

Statement Kingdom of the Netherlands regarding agenda item 4 (General Exchange of views)

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Mr. Chair,

Let me begin by thanking you and the Office for Outer Space Affairs for preparing this important session.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands fully aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and wishes to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

Whether on Earth or in outer space, the Netherlands is a strong advocate of the international rule of law. We are party to all five UN space treaties and have incorporated these into our domestic legal framework through the Dutch Space Activities Act. In line with our Long-Term Space Agenda we are preparing to modernise this legislation to ensure continued compliance with international obligations and to enable a safe, secure, sustainable and innovation-friendly space environment.

The Netherlands strongly supports the development of a multilateral, legally binding instrument on space traffic management, negotiated under UN auspices. As outer space becomes more congested, existing coordination mechanisms are no longer sufficient. A global framework is necessary to ensure the safety, sustainability and equitable access to space for all actors. We believe such regulation must be inclusive, transparent, and technology-neutral, with active involvement of both public and private stakeholders. In this context we support the German proposal of a study group.

We also see space as a vital asset in addressing global and societal challenges. Satellite data play a strategic role in supporting climate policy, environmental monitoring, and disaster resilience. Through the Dutch Satellite Data Portal we enable the use of open data for applications such as drought management, nitrogen monitoring, nature restoration and urban development. We contribute to European efforts like Copernicus and the EU-SST partnership and invest in national capabilities to enhance space situational awareness.

In addition, the Netherlands stresses the importance of clear legal frameworks for emerging activities, including space resource utilisation. As a Moon Agreement State Party, we support the development of an international regime, building on the Hague International Space Resources Governance Working Group and the principles enshrined in the Artemis Accords.

Looking ahead, the Netherlands will continue to promote responsible, inclusive and rules-based space governance, and reaffirms its strong support for the work of COPUOS and UNOOSA.

Thank you.