

**Statement of Ukraine
at the 63-rd session of the LSC COPUOS on
4-th agenda item: General exchange of views.**

Distinguished delegates, Mr. Chair,

First of all, we would like to congratulate you and thank you for chairing the 63rd meeting of the Legal Subcommittee. We hope that the general exchange of views and discussion of current issues of the agenda will lead to significant results, which will be submitted to the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

First of all I want to emphasize that Ukraine fully aligns itself with the EU statement delivered earlier.

I add some remarks concerning General exchange of views in my national capacity.

It is worth noting that the very name of the Committee includes an important goal - the use of outer space for peaceful purposes. And Ukraine fully supports and promotes the thesis that "space is the irreplaceable future of the entire human civilization, and therefore law and justice must be developed today for the future coexistence of people in space." Despite the fruitful work of the Legal Subcommittee, modern times demonstrate that although law as a universal regulator of social relations has a determining role in the space future of humanity, it may not be perceived in that way by some states. The presence in the Subcommittee of a delegation of a terrorist state, namely, the Russian Federation, which unleashed the biggest war in Europe after the end of World War II, raises the question of how such a state can influence the research and use of outer space for peaceful purposes? And on the other hand, we hope for a collective understanding of an unequivocal belief in the victory of civilization over barbarism, which the above mentioned state represents.

It is obvious that the full-scale military invasion of Russia contradicts the values of the UN and the states that are its members today, and even other international organizations engaged in the peaceful exploration of space. Military attacks on the cities, villages and civilian population of Ukraine, with ballistic and other missiles proves that Russian cosmonautics has turned from a peaceful scientific program into an aggressive one, and therefore simply contradicts the name of the respected UN Committee. Taking a course to dismantle international law, this state is also deforming the international space legal order. This is evidenced, in particular, by statements about the possibility of shooting down other satellites, which, according to the Russians, can be qualified as "quasi-civilian". In view of this, the issue of the militarization of outer space is becoming more acute and the possibility of preserving the demilitarized status of outer space is decreasing.

Unfortunately, the terrorist state cannot be excluded from the respected legal subcommittee, but our delegation asks to condemn the "rattling of words" regarding threats to use weapons in outer space. Today it is only words, and

tomorrow it will be unprovoked, inadequate, criminal and aggressive actions on the part of Russia, as it is demonstrating today. These statements contradict Art. III of the Treaty on Outer Space, which establishes that the States Parties to the Treaty conduct activities on the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security and development of international cooperation and mutual understanding. It is clear that international law is an empty word for Russia, but we ask you to remember that space is a unique domain of human civilization, our common future, which cannot be allowed to be polluted or destroyed and which requires our collective protection in the name of future generations.

The Outer Space Treaty is the core in the outer space activities. We call the member-states to fulfill their commitments under the OST, in particular Article IV, that obligates States Parties not to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction. In this regard, Ukraine supports the initiative by the United States and Japan on a Security Council Resolution on Outer Space.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to all States and Nations of the World who support Ukraine in its struggle for freedom, independence and dignity against the Russian barbarians of the 21st century.

Thank you for your attention!