

Azerbaijan, Item 8

Dear Chair and distinguished delegates,

We'd like to focus on the necessity of recognition of the private space actors by the international space community. Jurisdiction in space remains a somewhat grey issue for commercial space companies as our current international space laws, such as the Liability Convention, the Registration Convention, and the Outer Space Treaty, do not fundamentally recognize private companies as actors in space. This means that private entities may have difficulties in enforcing their rights and recovering from injuries to their property that may occur.

To ensure continued commercial growth in the space industry we will need to create new and different judicial systems for new space actors. One possible solution is borrowing from international environmental regulations, such as the **Environmental Protection Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty** and the several distinct and separate Regional Fish Management Organizations.

In the LTS Guidelines "capacity-building for spacefaring nations" has been indicated as one of the main principles, and transfer of technology is one of the elements of this principle. Enforcement of the capacity-building measures for emerging space countries through private space actors would have facilitated technology transfer without bureaucratic steps, therefore, recognition of the private space actors in international space legislation is crucial.

On the other hand, we should note that to promote capacity-building measures for emerging countries, it is also crucial to mitigate or alleviate licensing or other types of export restraints. Emerging space countries usually collaborate with private space companies that are willing to or have already become transnational companies.

Concerning that, we also call for the establishment of the legal definition of space technologies in either binding or non-binding international norms. As ground network-based and outer space technologies are technically distinguished, emerging space countries may encounter bureaucratic hampers while importing required technologies.

In conclusion, while taking into account that Earth observation satellites have a significant role in terms of mitigating climate change, emerging satellite operators need to develop their technical capabilities. As, building such satellites more costs, emerging countries do not have the capabilities to develop their own remote sensing satellites. Unfortunately, export restraints and not being regulated by international space law norms, in certain cases unnecessary export restraints inhibit private space companies to cooperate with the emerging satellite operators that engage in remote sensing activities for peaceful purposes.

