



**PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN VIENNA**

63rd SESSION OF THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF COPUOS

ITEM 12: General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management.

STATEMENT BY GREECE

Mr. Chairman,

distinguished colleagues,

The evolution and proliferation of space activities over time, in particular the continuous increase of artificial satellites in orbit and the constant threat from the presence of large amounts of space debris have identified space traffic management as an overwhelming necessity. In particular, the growing threat of collision hazards as well as the interdependence of actors in the space environment constitute the main factors that made Space Traffic Management an imperative.

Already, in its 55th Session, in 2016, the Legal Subcommittee had noted that “the concept of space traffic management was of growing importance for all nations. The space environment was becoming increasingly congested and complex owing to the growing number of objects in outer space, the diversification of actors and the increase in space activities, all of which made it more difficult to ensure safe and sustainable space operations, and space traffic management, required a multilateral approach”.

Greece is of the view that Space Traffic Management is essential in every phase of space activities, including satellite launches, suborbital launches and human spaceflights, and is therefore required to provide effective solutions in different

environments: During the launch and re-entry phases of space operations, space users essentially share airspace with the “air” users.

It should, therefore, be ensured that the simultaneous use of airspace is mutually beneficial and promotes the safety and sustainability of both aviation and space activities. In view of this necessity, it is obvious that established and long-standing air traffic management regulations should be duly considered and applied by space users.

On the other hand, in-orbit space operations should be conducted in such a way as to avoid collisions, which are not only detrimental to the activity concerned, but are also capable of generating a significant amount of space debris, with obvious negative consequences for the integrity of orbits and the overall sustainability of space activities.

In view of the above, we believe that it is obvious that the promotion of an effective space traffic management requires an increased international cooperation, in the framework and the spirit of Article IX of the Outer Space Treaty, according to which “States...shall be guided by the principle of *cooperation* and *mutual assistance*, and shall conduct all their activities in outer space, including the Moon and celestial bodies, with *due regard* to the corresponding interests of all other States Parties to the Treaty”.

I thank you