

Germany, Item 7

UNCOPUOS
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Agenda Item 7: Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its 62nd session
Statement by Germany

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates,

We thank UNOOSA for the organization of this year's session of the Legal Subcommittee as well as for the preparation of the report. We commend the Chair Nomfuneko Majaja for her wise leadership during the past two sessions.

As humanity embarks on many exciting new space ventures, the five UN space treaties remain the bedrock of any kinds of activities in outer space; and the Legal Subcommittee continues to be the central multilateral forum for the further development of international space law. Therefore, Germany takes note of the exchanges of views on the rich agenda of the Legal Subcommittee and welcomes the decisions taken at the 62nd session.

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates,

Outer space including the moon and celestial bodies must remain open for peaceful exploration and use for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, including for future generations. Our most urgent challenge is ensuring long-term sustainable use of outer space, including the mitigation and remediation of space debris and managing space traffic. The growing number of space activities calls for a robust system of international governance. We urge all delegations to consider moving towards a global legal commitment to avoid space debris as well as a comprehensive, multilateral space traffic management.

Acknowledging the opportunities of exploring and utilizing the moon and other celestial bodies including their resources, we remain committed towards the development of a binding international legal framework governing space resources activities. It shall facilitate the orderly and safe development as well as the rational management of space resources. We welcome the substantive deliberations of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resources Activities which lay the basis for the development of an initial set of recommended principles to be adopted by the UN General Assembly.

We strongly support taking a decision on the international space resources conference during this COPUOS session and wish to thank Belgium and Luxemburg for their proposal to host the event.

We are also pleased that the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five UN Space Treaties concluded the work on the topic of the registration of large and megaconstellations with the adoption of recommendations concerning the registration of space objects forming part of a satellite constellation. We look forward to review the implementation of the obligation to exchange information on space activities, which the Working Group has decided to commence in 2024. As at present there is no standardized way to submit information under article XI of the Outer Space Treaty, the development of dedicated tools and practices should be considered.

Finally, we would like to thank UNOOSA as well as all supporting countries for their efforts with regard to capacity building in space law. As registration of space objects remains one of the key principles of outer space law, we particularly welcome the activities under the Registration Project such as the Expert Event that took place last week.

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for your kind attention.