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STATEMENT BY H.E AMB. ROBINSON NJERU GITHAE, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA, DELIVERED TO THE SIXTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE (LSC) OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPUOS) HELD IN VIENNA FROM THE 28TH MARCH TO 8TH APRIL, 2022 -

Madam Chair, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you **Ms. Nomfuneko Majaja** of South Africa, on your election as the Chairperson of this Subcommittee. I assure you of my delegation's full support and every success as you chair the 61st Session of the Legal Subcommittee.

We also take this opportunity to thank the Acting Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, **Mr. Niklas Headman**, and the Secretariat, for their commitment and tireless efforts in organizing for this meeting amidst the continuing challenging times of a global pandemic.

Madam Chair,

Kenya aligns itself with the statements by the African Group and the Group of 77 and China, and I would like to add a few remarks in our national capacity.

1. Kenya notes that the five United Nations treaties and principles on space-related activities form the primary legal framework towards creating a safe, secure and sustainable environment for the development and implementation of space-related activities.
2. Out of the five treaties, Kenya has ratified the Outer Space Treaty and Space Liability Convention. These instruments are in full force with regards to space activities in Kenya. With the increase in space activities such as launch of satellites, and suborbital flights, the Government of Kenya is considering ratification of the following treaties:
 - a. Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (Rescue Agreement).
 - b. Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (Registration Convention).
 - c. Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (Moon Treaty).



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3. As we continue with our internal processes for the necessary ratifications, we remain confident that the use and exploration of outer space shall be carried out exclusively for peaceful uses and in conformity to relevant space and international laws.

Madam Chair,

4. With regards to the sustainable use of outer space, Kenya fully supports the ongoing discussions of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space.
5. In addition, as a developing country that still has a nascent space sector, we are of the view that deliberations of this subcommittee, including on the guidelines should not deter the access to space for emerging space-faring countries.
6. In the same vein, I wish to recall the “Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space”, in particular, the access by a sensed State to the primary data and the processed data concerning the territory under its jurisdiction on a non-discriminatory basis and on reasonable cost terms.

Madam Chair,

7. As I conclude, I wish to reaffirm Kenya’s commitment to meaningful partnerships with the international space community for the promotion of space science and technology for sustainable socio-economic development at national, regional and international levels.
8. In this regard, Kenya looks forward to concrete proposals from interested global Space Agencies that wish to partner with us in capacity building in the peaceful uses of outer space.

I thank you.