



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
JAURÈSGASSE 3, 1030 VIENNA

Statement

by

The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

at

**The Sixty-First Session of
The Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS**

on

**Agenda item 14: The Application of International Law to
Small-Satellite Activities**

28 March – 8 April 2022

Vienna, Austria

“In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful”

Madam Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

Small satellites play a key role in space-based scientific and engineering programs. They have greatly reduced time and cost to obtain technology results. Small satellites are extremely responsive to new opportunities or technological improvements.

Due to the low power generated by these satellites, low Earth orbits (LEO) are more suitable for their deployment.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has indigenously developed a few small satellites and has a program to design, manufacture and launch several small satellites for remote sensing and communications applications in the near future by its own developed launchers.

The measures of some leading States and private companies to deploy a large number of small satellites in near-Earth orbit have increased concerns among emerging and developing countries for completely free and safe access to these orbital zones.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is concerned that in the upcoming years, under the excuse of maintaining safety in outer space and the need to follow guidelines such as space traffic management, developing countries will be under pressure to launch their satellites using indigenous launch vehicles.

It is necessary to define a clear legal framework to protect the rights of all States for their free and equitable access to outer space as well as their peaceful and unrestricted space activities in LEO. This framework should coordinate and regulate the access and presence of States in that orbit and recognize the rights of all countries, irrespective of their economic and scientific level of space development.

Thank you