Agenda 3. General Exchange of View, Indonesia Sixty-Second Session of Legal Subcommittee COPUOS

By. Prof. Dr. Erna Sri Adiningsih

Thank you, Madam Chair

My delegation is pleased to see you again, chairing this 62nd Session of the Legal Subcommittee of the UNCOPUOS. We believe that under your leadership we will have a successful meeting to address numerous issues before us within the framework of cooperation for peaceful purposes.

Rest assured of the full support and cooperation of my delegation for the fruitful deliberations of our meeting.

We take note of the developments of the work of the Legal Subcommittee since its 61st session and the Sixty-fifth session of Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held in June 2022. We would also like to express our gratitude to Mr. Niklas Hedman, the Acting Director of the Office, and his team for the preparation of this session, despite the challenges of COVID-19.

The Indonesian delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan on behalf of Group of 77 and China.

We would further like to add the following remarks in our national capacity.

Madam Chair,

Indonesia is of the view that outer space shall be explored and utilized entirely dedicated for peaceful purposes and the interest of all humankind. Thus, let us together maintain, strengthen and implement the principles of peaceful uses of outer space, including the principles of equal access and non-appropriation. Indonesia also would like to emphasize the importance of transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBM) and responsible behavior in outer space.

Let me share you some following topics that are important for Indonesia:

On issue of definition and delimitation of outer space, it is again my delegation's belief that there is a need to define and delimit outer space for the purpose of defining the exact boundary between airspace and outer space, clarifying the issues of the sovereignty, establish legal certainty of the scope of application of outer space law and air law, strengthening the implementation of the international responsibility of States, and reducing the possibility of disputes among States.

With respect to the geostationary orbit (GSO), we are of the view that GSO is part of outer space, and according to the Space Treaty 1967, it is a limited natural resource. In this regard, the application of GSO shall be rational, balanced, efficient, and with equitable access for all countries without seeing their technical development in outer space technology.

In doing so, we should consider GSO as a specific area and special part of outer space, which needs specific technical and legal governance as well. Therefore, in order to ensure the application of principles of equitable access for all States, particularly the needs of developing countries and countries which have special geographical conditions, my delegation believes

that GSO should be regulated by a sui generis regime, according to Space Treaty and Article 44 of ITU Constitution.

Madam Chair,

As to the National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, We would like to inform you that on 16 February Indonesia enacted Government Regulations No.7 in the Year 2023 on Space Technology Mastery. This regulation is one of the mandates of Indonesia's Space Act 2013 that regulates the mastery and protection of space technology; security and safety standards and procedures in the mastery of space technology, and community participation in the mastery of space technology.

Indonesia attaches the importance of capacity-building, education and training and technical cooperation as they will provide valuable support for developing countries' outer space activities. Thus, Indonesia would like to reemphasize the need for COPUOS to have targeted capacity building, education, training, as well as targeted providing expertise for developing countries. Indonesia welcomes any cooperation that will mutually enhance the engagement of and benefit Indonesia and other countries in outer space activities. Indonesia also supports the view of the importance of appropriate funding to enable UNOOSA to support the developing countries .

Madam Chair

On the issue legal aspect of small satellite, Indonesia has developed numerous small satellites in accordance with international norms and is taking advantage of the small-satellite technology. Due to the fact of the growing demand and planning for small satellite operations, Indonesia is of the view that there is a need of a new international regulatory approach to address operations of small satellites, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the low Earth orbit and frequency spectrum.

Regarding the issue General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources. Indonesia views that space resources consist of two forms, namely material and immaterial. They are the common heritage of mankind whose use must be distributed fairly regardless of the level of progress of the country so that international arrangements based on multilateral approach are absolutely necessary.

Madam Chair, distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

To conclude, allow me reiterate that sustainability of space activities can only be achieved through the development of environmentally sound space technology and applications. Further, utilization of space and terrestrial object should continue to be based on the principle of fair and mutual benefit, as well as full respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of States.

In this regard, Indonesian delegation will continue to provide a strong support and contribution for the work and deliberations of this Subcommittee. In this spirit, we are convinced that the 62nd session of the Legal Subcommittee will be successful.

Indonesia reserves our rights to provide further comments in related agenda items.

Thank You, Madam Chair.