

## **New Zealand Statement, Item 9**

Agenda Item 9: General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation, and utilisation of space resources

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Thank You Chair

New Zealand supports the need for space resource utilisation and associated activities to be conducted in a safe, sustainable, responsible, and peaceful manner, that is consistent with international law.

Society benefits from space exploration in many ways, including through the development of scientific knowledge, innovation and technological advancement, and economic development. New Zealand recognises the importance of space resource utilisation, or SRU, in unlocking these benefits and for enabling deeper exploration of space.

As a launching state New Zealand is committed to ensuring that space activities from New Zealand are carried out safely, sustainably and in accordance with international law and treaties.

The implementation of the existing international legal frameworks for SRU, and adjacent activities, presents challenges. Existing international law is not sufficient to regulate these activities and associated risks in the long term. While the obligations in the Outer Space Treaty and in general international law are binding, there is a need for more detailed rules to ensure the safety and sustainability of SRU activities, including protection of the space environment.

Non-binding instruments and fora can also be useful in guiding the behaviour of States and in supporting the development of rules and norms.

Of relevance to SRU are the Artemis Accords, which New Zealand became a signatory to in 2021. The Artemis Accords establish a set of shared principles guiding space cooperation and exploration, including SRU, grounded in the Outer Space Treaty.

New Zealand sees the Artemis Accords as being complementary to the efforts of the Working Group on Space Resources. We are heartened by the increase in signatories to the Accords and encourage states to consider signing up to the principles contained within them.

Thank you Chair.