

Statement by Norway to the Legal Subcommittee under Agenda Item 10: “General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources”

Chair,

Norway welcomes the establishment of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, and the endorsement of its workplan by COPUOS.

Norway has submitted our reflections on the Mandate and purpose of the working group, and looks forward to the initial exchange of views during this session of the Legal Subcommittee. We would like to assure the Chair of the working group, Ambassador Misztal of Poland, and Vice-Chair, Professor Freeland of Australia, of our full support.

Our submission can be found in CRP.19.

As a short summary, Norway is of the opinion that:

- ownership to resources and the issue of both in-situ use and issues related to the transfer of resources back to Earth are important aspects to examine, as well as activities relating to sampling, surveying and mapping
- regarding the type of information to be collected, the working group should consider looking to other governance frameworks which could serve as lessons learned or inspiration for how to govern space resources. The achievements of the International Seabed Authority could be of particular relevance
- the working group should identify and examine mechanisms which will ensure that space resource activities are conducted in a safe, sustainable and peaceful manner in the interest and to the benefit of all countries, irrespective of their economic or scientific development.
- we support the development of a UN legal framework that promotes predictable, transparent conditions for the safe, sustainable and peaceful activities on celestial bodies
- when it comes to a dedicated international conference under the auspices of the United Nations, it is important to Norway that participation is open to all interested stakeholders.

Thank you Chair.