

General exchange of views

Statement by the delegation of Romania.

Distinguished Ambassador Santiago Ripol Carulla, let me congratulate you for your appointment as Chair of this Subcommittee and to transmit to you the support of my delegation for a successful accomplishment of your mandate. We would also express our appreciation to the former Chair Madame Nomfuneko Majaja and to the director of the Office, Mrs. Aarti Holla-Maini, for her role in the achievements of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA).

Distinguished delegates, Romania reaffirms its commitment to multilateralism in space affairs. Our delegation is dedicated to upholding the principles of the Outer Space Treaty and ensuring that space activities are conducted for the benefit of all humanity.

My delegation fully aligns with the statement of the European Union.

In a recent development that further signifies our dedication to these principles, Romania ratified Law No. 380/2022 for accession to the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, adopted in New York on November 12, 1974. Subsequently, the Romanian Space Agency (ROSA) has established and now manages the national registry of space objects, reinforcing our commitment to transparency and international cooperation in space activities.

We are also keen to contribute to the discussions on the legal aspects of space resource utilization. Romania encourages a constructive dialogue to ensure that such activities are carried out in a manner that benefits all countries and preserves the space environment for future generations.

In line with our commitment to fostering international cooperation for the peaceful exploration and sustainable use of outer space, Romania has submitted a proposal to establish an Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC) within the framework of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with the goal to establish an international consultative mechanism on sustainable lunar activities to facilitate addressing numerous operational issues facing future missions. to share best practices and lessons learned, building capabilities, and identifying common

needs and concerns of lunar operators. Such a mechanism may approach topics connected to sustainable lunar exploration and settlement in and around the Moon, including for lunar operators to share information on their ongoing and planned operations and to engage in consultations in order to coordinate operations, facilitate interoperability, improve safety, avoiding interference, protecting the lunar environment, mitigating the creation of debris in lunar orbit, coordination of landing sites, ensuring the protection of sites of significant scientific and cultural importance etc.

Such a mechanism studied within the framework of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), will actively involve UN COPUOS member states in a major theme for space cooperation in the next decades from which it cannot remain absent.

This initiative was already presented at the session of the STS COPUOS, where in a dedicated paragraph of the report is included the requested that the Romanian delegation will present its proposal for the establishment of an Action Team under the framework of the Committee to the Legal Subcommittee for further discussion so that the final decision is made by the Committee at its sixty-seventh session.

This initiative reflects Romania's proactive stance on supporting multilateral discussions that advance the sustainable exploration of the Moon, ensuring that space remains a domain for peaceful activities and scientific advancement for all humanity.

The CRP 18 reflecting the Romanian proposal is already published on the website of this present session of the Legal Subcommittee.

To further discuss this initiative and gather valuable feedback, we cordially invite all delegations to join us for informal consultations. These will be held on the 18th of April from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. and on the 23rd of April from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., both sessions in Meeting Room M3. We look forward to engaging in constructive discussions and working collaboratively to refine and advance this proposal.

In conclusion, my delegation looks forward to engaging constructively in the discussions of this Subcommittee and working together towards our common goals. Thank you.