

**UNCOPUOS Legal Subcommittee
60th Session 31 May – 11 June 2021, Vienna**

Statement by Germany

Agenda item 5 – Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space

Honorable Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

we thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs for providing information on the status of international agreements related to activities in outer space. Universal acceptance of the UN treaties on outer space and their comprehensive implementation are strong signals of support for the rule of international law in outer space.

Germany wishes to inform the Subcommittee that in 2019 and 2020 it submitted registration information on 17 space objects to the Secretary-General – in accordance with the Registration Convention and guided by the General Assembly’s resolution on enhanced registration practices. A majority of these objects were small satellites launched into outer space in launch events comprising multiple other space objects. In accordance with article IV paragraph 1 letter a) Registration Convention, Germany provides information on all launching states involved in the launch. With launch events comprising more than 30 small satellites from up to 15 different countries, this can be a considerably large number of launching states. However, we see great value in this practice as the submission of comprehensive registration information assists in the identification of liable state parties involved in a space activity. Furthermore, Germany submitted for the first time in 2020 information on the decommissioning of registered satellites, as recommend by the Registration Practice Resolution.

In a related matter, we are concerned by the constraints the Office for Outer Space Affaires faces in fulfilling its responsibility to maintain the UN Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space. We understand from the evaluation report published by the Office of Internal Oversight Services that – in light of the growing number of objects launched into outer space – it becomes increasingly challenging for UNOOSA to keep precise and regularly updated records. As it will be imperative to cope with the anticipated growth of the registration volume, an allocation of adequate resources from within the UN system is warranted.

Honorable Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

The Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five UN treaties on Outer Space is carrying out important work under UNISPACE+50 Thematic Priority 2. We thank the chair of the working group for submitting – in close cooperation with the secretariat – a revised draft of the guidance document and we look forward to its finalization. We also note that the working group shall decide on an extended work plan and we look forward to discussing these issues further within the working group.

Thank you for your kind attention.