



## **Australia**

### **Sixty-second session of the Legal Subcommittee**

**20-31 March 2023**

#### **Agenda Item: 3 – General exchange of views**

Thank you Chair, distinguished delegates.

Australia commends the Chair, acting Director and Secretariat for their continued support of the Subcommittee.

We also take this opportunity to convey Australia's thanks to Mr Niklas Hedman, for his immense contribution as Secretary, and as the acting Director of the Office of Outer Space Affairs. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Additionally, Australia would like to welcome Guatemala and Uzbekistan as new Members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

We look forward to a successful and productive session.

## ***Ukraine***

Chair,

As we gather today to discuss legal questions related to the exploration and use of outer space, let us not forget the egregious violation of international law taking place right now with Russia's illegal and immoral full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Today, as with all days since Russia's invasion, Australia resolutely stands with Ukraine.

We unequivocally condemn Russia's aggression. It is an attack on the fundamental principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty and a gross violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations.

We call on Russia to end its war.

## ***Australia's regulatory framework***

Chair,

Australia is a founding member of the Committee and a State Party to the five UN space treaties.

Developing domestic regulations and policies consistent with our international legal obligations is an important part of our commitment to being a responsible global citizen.

The *Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018* (the Act) and associated Rules regulate specified activities that go 100km above mean sea level or involve high power rockets.

The Act establishes a regulatory framework for the licensing of, and provides safety requirements for, space activities in Australia or involving Australian interests. It also implements elements of our international obligations.

### ***Registration***

Chair,

Australia implements obligations in relation to the registration of space objects, under the *Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space*, including through Australia's regulatory framework.

Under the Act, Australia requires the keeping of a Register of Space Objects, and the entry into the register of particulars of space objects that are launched into Earth orbit or beyond under an Australian launch permit, overseas payload permit or authorisation certificate.

The registration of space objects is essential to supporting the safety, stability and sustainability of outer space activities.

### ***Space resources***

Chair,

Australia supports the development of norms that contribute to the long-term safety and stability of the outer space environment.

In support of this effort, Australia has co-sponsored a Conference Room Paper (CRP) with Austria and the Kingdom of the Netherlands entitled “*Relevant considerations for developing a set of initial recommended principles for the exploration, exploitation and utilisation of space resources*”.

The purpose of this CRP is to highlight similarities between key themes in the Outer Space Treaty, the Moon Agreement, the Artemis Accords and the Hague Building Blocks.

We encourage Member States to consider the CRP, including as we further examine activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilisation of space resources.

### ***Conclusion***

Chair,

International law, and rules and norms, provide a means to address emerging challenges, including in outer space. COPUOS plays an important role in facilitating the development of rules and norms in space; as well as facilitating a consensus-based approach to addressing emerging challenges.

Australia is committed to its international obligations and to engagement with Member States through the Committee. We look forward to collaborating with Member States as we continue the important work of this Subcommittee.

Thank you.