

**64th SESSION OF THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE UNITED
NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE**

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STATEMENT

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 “GENERAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON
NON-LEGALLY BINDING UN INSTRUMENTS ON OUTER SPACE.”**

To be delivered by:

Mister Chair,

On behalf of the Philippine delegation, I extend our sincere appreciation for your leadership, and to UNOOSA for its diligent preparations for this session.

The Philippines adopts the generally accepted principles of international law as part of national law, and upholds a foreign policy grounded in peace, equality, justice, freedom, cooperation, and amity with all nations.

We support the development of non-legally binding United Nations instruments as essential tools for fostering cooperation, enhancing transparency, and promoting responsible behavior in outer space. We are committed to advancing these instruments through meaningful dialogue and action. Importantly, we emphasize the need for **good-faith compliance** with COPUOS guidelines, which serve as practical standards for a safe and secure space environment.

While we recognize the importance of legally binding instruments such as treaties, we are also mindful of the time required for their negotiation and entry into force. In the interim, non-binding instruments offer a practical path forward. They set shared norms, facilitate cooperation, and lay the groundwork for future legal commitments.

In the Philippine experience, the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines, the Long-Term Sustainability Guidelines, and relevant UN resolutions provide important references in shaping our national frameworks, informing practices, and guiding satellite design, mission planning, and operations.

Mister Chair,

The Philippines actively participated in the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on reducing space threats through norms, rules, and principles of responsible behaviors. During the discussions, we emphasized the importance of the principle of "due regard" as outlined in Article IX of the Outer Space Treaty and highlighted its relevance in guiding responsible behavior in outer space activities.

The principle of "due regard" serves as a foundational element in building norms and behaviors that promote transparency, trust, and cooperation. It underscores the duty of conducting international consultations in good faith, demonstrating openness to address the concerns of other states, and a willingness to compromise for the greater good.

We welcome continued discussions on this principle, including at the upcoming symposium co-organized by the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law, on *"Due regard in outer space: Current legal implications."* Held on the sidelines of this session, the symposium offers a timely platform to deepen our shared understanding and explore its practical application.

The Philippines also participated in the Group of Governmental Experts on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space. We recognize that space security is integral to space safety. We support the GGE's recommendation to consider elements of a legally binding instrument on space security, which we view as complementary to COPUOS efforts in promoting responsible conduct through non-binding norms.

We remain committed to the ongoing discussions within the OEWG on PAROS, which we see as a vital platform for shaping practical, consensus-based measures to strengthen space security and sustainability.

In closing, Mister Chair, the Philippines reaffirms its strong support for the development—and above all, the **implementation**—of non-legally binding instruments. As we continue to shape the global governance of outer space, cultivating a culture of **compliance, transparency, and cooperation** is essential. These instruments, when consistently observed, provide a solid foundation for future legally binding commitments.

Thank you, Mister Chair.