

Statement by the Pakistan Delegation

AGENDA ITEM 15: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON POTENTIAL LEGAL MODELS FOR ACTIVITIES IN EXPLORATION, EXPLOITATION AND UTILIZATION OF SPACE RESOURCES

Madam Chairperson,

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China under this agenda item and has the following remarks to add in its national capacity.

Pakistan welcomes the establishment of the Working Group on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources as a timely initiative. We commend the efforts of the Co-Chairs towards agreement on the work plan of the Working Group in an inclusive and consensus based manner. We look forward to engaging in the substantive work of the Working Group in a constructive manner. In this regard, Pakistan's position will be based on the following principles and considerations.

Firstly, the normative and legal framework governing exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources must be consistent with existing international space law, i.e., five UN space treaties particularly the Outer Space Treaty and fully respect the principles of non-appropriation and equitable access.

Secondly, space resources activities must be conducted in a safe, sustainable and peaceful manner for benefit of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development.

Thirdly, the Moon Agreement – in envisaging the possibility of an international regime to govern exploitation of natural resources of the moon and in calling for an equitable sharing the benefits derived from those resources and according to special consideration to the interests and needs of developing countries – provides best legal model for the framework to govern the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources

Fourthly, while engagement of private sector is important in developing norms around exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources, the process must be state-driven as States bear international responsibility of activities carried out by governments and commercial entities.

Finally, the Working Group should contribute towards the ultimate goal of legally binding instrument governing the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources negotiated through an inclusive process, as the best guarantee to ensure that space activities

are carried out in a transparent, predictable and sustainable manner while avoiding risk of conflict and preserving space as peaceful environment. In this regard, the UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS), with its track record in developing the international legal framework on space and its inclusive and transparent character, provides the best forum for further development of normative and legal framework on space resources.