

Germany, Item 8

UNCOPUOS
67th Session, Vienna, 19 – 28 June 2024

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

Statement by Germany

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates,

Germany congratulates Professor Ripol-Carulla on his election as chair of the Legal Subcommittee, and thanks the Secretariat for its support during the past session. However, we are disappointed that the Legal Subcommittee was neither able to adopt a report by consensus during its 63rd session, nor yet in the aftermath by way of a silence procedure. This is a worrying development, especially as so many of us agree that the Legal Subcommittee is at the centre of international law making for activities in outer space, a global common to be kept open and free for exploration and use by all humankind. We wish to assure all delegations in the room that we stand ready to work towards moving forward the agenda items discussed during the Legal Subcommittee, including by means here at the Main Committee.

In particular, we would like to recall the following issues:

- First, **Space Debris and Space Traffic Management**: To ensure long-term sustainability, space debris mitigation and remediation are key and we need a global legal commitment to avoid space debris. Similarly, to us – and many more countries! – the benefits of studying and discussing space traffic management are apparent. Therefore, Germany has proposed the establishment of a study group on perspectives for space traffic management and we thank everyone who already voiced support for this novel concept, but also everyone that engaged in discussion and raised questions on this idea, including during the informal meeting held at the margins of the Legal Subcommittee session. We therefore would like to inform the Committee that we have submitted a Conference Room Paper with the objective to document this idea and invite further consultations and questions. We thus invite the Committee to welcome further consultations before and during the next session of the Legal Subcommittee on the scope and mandate of a possible study group on perspectives for space traffic management under the respective agenda item at

the Legal Subcommittee, taking into account the ongoing work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, including the work of its Working Group on the Long-term sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

- Second, **Space Resources**: To sustainably and peacefully explore and use the Moon and other celestial bodies, including their resources, on the basis of international law and for the benefit and in the interest of all, is the province of all humankind. Looking at the activities conducted or planned, we are convinced that further legal guidance is necessary to ensure they are carried out in accordance with international law and in a safe, sustainable, rational and peaceful manner. This legal framework needs to be developed multilaterally, and the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities is an important mechanism to do so. We commend the Working Group for its constructive work during the 63rd session of the LSC and continue to support the Chair and the Vice-Chair in their efforts to move forward the work of the group in line with its work plan and as spelled out by the decisions reflected in their report to the Legal Subcommittee, which we request to be reflected in this Committee`s report in full length.
- Third, **Information exchange on space activities**: We wish to thank everyone that engaged constructively in the exchange of views on the implementation of article XI Outer Space Treaty, that the Working Group on the Status and Application of the 5 UN Space Treaties started. We welcome the work plan on the basis of which it was agreed to continue this exchange, to prepare a template for the submission of information to the Secretary-General on activities in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, and to discuss possible additional tools and practices in order to enhance the exchange of information in accordance with article XI Outer Space Treaty. Again, we request that the report of the Chair of the working group be reflected in this Committee`s report in full length.
- Fourth, we appreciate the ongoing awareness-raising and **capacity-building** that OOSA provides in the field of space law and policy, such as through the 'Space Law for New Space Actors' project. We continue to support OOSA in its multi-faceted efforts to raise awareness and improve the understanding and application of the international space law instruments.

Thank you for your kind attention.