Statement by Thailand on Agenda item 4. General exchange of views The 63rd Session of Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS 15 - 26 April 2024

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

As this is the first time that Thai Delegation taking the floor, please allow me to extend our congratulations to Mr. Santiago Ripol Carulla of Spain for the new appointment as the chair of the Legal Subcommittee. Thailand assures you our full support.

Mr. Chair,

Thailand recognized unique role of the Legal Subcommittee on promoting peaceful and sustainable uses of space. We remains committed to undertake our space missions with preserving sustainability of outer space. During the past year, 2023, Thailand has implemented enactment of comprehensive Space Act and Space Master Plan, in addition to participated international events in promoting space law and policy.

With the increase number of space actors and space activities in the country, the draft National Space Act, which have been approved in principle by the Cabinet of Thailand, is currently being reviewed by the Council of State and is expected to be enacted in two years. This legislative framework is designed to guide and enhance Thailand's activities in outer space, ensuring they align with international laws and principles. The legal principle also encompasses licensing and authorization procedures for space launches, satellite operations, and related endeavors. Additionally, the legislation addresses liability and insurance matters, ensuring adherence to rigorous international standards of responsibility and accountability.

Furthermore, Space Master Plan of Thailand underscores our commitment to the responsible and effective use of outer space, covering key areas, for instances, satellite development, space research, technology innovation, and international collaboration. The Master Plan also emphasizes sustainability, promoting environmentally responsible practices in space activities. It serves as a guiding document for policymakers, industry stakeholders, and the research community, fostering a coordinated and forward-looking approach to Thailand's space endeavors.

Engaging international events in pertinent to space law and policy is one of our priorities. In May 2023, Thailand participated as a speaker in the UNOOSA event series on Awareness-raising and

capacity building related to the implementation of the Guidelines for Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space. As an emerging space country, legal foundation and policy mechanisms are indispensable to promote safety of space operation. This event opened the floor for sharing and discussion on practices and experiences on implementing the Guidelines, allowing us to learn interesting lessons from the other member states.

In January 2024, Thailand attended the Regional Space Law Technical Advisory Mission for Asia and the Pacific Countries in Tokyo, Japan, a fantastic event arranged by UNOOSA and sponsored by Japan. We would like to express our appreciation to UNOOSA for the full supports for Thai representatives joining the event. The 3-day workshop under the Space Law for New Space Actors initiative provided clear understanding and fundamental principles of space law to Thai agencies, which will contribute to the process of drafting laws and legislations for regulating and governing space activities in Thailand.

Thailand recognizes the importance of the workshop on space law and strives to enlarge the opportunity to stakeholders in the country. For this reason, we are grateful to UNOOSA on the planning to hold Space Law Technical Advisory Mission in Thailand. We also would like to express our special thanks to the Government of Japan for the support on the workshop which will take place at the beginning of year 2025. The workshop will address crucial topics such as liability for outer space activities, space insurance, and the fundamental principles of international space law. This collaborative effort aims to facilitate the development of national regulatory and policy frameworks aligned with the principles of COPUOS.

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the Thai delegation, we reaffirm our steadfast support for UNOOSA and this Subcommittee. We eagerly anticipate the continued collaboration with all Member States through COPUOS to advance the peaceful uses of outer space.

Thank you Mr. Chair.
