



**G-77 AND CHINA STATEMENT DURING THE SIXTY-SECOND (62nd) SESSION
OF THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE
ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE, FROM 20 – 31 MARCH 2023,
DELIVERED BY H.E. AFTAB AHMAD KHOKHER, AMBASSADOR,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN**

**AGENDA ITEM 10: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON POTENTIAL LEGAL
MODELS FOR ACTIVITIES IN EXPLORATION, EXPLOITATION AND
UTILIZATION OF SPACE RESOURCES**

Madam Chairperson,

1. The Group of 77 and China underscores the importance of this topic in connection with the future of international cooperation in space exploration, which the Group believes should not depart from the basic legal principles of the non-appropriation and equitable access to outer space, which is the common province of humankind.
2. In view of the present scenario, in which some countries have introduced national laws allowing the exploitation of celestial bodies for economic purposes, this discussion becomes urgent for the consideration of these legislations with regard to the International Space Law, in order to avoid gaps or contradictions in the legal framework in this area and to provide a clear understanding of the legal obligations of States in space exploration.
3. The Group welcomes the establishment of the Working Group on the general exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources during the session of the Legal Subcommittee. The Group also welcomes the five-year Workplan and methods of work of the Working Group and looks forward to fruitful deliberations on this pertinent issue.
4. The Group believes that discussions should be as inclusive as possible for the benefit and in the interest of all humankind, taking into consideration the needs of developing countries. The Group is of the view that any approach for the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources should be equitable, constructive, collaborative, consensus-based, and most of all, does not leave behind or unfairly disadvantage developing countries. The Group also believes that in order to be inclusive and transparent, these discussions should take place within formal sessions, which should be allotted sufficient time, with interpretation services in all official UN languages.
5. The Group is of the view that in light of the increasing participation and the evolving potential of the private sector in space activities, the negotiation of a possible international legally binding instrument that clearly defines and guides commercial activities in outer space could play an important role in expanding the use of outer space and stimulate space activities for the benefit of humanity. The Group considers that, besides the need for a broad debate about the implications of these activities, the developing countries shall not be excluded from the benefits of space exploration and their rights shall be taken into account in the discussion.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.