



STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER
SPACE: 62nd SESSION**

**AGENDA ITEM NO 5: STATUS AND APPLICATION OF THE FIVE UNITED NATIONS
TREATIES ON OUTER SPACE**

20 MARCH – 31 MARCH 2023

Check Against Delivery

Chairperson,

South Africa is of the view that adherence to the United Nations treaties contributes to creating a safe, secure and sustainable atmosphere for the development of outer space activities and enhancing the effectiveness of COPUOS as the main body for discussing and negotiating international space governance.

South Africa is party to 4 of the UN Treaties, except the Moon Convention. Implementation of these treaties requires the development of and compliance with national legislation and related regulations, which South Africa has found to be challenging but possible.

In its national licensing and regulatory activities, South Africa strives to adhere to the principles contained in the 5 UN treaties and non-binding guidelines but does encounter difficulties as regulatory processes tend to lag behind technical developments.

The annual International Space Law and European Space Symposium organised by the LSC is an important engagement for delegations to participate in, whilst getting valuable insights as far as implementation of legal space governance and case studies of implementation of these.

My delegation looks forward to participating in the Legal Aspects of Space Traffic Management and the session on Space Law for New Space Actors.

Chairperson

South Africa notes with appreciation the growing number of parties to the various UN treaties on outer space and encourages those States that have not done so to consider joining the treaties. This could further be enhanced by the application of the non-legally binding Guidelines on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outerspace in which South Africa played a leading role.

We are also of the view that the Committee led by Mr *Uma-mahe-swaran* from India is pursuing the development of further guidelines paramount to the outer space arena where technology fast outpaces the regulatory framework. Progress made in this regard is well appreciated and delegations are encouraged to actively participate in the Working Group to

reach common ground.

South Africa remains seized with regulatory milestones of how to implement the Guidelines for the Long-Term Sustainability of Outerspace to enhance the safety of space operations, mitigate associated risks and promote international cooperation for the benefit of all.

Chairperson,

Considering the growing number of space actors and the benefits derived from space science technology and their applications, South Africa is of the view that the conduct of space actors involved in developing international and regional space cooperation should conform to applicable international space law, relevant declarations and extensive guidelines.

Thank you, Chairperson.