

**UK Statement – UN COPUOS 2024 – Agenda Item 8 - Report of
the Legal Sub-Committee**

Thank you Chair, distinguished delegates,

The United Kingdom would like to extend its thanks to COPUOS delegates who contributed to the discussions and debate at this year's Legal Subcommittee (LSC). We would also like to thank UNOOSA for organizing and facilitating the event, as well as the new chair of the LSC, Santiago Ripol Carulla, for their hard work in presiding over the sessions.

Chair,

The UK would like to express our disappointment that the LSC could not reach consensus on a substantial report this year. It is vital that the Subcommittee can take forward actions agreed at its meetings to keep pace with the ever-increasing activities in space. The UK remains committed to working constructively with all member states to reach consensus on relevant issues and urges all Members to show flexibility in report discussions. We would also like to thank you, Chair, and UNOOSA, for your efforts to ensure we can progress with the important work of the subcommittee.

The UK would support a process where COPUOS states can develop and agree non-binding guidelines for procedural methods of work at COPUOS to help prevent the procedural disagreements that took place during the report stage of the LSC.

Following the adoption of the procedural report in June, the UK would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the important progress which was made in areas of the subcommittee agenda.

Chair,

The UK was pleased to take part in the Working Group on Space Resources discussions. The UK would once again commend the efforts and expertise of the Working Group Chair, Andrzej Misztal, and the Vice Chair, Steven Freeland, who have done so much to progress the work of the Working Group. We would like to express our thanks to the Chairs for their efforts in organizing the extremely insightful expert event and international conference in Luxembourg and Vienna, alongside Luxembourg and Belgium for their efforts in facilitating the expert event.

The United Kingdom was pleased to see the Working Group discuss how it can make progress on agreeing the recommended principles for space resource activities with the process outlined by the Chair and Vice Chair at the LSC.

Chair,

The UK was also pleased to continue to engage in the work of the Working Group of the Five UN Treaties and would like to express our gratitude to the Chair, Franziska Knur, for their able leadership of the Working Group. The UK was particularly pleased to see the Working Group discuss the development of a voluntary Article XI template for submission of information to the Secretary General regarding Member States activities in space. The UK sees this work as vitally important fostering greater

information sharing on space activities, which is paramount to ensuring a sustainable space environment.

The United Kingdom hopes the Committee can agree the reports for both the Working Groups of the Five Treaties and Space Resources at this session, with them reaching consensus at the LSC and to enable the time sensitive work in their workplans.

Chair,

The UK recognizes the central role that the registration of space objects plays in so many aspects of space policy and space activities. This is why the UK initiated its project with UNOOSA on the registration of space objects in 2022. The UK would also like to thank all those who participated in our side event regarding the outcomes of the first phase of this project, which took place during LSC.

Finally Chair, the UK welcomes the views of all Members at COPUOS and recognises the importance of contributions from international intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, alongside the private sector, who can provide valuable insights on the topics that we discuss here, across the Subcommittees and this plenary event.

Thank you for your kind attention.