

Finland's Statement in the 67th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 19 – 28 June 2024

Agenda Item 8 - Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its sixty-third session

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Finland expresses its gratitude to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (*UNOOSA*) for the organization of this year's session of the Legal Subcommittee. We also thank the Chair, Mr. Santiago Ripol Carulla for his leadership during the session.

Mr. Chair, distinguished Delegates,

Finland recognizes the vital role of the Legal Subcommittee as it provides the multilateral forum for the exchange of views of legal aspects of outer space activities. We find it valuable when such exchanges are reflected in the reports of the Subcommittee meetings.

Consequently, we consider it regrettable that this year the subcommittee was not able to reach consensus on the final report during its session. We still wish to thank the Secretariat for their work for the preparations of the report and the delegations that aimed at reaching a common understanding on the texts thereof. We also commend the efforts made for the agreement on the procedural report.

The annotated time for the Subcommittee meeting was exhausted while the paragraph mentioning the Space4Women Expert Meeting co-hosted by UNOOSA and Canada was under consideration. Acknowledging such activities of the Office in the report should not prevent Member States from adopting it.

We appreciate that UNOOSA works to promote gender equality in the space sector and in STEM fields. As a committed supporter of gender equality, Finland thanks UNOOSA for its important work in the course of the Space4Women project, as well as Canada for co-hosting the Expert Meeting in 2023.

Mr Chair,

In any event, we were pleased to see the continued discussions under the Subcommittee's agenda, and reiterate our thanks to active delegations for the constructive exchange that aimed to find solutions on pressing topics such as space resources, space debris mitigation and Space Traffic Management (*STM*). On this note, we welcome the idea presented by the delegation of Germany regarding a STM related study group to further the discussions on this extremely important matter.

Thank you Mr. Chair.