

## **DELEGATION OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC**

**COPUOS, VIENNA, Sixty-Sixth Session, 31 May – 2 June 2023**

### **Statement on Item 7: Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its sixty-second session**

Madame Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

My delegation wants to comment on the Report of the 62nd session of the Legal Subcommittee held from 20 to 31 March 2023. Before doing so, we want to appreciate once more the excellent work done by the Chairperson, Ms Nomfuneko Majaja of South Africa.

Italy values the Legal Subcommittee as the pivotal body for promoting and strengthening the international legal regime governing outer space activities and the international cooperation in this domain and the invaluable role played by the United Nations treaties on outer space. My delegation is also committed to implementing at the national level the obligation deriving from the UN space treaties.

At the same time, we are aware of the diversification and increase in number of the actors involved as well as all new legal challenges brought about by the impressive developments of space technologies.

Among them, the theme of legal aspects of Dark and Quiet Skies was dealt with by the Symposium co-organized, as in previous years, by the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL) and the International Institute of Space Law (IISL). It allowed a diverse panel discussion, focusing on legal principles and mechanisms to enable effective protection of night skies, thus supporting limitation of light and radio pollution from space activities for the benefit of present and future generations. In this line, my delegation supports the maintenance of a single-issue item on Dark and Quiet Skies in the agenda of the Subcommittee in 2024. At the same time, we commend ECSL and IISL for having offered the regular slot for the Symposium for the International Space Resource Conference to be held at the margin of the LSC in 2024 pending decision on this session of the Committee.

Looking ahead the deliberation during the LSC session, allow me to highlight some points specifically important for my delegation.

Madame Chair,

my delegation welcomes the discussion on the potential legal models for space resources exploration and utilisation in the framework of the dedicated Working Group. We congratulate again Ambassador Andrej Mitzal and Professor Steven

Freeland as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group. During the session, the Working Group considered several principles to be relevant to space resources activities. The Italian delegation focused its attention on the issue of information-sharing for activities in the exploration and utilisation of space resources, which we consider as a key element for the sustainability of the outer space activities. We supported the identification of dedicated tools in practices for enhanced information-sharing as envisaged in numerous proposals advanced by delegations. As a signatory of the Artemis Accords, Italy has accepted the relevant principles on release of scientific data and information and the related commitments to transparency regarding the national space exploration plans and the open sharing of scientific data.

As for the issue of a dedicated International Conference for 2024 on space resources activities, we agreed that it should be an opportunity to consider aspects relevant to civil society, industry, the private sector and academia. We are open to support any proposal that would combine two substantial parts of the Conference, one within the Luxembourg Space Resources week, and the other within the margins of the LSC's meeting in Vienna, to allow the inclusion of the main stakeholders and preserve at the same time the multilingualism and inclusiveness of COPUOS.

Considering the registration of space objects, we noted with deep interest the information about the rapid rise number of registered space objects after 2019 given by the Acting Director in his statement to the Subcommittee. We had also the opportunity to appreciate the project "Supporting implementation of Treaty Obligation relating to the Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space" operating under the auspices of the Director Office at OOSA. The Expert Event held on 29th -30th of May ahead of the current session of the Committee was also an opportunity for identifying capacity building requirements and challenges associated with registration, including a better understanding on the role of registration in new space missions. We also encourage OOSA to develop a modernised portal for notifications of registrations.

We welcomed the reconvening of the Working Group on the Status of Application of the UN Treaties on Outer Space, chaired by Ms Franciska Knur of Germany and we wish her all success. The Working Group is an important venue for assessing the application of the UN space treaties.

As for the item of national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space, the Italian delegation took note of a common trend bringing a number of States to improve the regulation of space activities in order to meet sustainability challenges as well as the competitiveness of non-governmental organizations in space activities. Italy is experiencing a similar path towards reframing the national space legislation due to the steady increase in non-governmental entities engaged in outer space activities and the need to ensure the safety and sustainability of outer space activities.

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Finally, Madame Chair,

let me commend again national, regional and international efforts towards educational opportunities in space law, including training and education courses at the academic level. At the same time, we stress again the relevance of capacity building. In this regard, we are happy to inform that we are about to join the group of donors funding the project “Space Law for New Space Actors”, set up under the auspices of UNOOSA to offer advisory services for furthering national space legislation frameworks.

Thank you for your attention.