Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

The Italian Delegation deeply regrets that consensus could not be reached to adopt the final report of the Legal Subcommittee on its sixty-third session, resulting in only a procedural report. At the same time, we acknowledge that the report of the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and application of the five UN treaties on outer space and the report of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities were endorsed by the Subcommittee and therefore we look forward to the adoption of those reports by the Committee.

Our regret mainly depends on our high regard for the Legal Subcommittee as the pivotal body for promoting and strengthening the international legal framework governing outer space activities and international cooperation in this domain. We considered the results achieved by the Subcommittee during its last session deserve full appreciation.

Regarding the space resources topic, the International Conference held at the beginning of the session addressed five overarching topics relevant to the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources and it was prepared by a very informative and interesting discussion in the expert meeting held in Luxembourg. Speakers at the Conference made significant contributions to discussion on a potential legal framework for the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources and in assessing the benefits of further development of such a framework.

Italy firmly believes in the vast potential of space resources utilization for the future of humankind. International cooperation and multi-stakeholder dialogue are indispensable for creating a conducive environment for space resource activities. Our country has actively supported initiatives aimed at laying the groundwork for
international discussions on developing of an international framework, without prejudice to its form and structure. We have been guided by the principle of adaptive governance and always considered that space resource activities should be incrementally addressed based on contemporary technology and practices. We also consider very positively the results of the discussions on the WG on the Status and application of the five UN treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity building, to promote their implementation. We support in this regards the proposals made by the Chair and others on the implementation of Art. XI of the Outer Space Treaty though a dedicated mechanism.

Mr. Chairman

Italy wishes to take this opportunity to also reaffirm the importance of the major items on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee and our support to see them included again next year. These items include: information on the activities of international organizations and non-governmental organization relating to space law; the exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation and remediation measures; the exchange of information on non-legally binding UN instruments on outer space. Furthermore, we reiterate our commitment and support to the traditional practice of the Subcommittee in inviting the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) and the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL) to organize a Symposium on capacity building in the field of space law at the beginning of the session, on Monday afternoon.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we took note that since 2016, the Legal Subcommittee has considered the agenda item “General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management”. In this regard we support the proposal made by the German delegation for a Study Group within the Subcommittee on Perspectives for Space Traffic Management.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.