

Germany, Item 3

**UNCOPUOS Legal Subcommittee
62st Session 20 March – 31 March 2023, Vienna**

Statement by Germany

Agenda Item 3 – General exchange of views

Honorable Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

The German delegation thanks you, Madam Chair, for your continued service to the Committee and assures its full support. We appreciate the excellent work of UNOOSA – not only in preparation of this session, but in fulfilling multiple challenging tasks and mandates under the UN treaties and space programs.

The five UN space treaties remain the bedrock of any kind of space activities. Outer space including the moon and celestial bodies must remain open for peaceful exploration and use for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, including for future generations. Therefore, Germany supports the preparations of the **2024 Summit of the Future**, promoting the peaceful, secure and sustainable use of outer space and paving the way for future governance of space activities. Of course, COPUOS and its Subcommittees remain the central platform for the advancement of the international legal framework for space activities. At this session of the LSC, we have again a rich agenda ahead of us.

Our most urgent challenge is ensuring long-term sustainable use of outer space, including the **mitigation and remediation of space debris and managing space traffic**. The growing number of space activities calls for a robust system of international governance. It should encompass a **global legal commitment to avoid space debris** as well as a **comprehensive, multilateral space traffic management**. The “UN Guidelines on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities” are an important first step. However, additional guidance is necessary. We urge all delegations to engage constructively in the development of technical and operational standards, guidelines encouraging and showcasing best practices of more sustainable use of outer space and moving towards the long-term objective of establishing a dedicated international space traffic management regime.

We also have to note that tests of antisatellite weapons contributed to a significant portion of the space debris in orbit today. It is the more welcoming that our partners in the US – and others around the globe – committed to a **moratorium of destructive ASAT tests**. Germany adopted such a declaration, too, and encourages all states to consider similar steps.

Another important topic for our work is the sustainable and peaceful use of celestial bodies, including an international regime for the **exploration, utilization and exploitation of space resources**. Acknowledging the opportunities of exploring and utilizing the moon and other celestial bodies including their resources, further legal guidance still is necessary and needs to be developed multilaterally. Therefore, we wish to reassure the Co-Chairs of the “Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities” of our continued support. We stand ready to engage in the drafting of principles for space resources activities, in order to ensure their safe and sustainable conduct, in accordance with international law, and not giving rise to conflict of any kind.

Honorable Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,
with Article XI of the Outer Space Treaty, parties have **agreed to inform** the international community **of the nature, conduct, locations and results of space activities**. In light of the critical role of information-sharing for safe and sustainable space activities, and referring to a joint Conference Room Paper submitted by Luxembourg and Germany at STSC, we invite all delegations to share their views on dedicated tools and practices for enhanced information-sharing.

We also reiterate the great value of the UN Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space. Comprehensive registration information is an important transparency measure and supports the identification of liable state parties involved in space activities. The allocation of adequate resources to UNOOSA is key to enabling the Office to adequately fulfil its mandate in maintaining the register, irrespective of the anticipated growth of the registration volume. We also support the finalization of recommendations for the registration of large satellite constellations at the “Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five UN Space Treaties”.

Thank you for your kind attention.