

Agenda Item 10: General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources.

Madam Chair and distinguished Delegates,

India has a sustained space science and planetary exploration programme. Under the lunar exploration programme, Indian lunar orbiter Chandryaan-2, is conducting remote sensing observations on the Moon. To complement Chandrayaan-2 orbiter observations, the next Indian lunar mission Chandrayaan-3, will study the elemental composition and other surface studies of the Moon. The earlier exploration missions, namely first lunar orbiter mission Chandrayaan-1 and first Mars orbiter mission MOM-1 have provided invaluable information on these bodies.

With the rapid advancement of space technology in recent years driven by private actors with commercial interests, there is urgent need to develop a common understanding on the applicability of existing space laws for the space resource activities and put in place, an international legal regime for the regulation of space resources. The Legal Sub-Committee of COPUOS is the appropriate forum for this exercise. The establishment of a Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities is a timely step in this regard. We are encouraged by the steady progress being made by the Working Group and congratulate the Chair Mr. Andrzej Misztal of Poland and Vice-Chair Mr. Steven Freeland of Australia for their leadership and UNOOSA Secretariat for their support. The Indian delegation looks forward to actively engage in the work of the working group.

Thank you, Madam Chair and the distinguished delegates for your kind attention.