

Agenda item 4 – **General Exchange of Views**

Mme Chair, distinguished delegates,

Mme Chair, good afternoon, thank you for giving me the floor.

Let me start by repeating my Government's congratulations to you, Mme Chair, with your election and my Government's appreciation for your guidance of this subcommittee. We look forward to a constructive session. I would also like to repeat our thanks to Mr Niklas Hedman and the Secretariat on their excellent work in preparation of this session.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, and would like to state the following in its national capacity.

Before sharing with the Subcommittee my Delegation's views on several issues on the Agenda, my Delegation wishes to start with expressing the support of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for Ukraine. The Netherlands condemns in the strongest possible terms the unprovoked act of aggression by Russia, supported by Belarus. It is a serious violation of Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, which prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State. This prohibition is a peremptory norm of international law that all States must abide by. As also requested by the International Court of Justice, the Netherlands calls on the Russian Federation immediately to cease its aggression and unconditionally to withdraw its troops and any military or irregular armed units which may be directed or supported by it, from the territory of Ukraine, and to respect the latter's territorial integrity and political independence.

Against this backdrop, the Kingdom of the Netherlands can no longer support the proposed establishment of a new Regional Centre for space science and technology education in the Eurasian region, hosted by the Russian Federation, as noted in UN General Assembly Resolution 76/76, which should aim at strengthening regional and international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The destabilising behaviour of the Russian Federation does not correspond to the conduct of a responsible space actor in the context of the peaceful use of outer space.

Now, Mme Chair, my Government would like to continue by thanking you and the Secretariat for organising this session under the present circumstances. Your efforts and those of the Secretariat are greatly appreciated. My delegation would also like to stress again the importance of the work of this Sub-Committee. The Legal Sub-Committee is entrusted to promote and develop the legal regime applicable to Outer Space, that is the Five UN treaties on Outer Space. Together with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Legal Subcommittee is an expert committee, with the important task of monitoring, discussing and promoting the legal standards applicable to activities in and related to Outer Space.

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My Government would like to take this opportunity to mark the issues that are of particular importance, and concern, to the Kingdom of the Netherlands. These are the issues of Registration of Space activities, Space Debris Mitigation and Remediation Measures, Space Traffic Management, the Future Role and Method of Work of the Committee, and the Potential Legal Models for the Exploration, Exploitation and Use of Space Resources. In the context of the latter, I would like to remind the Members of this Sub-committee of the Building Blocks, as adopted by the The Hague International Space Resources Governance Working Group. These have been submitted to the Committee by Luxembourg and the Netherlands in a working paper at the 59th Session of the Committee. We would like to invite the members of the Committee to take these Building Blocks into consideration in our discussions on the development of a legal framework for the regulation of space resources activities.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands has already delivered its statements under agenda items six, 13, and 15, and will provide its statement under agenda items 10 and 11 in due course.

For now, Mme Chair, distinguished delegations. I thank you for your attention.