

62 session of the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee

Agenda item 3 General Exchange of Views

Statement of Poland

Madame Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

Let me express our delegation's warm appreciation to you Madame Chair on your skillful leadership of the Legal Subcommittee of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space during this biennial period.

We are also grateful to Mr. Niklas Hedman, acting Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs who exercised the functions of the Secretary of the Committee, and to the staff of the Office for all preparation and conducting business.

We welcome Guatemala and Uzbekistan as new members of the Committee. The steadily growing number of members of the COPUOS shows the genuine commitment of states to contribute within their abilities to the development of the space cooperation and building of the outer space law in particular.

Madame Chair,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and wishes to make some additional remarks in its national capacity.

Like members of the EU speaking previously, Poland condemns in the strongest terms the unprovoked and baseless aggression of Russia against Ukraine and call for the immediate withdrawal of occupation troops from the Ukrainian territory as well as expresses its full support for and solidarity with Ukraine. Russian aggression on Ukraine not only negatively impacts regional safety but also has significant adverse effects on a global scale. Today, the entire democratic international community is making dramatic efforts to stop the criminal activities of the Russian Federation since this war is used against all the norms and principles of international law.

Madame Chair,

Our delegation is supporter of the multilateralism and believe that there is no other way to ensure proper functioning of international activities in the outer space within the internationally agreed framework.

In this context we follow with great interest, high expectations and full support the process of implementation of the Long-Term Sustainability Guidelines in the process of undertaking the outer space activities. Poland as an emerging space faring nation and member

of the European Space Agency, is committed to build institutional and legal base to make it possible.

Polish public administration entities have recently made a substantial progress in establishing legal and regulatory framework for conducting national space activities. Ministry of the Economic Development and Technology in close cooperation with Polish Space Agency took a leading role in the drafting of the National Space Program. The Programme includes: the development of the concept of the National Satellite Information System, the expansion of the National Space Security System, and the building of capabilities for constructing and launching space objects. Moreover, Polish Space Agency collected new concepts for national space missions and began planning their implementation.

Poland is strongly committed to the safety of space operations. As a member of the European EU SST consortium since 2018, in result of close collaboration, we established the observatory system, designed to monitor space objects in LEO-type orbits, enabling detection and determination of orbital parameters along with object identification. The observation stations, which are owned by Polish Space Agency, will be used to catalogue objects in our planet low orbits. The observation system has been deployed in three different locations: at the Truszczyna Astronomical Observatory and the Rzepiennik Biskupi Astronomical Observatory in Poland as well as at the Kryoneri Astronomical Observatory in Greece.

In terms of international cooperation, capacity-building and awareness, as part of the ENTRUSTED project, Polish Space Agency conducted a survey of public administrations in Poland on the needs for secure satellite communications services. In addition, while implementing the FUTURE SPACE project, Polish Space Agency in cooperation with Space Research Centre of Polish Academy of Sciences, has prepared lesson plans for high schools and an overview of study and internship programs in Europe. Finally, Agency has gradually gained knowledge of the possibilities of suborbital flights and horizontal orbital launches from Polish territory and aims to support the development of national air-launch capabilities in the near future.

Madame Chair,

My delegation wishes to congratulate Mr. Andrzej Misztal and Prof. Steven Freeland, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resources Activities respectively for their efforts to give appropriate impulse to the functioning of this Working Group. Under their leadership the Group adopted in 2022 its 5-year Workplan and Methods of Work as well as the documents complementing the institutional package necessary for operability of the Group.

We welcome timely and important presentation to the COPUOS' Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the summary by Chair and Vice-Chair regarding the submissions by states and permanent observers. We believe that the call to the scientific experts was also important to feed our thinking with appropriate academic and practical knowledge that will be crucial in our legal work. We note the need of stronger coordination between the two

subcommittees and we are grateful to the Secretariat for making appropriate arrangements to formulate the message from the Working Group.

Another element that would be of paramount importance for the effectiveness of the space resources issue is the dedicated conference planned for 2024. We wish to point out that the participation and scope of opinions should be as wide as possible and inclusive. With the work of the Secretariat we will be able to ensure the appropriate level of input that the Legal Subcommittee needs to continue its work on.

Madame Chair,

We attach great importance to contribution of the academic community and to interaction with institutions from other countries on international law on outer space discussion. With the establishment in Poland in 2017 of the Manfred Lachs Center for Space Law the effort to disseminate the knowledge but also to receive back from it increased. This well coordinated educational activity will be continued.

Under the auspices of the Center the Department of International Aviation and Space Law of the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Warsaw, and the Polish Space Agency, the conference was organized in December last year to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects.

The discussion on the “Balance and Prospects” gathered prominent speakers from around the World, including Prof. Steven Freeland, Prof. Kai-Uwe Schrogl, International Space Law Institute; Prof. Tanja Zwaan, University of Leiden; and Prof. Georgios D. Kyriakopoulos, University of Athens. It was supported by active participation of Polish experts from several institutions and academia.

The documents and statements dealt with current and future challenges of space law in the areas of liability for damage, international security, space traffic management, and still emerging domestic space legislation and the results will be published in the special issue of *Studia Iuridica* in the autumn this year.

Madame Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

The multilateral diplomacy is the right channel to discuss problems and find solutions that is why we should work constantly to keep the momentum and ensure effective functioning of the UN machinery, including in the matters related to the activities in outer space. We wish to all of us successful work during present session.

Thank you for your attention.