

**Mr. Chairman,**

We extend our sincere gratitude to Mr. Carulla from Spain the esteemed Chair of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). His leadership and commitment have steered our deliberations with utmost professionalism.

The Legal Subcommittee of the Committee alongside of Technical Subcommittee, serves as a vital pillar for COPUS activities and deliberation on matters of international space law, clarifying the rights and responsibilities of nations in outer space and fostering dialogue among member states to promote equitable access to space resources.

To help the Legal Subcommittee address the legal dimensions of ongoing issues in the outer space domain, two key considerations are essential: first, consensus as the foundation of cooperation and interaction among member states enhances the effectiveness of our collective efforts to further space law. Second, to ensure an interactive and cooperative approach, when proposing topics of interest, member states should carefully align them with the priorities of the COPUOS, and avoid issues that are socially, culturally, or religiously sensitive to a wide range of countries. By focusing on shared goals and common interests, we can strengthen existing space law and promote collaboration within the COPUOS and its subcommittees.

**Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation is strongly disappointed that the Legal Subcommittee during its 63rd session, despite successfully addressing all agenda items and making informed decisions, was unable to adopt its report due to the insistence of some

delegations to raise a sensitive issue that was out of COPUOS priorities and context.

Examining the reasons behind the legal subcommittee's failure to approve its report reveals the unwavering stance of a select few delegations to raise sensitive issues that challenge deeply ingrained social, cultural, and religious norms in many member states. Ironically, while the move for furthering a toolkit was meddling in the socially established practices of various countries, the supporter of that toolkit emphasized the importance of the COPUS-established practice. It appears that, for them, the socially established practices of various countries are less significant than the COPUS-established practice. Furthermore, they cautioned against rewriting and revisiting COPUS history, yet paradoxically, a toolkit that they propose attempts to rewrite the history of the family as the bedrock of human society.

### **Mr. Chair**

The United Nations Treaties on Outer Space play a crucial role in shaping our collective journey beyond Earth. These agreements contribute to preventing an arms race in space, ensuring sustainable access for all countries, and ultimately fostering trust and collective security. We firmly believe that reinforcing these treaties will contribute to a safer, more cooperative, and sustainable space environment for all nations. Iran emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in space activities. The treaties should encourage collaboration among nations for scientific research, technology transfer, and joint exploration. Strengthening provisions related to data sharing, capacity-building, and collaborative missions would foster mutual benefits.

**The mitigation** of space debris has become an issue as the number of space objects orbiting the Earth has grown exponentially in recent decades. The space-leading nations especially bear a significant responsibility to mitigate and remove

space debris. We believe that any steps towards addressing this issue shall ensure the fostering of a cooperative environment that does not impede the rights of developing states to partake in the exploration and use of outer space.

We recognize the importance of Space Traffic Management (STM) in the rapidly evolving space environment. Our commitment to equitable access, capacity building, and responsible behavior drives our stance on STM. Access to accurate Space Situational Awareness (SSA) data is crucial. We call for transparent sharing of information related to space objects, conjunction assessments, and collision avoidance maneuvers. We have carefully considered the proposal to establish an open-ended study group on STM. During the previous LSC session, we actively participated in the discussion about this proposal. Similar to other bodies operating under the UN system, we believe the mandate and scope of this study group require thorough deliberation before its establishment.