

## United Kingdom, Item 7

### National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates.

The UK delegation is pleased to have this opportunity to set out the UK's approach to its national legislation and to provide an update since this subcommittee last met.

At the last meeting of the legal subcommittee, the UK provided a summary and of the different individual pieces of legislation which the UK has implemented with regards to space, including The Outer Space Act 1986 and the Space Industry Act 2018. In the interest of time, we will not repeat those points here, but would encourage Members look at that statement for further information on this.

Since last year's meeting, the UK made history by conducting the first ever launch from UK soil through Virgin Orbit at Spaceport Cornwall - demonstrating the UK's growing launch capability and position as a leading spacefaring nation. While the overall mission was not a success, the launch demonstrated that Spaceport Cornwall is operational and the UK is capable of launching satellites into space. Our outcome-focussed

regulatory framework ensured that the launch was able to take place safely, and the flexibility of our legislation allows us to support the pace of innovation. The UK government has put in place the legislation needed for operators to open spaceports which allows for a range of commercial spaceflight activities, including suborbital spaceflight for science, testing and –tourism, as well as launch to orbit.

.

Industry, Government and the regulator continue to work together through the Spaceflight Safety and Regulatory Council, a partnership which keeps the Space Industry Act and regulations under review to ensure that we keep pace with technological and industry developments. The legislation is flexible enough to accommodate emerging technological advancements, market opportunities and changes to the international landscape, while keeping safety at the forefront. We will continue to develop our regime to support high growth and emerging markets such as constellations, earth observation services, in-orbit debris removal, servicing, refuelling and assembly technologies.

The UK is also committed to being transparent about our space activities and are committed to the obligations set out in the Registration Convention. Since the last legal sub-committee meeting the UK has registered 119 satellites, and has continued to implement a more

streamlined process for completing bulk registrations for satellites which are part of a larger constellation.

The UK has significant experience in developing a new regulatory framework, and are very happy to discuss our experiences with Member States considering doing the same.

Thank you Chair.