security requires efforts in earnest to prevent an arms race in the outer space and the placement of weapons in that environment. These principles underlie Brazilian space activities and cooperation projects.

We have noticed a tendency to an increasing decentralization of discussions regarding space law issues in different international forums. In fact, the growing diversity of space activities as well as the increasing importance of space technology in our daily lives has favored a proliferation of venues for the discussion of related subjects. Although it appears legitimate to discuss legal issues relating to space activities in a plurality of international forums, COPUOS

is and should continue to be the main and the most authoritative multilateral body for the discussions of international space law matters. Here, countries can discuss and negotiate legally binding solutions that can help to ensure legal certainty in the space arena in a multilateral world. More than ever, the international community requires a transparent, effective and predictable system that contributes to building confidence among nations, be they space faring ones or countries which begin to develop their space programs.

This is why we should not miss the opportunity offered to us in the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities to reaffirm and strengthen the role of this Committee to address the most pressing and challenging matters regarding space law and seeking jointly and in a cooperative way for solutions. Brazil recognizes that the exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources is a positive development. However, it is our belief that those discussions should be carried out within the COPUOS framework, which is the competent body to discuss how space resources activities can be carried out in manner that is compatible with the current obligations under the international space law. It is our view that COPUOS holds the proper mandate to conduct and guide the multilateral discussions and consultations required by such issues. This would simultaneously contribute to strengthen the role of COPUOS and generate decisions that are the result of truly multilateral discussions.

Mr. Chairperson,

As new actors come into the space arena, the sustainability of outer space activities has become a growing concern. Space should be used in a sustainable manner to benefit the whole of humankind. For this reason, my delegation would like to commend the work of the Working Group on Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space. The corresponding guidelines remain an important contribution to the preservation of outer space sustainability. It is Brazil's expectation that these guidelines will continue to inform a balance between the needs of developing countries and the protection of the space environment. Therefore, we will continue to advocate the importance for developing countries of having full access to the benefits of space technologies and applications.

International cooperation is a key element of the Brazilian space policy. Brazil believes that the benefits of space technologies and its spin-offs should be made widely available and that developing countries receive the proper support to make full use of them. We favor a free data

policy to facilitate access to satellite data by users in areas that need them most. Brazil also supports programs aimed at training and educating users in developing nations so that they can receive, interpret, use and make this data available to end users in a meaningful way. Concrete examples of this practice are the open-source applications developed by Brazil that are used in a range of areas such as deforestation, space weather, climate, oceans, earth observations, geographic information systems, disaster monitoring and warning. All these open-source systems are produced by the Brazilian Institute of Space Research, which also provides the necessary training to users in developing countries.

Mr. Chairperson,

Definition and delimitation of outer space are of the utmost importance, especially in view of the growing technological progress and increased participation of the private sector in space activities and commercial flight providers that have conducted successful suborbital flights. Finding a common understanding on the definition and delimitation of outer space is essential to provide proper guidance about the applicable guarantees and corresponding legal frameworks. Hereupon, Brazil is fully committed to the discussions on the Working Group on Matters Relating to the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, led Mr. Ian Grosner, from the Brazilian Space Agency.

In concluding, I would like to present a brief overview of the activities carried out by Brazil in the last year:

-In May 2022, a team of students from the University of Brasília launched the nanosatellite ‘Alfa Cruz’. The students conducted a complete CubeSat-type mission, from the design to the integration of subsystems and payload, performing verification tests and operating the object once in orbit.

-In October, the National Space Council was established within the Presidency of the Republic, with the task of formulating, following-up and evaluating the Brazilian Space Policy.

-In November, the satellite SPORT (Scintillation Prediction Observations Research Task) was launched, in a partnership between the Brazilian Space Agency (AEB) and NASA.

-In March, the South Korean rocket HANBIT-TLV was launched from Alcantara Spaceport, as part of the 'Operation Astrolabio'.

-In April, representatives of the Brazilian Space Agency (AEB) and the National Institute for Space Research (INPE) participated in the Mission Critical Design Review (MCDR) of the Argentine-Brazilian Environmental Information Satellite (SABIA-Mar).

-Also in April, Brazil and Portugal signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation on the Peaceful Use of Space, Science, Technologies and Space Applications, Brazil and China signed the 2023-2032 Space Cooperation Plan, as well as an Additional Protocol for the joint development of satellite CBERS-6. Brazilian researchers further found a ring around the asteroid Quaoar, beyond the limit of Roche.

-This month, the National Institute for Space Research (INPE) presented the 'Galileo Space Telescope Mission', which will measure the solar magnetic field and its evolution to advance understanding of the functioning of the Sun and its relationship with the Earth.

Thank you.