

## **Statement by the Islamic Republic of Iran**

### **64<sup>th</sup> Session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS**

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#### **Agenda Item 11: General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management**

**Mr. Chair,**

The ever-increasing advancement of space technology and industry, along with growing interest and investment from the private sector, has resulted in a rapid rise in satellite constellations, in-orbit services, and the volume of space debris. These developments underscore the critical importance of space traffic and its effective management. In this context, the Islamic Republic of Iran regards Space Traffic Management (STM) as one of the most complex and pressing issues in the evolving governance of outer space.

STM broadly encompasses the monitoring, tracking, and regulation of the movement of space objects—including satellites, spacecraft, and orbital debris—with the primary objectives of preventing collisions and mitigating orbital congestion. Addressing this issue requires collective action, scientific and technical capabilities, and robust international cooperation.

However, STM must not be used as a tool to impose restrictions on the peaceful space activities of developing countries. Rather, efforts to enhance space safety should promote broader international cooperation and inclusive participation in space activities. We firmly believe that any STM initiative that fails to account for these fundamental considerations will not only fall short of addressing current challenges but also exacerbate space inequality and deepen the divide between nations.

Furthermore, the fair and effective implementation of STM must include the transfer of relevant technologies and technical know-how to developing countries. Expecting the adoption of technical standards without providing the necessary capacity building and support mechanisms would contradict the principles of international cooperation. Therefore, several important factors must be considered in addressing STM, including disparities in technological

capabilities, the lack of comprehensive multilateral mechanisms for international cooperation, and unequal access to Space Situational Awareness (SSA) data and related infrastructure. While all States, regardless of their level of development, face legal and technical challenges in this area, only a few currently possess the institutional and technical capacity to fully monitor, track, and manage space traffic.

The United Nations framework, particularly through UNOOSA, remains the most appropriate forum for addressing STM, as it ensures the full, equal, and effective participation of all States, especially developing countries. Any initiative pursued outside this framework would lack international legitimacy and inclusiveness. In this context, we stress the urgent need to establish a multilateral mechanism within the UN system for the timely, accurate, and non-discriminatory sharing of SSA data. Equitable access to such information is essential for improving transparency and ensuring that all States can assess collision risks and safeguard their space assets.

**Thank you.**