



**Statement of the G-77 and China  
during the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee  
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,  
15-26 April 2024,  
delivered by H.E. Laura Gil,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia**

**AGENDA ITEM 13: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW TO SMALL-SATELLITE ACTIVITIES**

Chair

1. Presently, a legal or regulatory definition of a small satellite does not exist and under the United Nations treaties, principles and resolutions relating to international space law, the term “space object” refers to satellites, launch vehicles and their component parts.
2. Considering the essential roles of space objects, regardless of their size, in the socio-economic development of Member States, the Group is of the view that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its Subcommittees should not create an ad-hoc legal regime or any other mechanisms, which might impose limitations on designing, building, launching and use of space objects by developing countries.
3. The Group also reiterates its previous statements regarding:
  - The importance of ensuring guaranteed and equitable access to orbital positions of the geostationary orbit according to the needs of all countries, in particular developing countries;
  - That no space object should be removed or eliminated without prior consent or authorization of the Registering State; and
  - Since debris generation goes against the interest of all States, satellite removal or elimination should be done in a responsible manner.

Thank you Chair.