



**PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN VIENNA**

64th SESSION OF THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF COPUOS

ITEM 3 : GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

STATEMENT BY GREECE

**Mr Chairman,
Distinguished colleagues,**

As this is the first time that we are taking the floor on this agenda item, we would like to join previous speakers in wishing you success in your important task. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Director of the UNOOSA, Mrs Aarti Holla-Maini, for the skilful guidance of UNOOSA.

On another note, allow us to express for once more our condolences for the sudden loss of Ambassador Andrzej Mizstal, former Chair of the LSC and Chair of the WG on the legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, who has contributed significantly and guided successfully the work of the W.G. since its establishment.

Greece aligns itself with the EU Statement and would like to add the following in its national capacity:

Mr Chairman,

Over the past decade, humanity's access and operations in outer space have fundamentally changed and the driving factors behind these changes are likely to accelerate in the coming decades. This change presents us opportunities and risks and we need to develop further the existing governance, so that we can sustainably accelerate innovation and discovery with a view to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It is our shared responsibility to ensure that existing international

space law is fully implemented and that effective governance is in place to propel innovation and mitigate risks.

Greece strongly believes that the five UN treaties on outer space and the relevant UN General Assembly sets of principles constitute the cornerstone of international space law. In this context, Greece considers COPUOS and its Subcommittees as the main fora for the development of international space law, guidelines, best practices, confidence building measures, policy issues and international cooperation.

As to international cooperation, in particular, we believe that it should, by all means, prevail over any use of force in space. We welcome, in this regard, the adoption by the UNGA of Resolution 79/87 of 2024 “*on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space*,” which, among other things, expresses its serious concern about the possibility of an armed race in outer space, stresses the importance of article IV of the OST and reaffirms the significance of international cooperation in developing the relevant norms of international space law, for a space free from an arms race and conflict. The importance of international cooperation was also solemnly confirmed in Action 56 of the UNGA Resolution 79/1 of 2024 on the Pact for the Future.

Mr. Chairman,

The COPUOS Legal Subcommittee has proven its ability to deliver on its mandate and should continue to be the primary forum for the discussions on an international legal framework for the development of space resource activities. In developing such a legal framework, the WG on the Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities could be guided and use as a tool the long-established solid international legal practice, adopted within the framework of specialized agencies of the UN system, part of which is also COPUOS, such as the administration of international seabed by the International Seabed Authority (as established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea /UNCLOS), or the frequency spectrum management regime of the ITU and the legal regime governing Antarctica (under the 1959 Antarctic Treaty).

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me, in addition, to give you a brief insight into my country’s endeavors in the space sector :

The Greek space Law establishes the legal framework for the authorization of space activities and provides, among other things, for the procedure for the licensing of space activities and their registration to the National Space Registry. The Greek Space Law has been revised in 2024, in order to provide for a third party liability (TPL) amount, requested by the satellite operators, as a ‘mandatory’ condition. Through this legislative approach, a more flexible regime, has been initiated, thus encouraging the growth of the small satellite sector.

Greece has recently enacted a specific national regulatory framework describing the procedures to be followed by companies and other organizations for the management and processing of satellite filings that are submitted through Greece to the ITU. Furthermore, my country is steadily proceeding with the implementation -in collaboration with ESA- of its National Microsatellite Program that includes the construction and launch of 13 satellites of various types, covering identified national needs, such as natural disaster monitoring, security and environmental protection. The upcoming fleet of Greek satellites consists of (a) 7 microsatellites with optical payload and capabilities of very high resolution imaging, (b) 4 dedicated thermal microsatellites with sensors that monitor thermal emissions and can detect fire fronts under thick smoke or during the night, and (c) 2 high-resolution Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) microsatellites that can observe the ground and sea surface under thick clouds and dark. Apart from the purely operational space and ground assets, Greece is investing in a set of experimental satellites (cubesats) with the main objective to gain experience from In-Orbit Validation (IOV), through a proof-of-concept process, enhancing the collective capabilities of the Greek space ecosystem and laying the groundwork for the future development of fully operational space missions. The first of these cubesats are expected to be launched within 2025.

Mr. Chairman,

In concluding, let me assure you that Greece, will continue to intensively work for the promotion and deepening of international cooperation in the space domain, and the conduct of space activities in accordance with international law, as required by article III of the Outer Space Treaty.

I thank you
