



Permanent Mission of the Federative Republic of Brazil

Item 6: *Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space*

[*Check against delivery*]

Madam Chairperson,

From the onset, allow me to congratulate you for presiding over this subcommittee. You may rest assured of my delegation's full support.

Madam Chairperson,

This meeting gives us the opportunity to take a fresh look at the linkages between the domestic and the international regulation on the uses of outer space. The connection of internal norms to the broader objectives of multilateral agreements is understandably complex, but it is also an area in which some fresh thinking is important.

Over the years, we have seen strong support from the international community to the protection of the outer space as the 'province of all mankind' (Art. I). The principled ideas of the 1967 treaty served the exploration of space in the 'common interest of humanity' (Preamble) and precluded any claims of sovereignty (Art. II). In addition, the agreement set the obligation to render all possible assistance to astronauts as the 'envoys of mankind' (Art. IV) and to carry out the exploration of the Moon and other celestial bodies in the interest of 'maintaining international peace and security' (Art. III).

There have been some differences on what some of the provisions entailed. There were some who adhered to the 'black letter' of Art. IV, section 2, in discerning the meaning of 'peaceful purposes'. Others focused on defining the *a contrario* 'militarization' of space, and distinguishing it from 'space weaponization', the placement of weapons in outer space. There were even some who took a specific stand regarding the question whether the 'peaceful purposes' would have legal normativity.

Yet, the fact that the finer points of distinction between peaceful uses, militarization and weaponization have dogged proposals for new processes and policy frameworks need not to be a source of trust-sapping questions about what we aim to achieve. The current legal order in space continues to be directed towards increased world security, confidence-building, and respect for international law. These are the values we have upheld and which we should continuously sustain in building pathways to peace and stability.

At the same time, the growing commercialization of space activities has brought with it the development of a market for space tools such as launch vehicles, infrastructure and, above all, satellites. These new space tools and services market invite us to find a basis on which to work differently, and to look for new practices that are consistent with our goals. In fact, it will take all of us -government official; the industrial complex; think tanks; the scientific and the academic communities and the civil society - to work together and through our distinct roles to modernize the structures which the international community has created to deal with issues that transcend the inherent terrestrial limitations.

Thank you.