

AGENDA ITEM 4

GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

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THE HAGUE INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE

Thank you Madam Chair,

On behalf of the President of the Hague Institute for Global Justice, Lady Sohair Salam Saber, I would like to thank the Subcommittee for allowing me to present the Hague Institute's request for permanent observer status in COPUOS as contained in document A/AC.105/C.1/2022/CRP 6.

The Hague Institute for Global Justice has launched a program entitled "The Off-World Approach" to address the role of civil society in the future space enterprise. The Off-World Approach is the first international, non-governmental organization established to examine all aspects of the future space enterprise in five decades. The Off -World Approach is guided by a Council of leading experts in all aspects of the space enterprise. The first meeting of the Council was convened on September 14, 2021, Co-Chaired by me and Lady Sohair.

Governing new and innovative commercial space ventures will require a nimble and comprehensive vision. There is no appetite in the space sector for decades-long negotiations on new binding legal instruments. Instead, a rich menu of legal and policy concepts that space actors can choose from and adapt to their own circumstances and goals is urgently needed. Yet, these policy options must balance civil society's needs with mounting space security challenges, that, if left unchecked, could render the global commons of space less than useful. As we proceed through the 21st Century and beyond, there must be thoughtful

consideration given to the totality of the role of civil society in the future space enterprise. We must look at mechanisms that will provide a regular and sustainable platform for all stakeholders to express their vision on global stability, economic growth, societal well-being, and the rule of law. New institutions or confederations not traditionally associated with space should also be examined to bring new perspectives to the space enterprise.

The Off World Approach is guided by the following cross-cutting concepts:

- ♣ Transparency
- ♣ Predictability
- ♣ Interoperability
- ♣ The Rule of Law
- ♣ Fair and Equal Governance
- ♣ Sustainability of the Space Environment
- ♣ Use of Space Systems for Sustainability on Earth
- ♣ Freedom of Scientific Inquiry and Data Exchange
- ♣ Permissive International and Domestic Frameworks for Civil Society
- ♣ Wisdom and Lessons Learned for the Next Generation of Space
Entrepreneurs
- ♣ Capacity-building for the global community to reap the benefits of space
exploration to meet their needs
- ♣ Develop bottom up “best practices” for the utilization of space resources
- ♣ Integrate civil society into governmental policy decision-making

regarding outer space.

The Off-World Approach will provide a reliable and objective venue for civil society and government to set the path from Earth to the Moon, Mars, and beyond. But to be part of this construct, participants must commit to transparency, interoperability, sustainability, economic well-being, and the rule of law. The Off-World Approach should not be an arbiter of geopolitical differences but an advocate for practical solutions to make the space enterprise meaningful to everyday life worldwide. We must not limit the future of the space enterprise by clinging only to what is familiar. Rather, the focus should be to discover what is possible. The need for an innovative approach to space exploration writ-large is not a reflection of failure but progress. It is the result of the natural evolution of space exploration and exploitation and space diplomacy. What started as a few states acting under Cold War pressures has grown into a global endeavor that requires new thinking to meet emerging space development needs once again. This process of developing new space ventures followed by new international approaches should be expected to continue.

The current crisis in Europe has disrupted the geo-political equation and now we must seek innovative ways and means to maintain stability in space. With this in mind, the Off-World Approach has launched a commission to draft a Compact on Norms of Behavior for Commercial Space Operations. The purpose of the Compact is to establish a common vision to ensure that civil space exploration and development is conducted in a manner that prevents conflict and supports cooperation, peace, and prosperity. The Compact is intended to enhance safety, reduce uncertainty, and promote the sustainable and beneficial use of space for all humankind. The Compact represents a commitment by the Signatories to uphold these principles many of which provide for operational implementation of

obligations contained in the Outer Space Treaty and other existing instruments. The principles set out in this Compact apply to commercial activities conducted by civil society in Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. The Commission held its first discussion earlier this month. In attendance, were senior level individuals from private commercial entities, along with national space agencies, aerospace experts, and policymakers from across the globe that will serve as champions in implementing the Compact for the future space enterprise. This is an ambitious undertaking but the Institute is convinced that now is the time for civil society to take center stage in shaping a new paradigm for space activities.

Thank you Madam Chair.