

### **Statement by Norway to the Legal Subcommittee under Agenda Item 3: "General exchange of views"**

Chair,

Norway would like to thank you for chairing this session of the Legal Subcommittee. You may rest assured of Norway's support. We would also like to thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their excellent work in preparing this session. After now having been a member for over five years, Norway would emphasize the importance of our task in ensuring a peaceful future for mankind's activities in outer space

Chair,

International law and in particular the UN Treaties relating to activities in outer space are fundamental for the safeguarding of a continued peaceful utilization and exploration of outer space in the best interest of mankind. Norway is therefore pleased to see that the membership to UNCOPUOS is steadily increasing. In that respect, my delegation welcomes the new members to the Committee: Guatemala and Uzbekistan.

There is a vast and evolving potential for activities in the space domain. The pace of progress reminds us of the importance of the multilateral efforts of COPUOS to develop norms and guidelines for the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space.

Among our tasks is supporting and contributing to the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities. Norway has submitted its view on the Working Group's mandate and purpose, and we look forward to the initial exchange of views during this session of the Legal Subcommittee.

Another important task is found in the new Working Group on Long-term Sustainability, which met during the recent session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Much has already been done regarding LTS, and Norway welcomes further discussions on issues of great importance to us all.

On that note, Norway supports the decision made by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to submit a text to be included in the Ministerial Declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit to be held in September this year.

The Space2030 agenda is a major step in how space is considered in the UN. More and more sectors are looking to engage in activities in outer space, and the Space2030 agenda emphasizes the need for a transnational approach. Its implementation plan is another priority for Norway. We are working on contributions to the agenda, and will report to the Committee accordingly.

Chair,

Norway's work on a new national space law continues. The current law from 1969 has served us well, and we are on track towards a modern law for future activities. The new law will, among other, provide a framework for space activities, such as registering of space objects, supervision of space activities, sanctions and liability.

Related to supervision, the Norwegian Government has decided that the new national space authority shall be placed under the existing administrative structure of the Norwegian Civil Aviation Authority.

Space traffic management is gaining increased importance as the number of objects and activities in space continue to grow. A multilateral approach is required to secure a safe and sustainable use of outer space. For this reason, it is important that space traffic management remains an item on our agenda.

I would also like to remind all delegations of the Global Space Conference on Climate Change (GLOC 2023), which takes place in Oslo, Norway, on 23-25 May this year. The conference aims to gather policy makers from different nations and high-level representatives of space organizations, research and industry to address various topics in relation to space and climate change, focusing on concrete climate change solutions for both polar and tropical regions. GLOC 2023 is arranged by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and is hosted by the Norwegian Space Agency. You are all invited to register for the conference.

In conclusion, Chair, I must note that we meet once again whilst the Russian federation, assisted by Belarus, continues its illegal and unprovoked attack on Ukraine. This war of aggression remains a flagrant breach of the most fundamental rules of international relations. In COPUOS, just as in any other international organization, it is more important than ever that we stand up for international law, norms and standards as essential for ensuring stable and peaceful coexistence. We repeat our call on the Russian federation to withdraw its troops, stop its aggression against Ukraine, and comply with the fundamental rules of international law that our peaceful coexistence depends on.

Thank you, Chair.