



**Statement of the G-77 and China  
during the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations  
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,  
19-28 June 2024,  
delivered by H.E. Laura Gil,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia**

**AGENDA ITEM 8: REPORT OF THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON ITS SIXTY-THIRD SESSION**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China would like to express its appreciation to Mr. Santiago Ripol Carulla of Spain for his exemplary chairpersonship of the 63rd session of the Legal Subcommittee, and would like to comment on some issues, which the Group deems of utmost relevance for developing countries.
2. The Group underscores once again that the definition and delimitation of outer space is a very important topic that should be kept on the agenda of this Subcommittee and that more work should be done in order to establish the legal regime applicable to airspace and outer space. In this regard, we commend all the efforts made by the Chair of the Working Group on definition and delimitation of Outer Space and encourage all delegations to contribute to the discussion in a constructive manner.
3. Regarding the issue of geostationary orbit, the Group would like to reiterate that such a domain shall not be subject to national appropriation, by means of use, repeated use or occupation, or by any other means, and that its utilization is governed by applicable international law. Furthermore, we reiterate that this orbit needs to be used rationally, efficiently and economically, in conformity with the provision of applicable international space laws and relevant regulations, so that countries or groups of countries may have equitable access to those orbits and frequencies, taking into account the special needs of the developing countries and the geographical situation of particular countries.
4. The Group considers that capacity building and technical support in space law are fundamental tools that should be enhanced through international cooperation. Therefore, the Group calls for greater support by UNOOSA and Member States to foster both North-South and South-South cooperation to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and expertise in the fields of international space law, space policy, space economy and space diplomacy.

Mr. Chair,

5. The Group believes that all efforts to promote international cooperation must be undertaken to maximize the benefits in the utilization of space applications for all States and calls on all space-faring nations to contribute to promoting and fostering international cooperation on an equitable and non-discriminatory basis. It also underscores that particular attention be given to the interests of developing countries and that the Committee should be strengthened in its role as the main platform for the exchange of information in the field of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space.

6. Considering the essential roles of space objects, regardless of their size, in the socioeconomic development of the Member States, the Group is of the view that the Committee and its Subcommittees should not create an ad-hoc legal regime or any other mechanisms, which might impose limitations on designing, building, launching and using of space objects. The Group is of the view that in general, all international rights and obligations of the States with respect to satellites regardless of their perceived sizes are equally relevant for the conduct of space activities with the use of small satellites.

7. While making reference to our previous statement on agenda item 7 of the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the STSC regarding space debris, the Group encourages launching states to provide advanced, proper, prompt and adequate notification to other states specially developing countries, located along the drop zones of falling space debris, as applicable, to ensure that they are sufficiently prepared to mitigate and respond to such incidents. It is equally important to strengthen the capacities of developing countries in detecting and responding to falling space debris.

8. The Group reiterates its support for the work of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities under its detailed workplan and methods of work. The Group underscores that the discussions of aspects of space resources and any possible outcome must be in line with the principles enshrined in the Outer Space Treaty and other relevant UN treaties, especially the principle of non-appropriation of Outer Space, including the moon and other celestial bodies. The Group is of the view that any approach for the exploration, exploitation, and utilization of space resources should be equitable, constructive, collaborative, consensual, and most of all, does not leave behind or unfairly disadvantage developing countries. The Group also believes that in order to be inclusive and transparent, these discussions should take place within formal UN sessions, which should be allotted sufficient time, with interpretation services in all official UN languages.

9. The Group is of the view that in light of the increasing participation and the evolving potential of the private sector in space activities, the negotiation of an international legally binding instrument that clearly defines and guides commercial activities in outer space could play an important role in expanding the use of outer space and stimulate space activities for the benefit of humanity. The Group considers that, besides the need for a broad debate about the implications of these activities, the developing countries shall not be excluded from the benefits of space exploration and their rights shall be taken into account in the discussion.

10. The Group also notes with appreciation the Office's multi-year project to develop an online registration portal to facilitate the registration of space objects, in view of the increasing number of submissions. The Group likewise supports deliberations at the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space on how to enhance registration practices, especially for large and or mega constellations.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.