



**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**  
**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
JAURÈSGASSE 3, 1030 VIENNA

**Statement**

by

**The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

at

**The Sixty-First Session of  
The Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS**

on

**Agenda item 7b: The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union**

28 March – 8 April 2022

Vienna, Austria

*“In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful”*

Thank you Madam Chair, Good day to you and to all the participants.

Referring to the meetings of the Legal Subcommittee in recent years, including the last one in 2021, serious concerns have been repeatedly raised by developing countries. These Member States have requested for the reaction of the COPUOS to the shortcomings of equitable access to geostationary orbit. Based on that, several suggestions have been made to the Legal Subcommittee on how to address this issue and some of them are as follow:

- 1- To establish a working group in the Legal subcommittee.
- 2- To amend the current GSO-related agenda item of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in order to consider technical aspects of the issue.
- 3- To establish an inter-governmental panel of experts.
- 4- To cooperate with the International Telecommunication Union on issues related to equitable utilization of orbital resources.
- 5- To extend the scope of agenda item 7(b) in order to consider equitable access to other satellite orbits in addition to geostationary orbit.

Unfortunately, all the raised suggestions have been rejected by a few developed countries, and as a result, these proposals have been merely captured as a view in the final reports of the Subcommittee.

Opposing countries are of the opinion that the Legal Subcommittee should leave the full responsibility for dealing with this issue to the ITU and have prevented the LSC from taking any action or decision under this agenda item so far. However, the Union itself has welcomed such cooperation and stated that:

“The United Nations and all its Agencies are allowed to participate in ITU meetings

and submit documents, such as liaison statements, even directly to the ITU Study Groups and Working Parties.”

Madam Chair,

The policy of opposing any proposal under agenda item 7(b) contradicts not only the spirit and objectives of this agenda item but also contradicts the explicit text of this agenda which has mandated this Subcommittee for consideration of the ways and means to ensure the equitable use of geostationary orbit.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in line with the views of many Member States, supports any serious action to be taken by this Subcommittee toward the improvement of equitable utilization of GSO and has previously elaborated its views in the CRP.26 and CRP.21 respectively submitted to the 58th session of STSC and the 60th session of LSC.

Madam Chair,

My delegation also believes that the Legal Subcommittee needs a clear understanding of the barriers in providing equitable access to GSO in order to be able to carry out its mandate as set out in agenda item 7(b), therefore the LSC needs to pay close attention to ongoing discussions of the Radiocommunication Sector of ITU (ITU-R) which is related to these barriers.

An example of recent ITU discussions is the observations of ITU Member States on the statistics related to GSO access that could be perceived as warehousing of orbital spectrum resources and indicate the need for change in the current regulations. This subject is reflected in the recent chairman report of Working Party 4A of ITU-R (in document [4A/522](#)<sup>1</sup> page 21).

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.itu.int/dms\\_ties/itu-r/md/19/wp4a/c/R19-WP4A-C-0522!!MSW-E.docx](https://www.itu.int/dms_ties/itu-r/md/19/wp4a/c/R19-WP4A-C-0522!!MSW-E.docx)

Another example of related discussions in the ITU is the concern of 25 African countries ( [4A/477](#)<sup>2</sup>) which are supported by some other Member States. These African countries referred to a shortcoming in the ITU approach for providing equitable access to GSO. This approach, which is called Planning, is based on granting permanent orbital and frequency resources to all member states. The African countries indicated that over time, many of these resources have become unusable due to the lack of proper regulations for the long-term protection of these permanent resources.

Madam Chair,

These ongoing issues in the International Telecommunication Union, indicate that the objective of equitable access to this orbit has not been fully achieved and there is an urgent need for enhancement. Therefore we request the Legal Subcommittee, which is the other competent body to address this issue, to follow the proposals raised by Member States, five of which have been mentioned earlier.

It is worth mentioning that the current ITU Annual Space report to the STSC contains statistics on the utilization of GSO and other orbits, However, it does not establish any linkage between this data and the degree of equitability in those utilizations. Therefore, my delegation also proposes that LSC invite the ITU, to include an additional section in its Annual Space Report, to provide their own analysis on the degree of equitability on the access to orbital resources and to present the progress results on the relevant issues in the ITU.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.itu.int/md/R19-WP4A-C-0477/en>

**Source:** Benin (Republic of) , Botswana (Republic of) , Cameroon (Republic of) , Comoros (Union of the) , Côte d'Ivoire (Republic of) , Djibouti (Republic of) , Eswatini (Kingdom of) , Ghana , Kenya (Republic of) , Malawi , Mali (Republic of) , Mozambique (Republic of) , Niger (Republic of the) , Nigeria (Federal Republic of) , Rwanda (Republic of) , Senegal (Republic of) , Somalia (Federal Republic of) , South Africa (Republic of) , South Sudan , Sudan (Republic of the) , Tanzania (United Republic of) , Uganda (Republic of) , Zambia (Republic of) , Zimbabwe (Republic of)

And by this, I conclude the statement and thank you for your attention