

The 62nd Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS
Thailand's Statement on
Agenda Item 3: General exchange of views
20 March 2023

Madame Chair,

Let me first take this opportunity to admire your excellent leadership as the Chair of the Legal Subcommittee under the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). I commend you for your continued leading of the Subcommittee. Moreover, I greatly appreciate the opportunity of physically participating in the 62nd Legal Subcommittee. I am confident that, under your excellence, this session will reach fruitful results, even if in hybrid form. I also thank Mr. Niklas Hedman, the acting Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and his staffs for the great efforts in furthering the work of the Legal Subcommittee. In addition, I recognize that the number of COPUOS members has increased nonstop to 102 member states. This is a good sign of the Committee as it reflects the importance of multilateralism in utilization of outer space. I warmly welcome Guatemala and Uzbekistan as the latest member states of COPUOS.

Madame Chair,

As the world sees the devastation earthquakes caused in Türkiye and Syria on 6 February 2013, claiming thousands of lives, Thailand urged to support fund and rescue efforts by sent a team from the Urban Search and Rescue Thailand to Türkiye. Additionally, Thailand provided Thaichote satellite images and information

to aid disaster response through Sentinel Asia initiative. After the International Charter “Space and Major Disasters” was activated, Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (Public Organization) (GISTDA) publicly released the series of post-event imagery over the affected areas from 7 to 14 February 2023.

Thailand, represented by GISTDA, is pleased to made contribution according to the International Charter “Space and Major Disasters”. At present, the Charter is not only an agreement among participating space agencies but also a unified effort. From Thailand’s point of view, this Charter serves as evidence of worldwide collaboration. No one country or technology alone will ever be able to solve the world’s growing need for sustainability and satellite-based services. Therefore, collaboration is the only way we can solve our planet’s issues. As a member of COPUOS I feel glad that a lot of international research collaborations to improve the use of space science and technology as well as international space law have always been conducted between Member States and UNOOSA.

Madame Chair,

I am pleased to inform you that GISTDA and UNOOSA have been working closely for many years since Thailand is a member of COPUOS in 2004. Last year, from 15 to 16 December, GISTDA in collaboration with UNOOSA, conducted the virtual workshop “Space Law for New Space Actors Technical Advisory Mission (TAM)” in Thailand. During the two-day workshop, various topics on the importance of liability for activities on outer space and space insurance, fundamental principles of international space law, and mechanisms for developing national regulatory and policy frameworks in line with outer space activities were educated.

I myself participated in the above-mentioned virtual workshop and had witnessed wonderful inclusion of this event. Thank you to the Committee, Policy and Legal Affairs Section of UNOOSA as well as the involved country and person for attending, collaborating, and supporting this virtual workshop.

Madame Chair,

On behalf of Thai delegation, we would like to reaffirm our support to UNOOSA and this subcommittee, and looks forward to ongoing work with every Member States through COPUOS. Last but not least, I would like to congratulate Mr. Niklas on his retirement. It was a pleasure to work with him. I always admired how he worked alongside all of us during the crucial time of the committee, sharing his invaluable experience of the work with us.

Thank you for your attention.