



**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER  
SPACE: 61<sup>ST</sup> SESSION**

**AGENDA ITEM NO 6: : STATUS AND APPLICATION OF THE FIVE UNITED NATIONS  
TREATIES ON OUTER SPACE**

**28 MARCH – 08 APRIL 2022**

Check Against Delivery

**Chairperson,**

South Africa is of the view that adherence to the United Nations treaties contributes to creating a safe, secure and sustainable atmosphere for the development of outer space activities and enhancing the effectiveness of COPUOS as the main body for discussing and negotiating international space law. We therefore note with appreciation the growing number of parties to the five UN treaties on outer space and encourage those States that have not yet become parties to them to consider doing so. This could further be enhanced by the application of the non-legally binding Guidelines on the Long Term Sustainability of Outerspace, which South Africa negotiated for the past 8 years or so.

South Africa has been engaged with the following regulatory milestones:

- It is currently considering ratifying the Moon Agreement following extensive research.
- Consideration of the Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outerspace to enhance the safety of space operations, mitigate associated risks and promote international cooperation for the benefit of all.

**Chairperson,**

Considering the growing number of space actors and the benefits derived from space science technology and their applications, the conduct of such activities by States and other entities continues to expand. In this regard, South Africa is of the view that the conduct of space actors involved in developing international and regional space cooperation should conform to applicable international space law, relevant declarations and extensive guidelines.

**Thank you, Chairperson.**