Statement of Ukraine

at the 63-rd session of the LSC COPUOS on 7(a) agenda item: The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

b) Nature and use of geostationary orbit

Ukraine advocates the rational use of geostationary orbit, which is a limited natural resource, fair access to orbital positions regardless of the level of economic development and scientific and technical potential of states, as well as in accordance with the principles of peaceful use and non-appropriation of outer space.

The issue of the Earth's geostationary orbit is an important aspect of international space law, but at this time it has not yet received a unified legal regulation. The importance of this issue is determined both by the imperfection of legal regulation and resource possibilities.

The problem of legal regulation of the geostationary orbit is due to both the lack of outer space delimitation and the lack of a unified approach to understand its legal nature.

The Earth's geostationary orbit is the key to many innovative technologies and opportunities that can change our perception of the modern world. From communications satellites to meteorological observatories, geostationary orbit is the setting for innovative projects that break conventional boundaries. Leaders of the space industry are constantly exploring new ways to use this orbit, expanding our capabilities in telecommunications, scientific research, and even space tourism. With this in mind, it is important to emphasize that the fair use of the Earth's geostationary orbit requires not only technical knowledge, but also moral responsibility, ensured by a legal mechanism and responsible institutions. We must preserve this unique resource for future generations, ensuring its sustainable and productive use.

Therefore, at the UN level, it is necessary to resolve not the issue of legal objectification of the geostationary orbit, but the issue of developing a clear legal regulation of fair access to the orbit, especially taking into account the interests of developing countries. We believe that it is appropriate for the Subcommittee to create a working group to consider the issue of defining an understanding of the standard of fair access not only to the geostationary orbit, but also to other orbits and outer space as a whole. It is desirable for the Committee to strengthen its work with national space agencies and other international organizations and projects representing subjects of space activities on this issue.

Ukraine draws the attention of the Committee to the expediency of creating a special working group to work out the issue of developing a separate agreement on the regulation of the use of geostationary orbit or a separate protocol to the Outer Space Treaty, which, in our opinion, can ensure the fair and rational use of geostationary orbit as a limited natural resource and a special area of outer space. It would be appropriate to invite representatives of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the International Telecommunication Union and National space agencies to participate in this group, as well as hold international scientific events on this topic.

Thank you for attention!