



Permanent Mission of the Federative Republic of Brazil

Brazil, Item 12 - General exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities.

Chairperson,

The increasing accessibility of space has brought forth a new era in which small satellites, due to their affordability and versatility, are allowing more actors than ever to participate in outer space activities. This contributes to realizing some of the core principles of international space law: the peaceful use of outer space, and its access by all countries, irrespective of their level of development.

At the same time, the rapid expansion of small-satellite deployments presents complex legal and regulatory challenges. The risks associated with collision, interference, space debris, and even accidental re-entry are no longer hypothetical, they are becoming more frequent and pressing. This is particularly true for small satellites of lower reliability or limited maneuverability, which, although not system-critical individually, may collectively pose risks to the safety and sustainability of outer space operations.

In this context, we underscore the critical importance of adherence to international rules and regulations, including the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines, the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities and the relevant ITU regulations and guidance documents in this regard, like the "Handbook on Small Satellites". These frameworks offer valuable guidance, and their consideration during the development of national legislation is vital for building coherence and predictability in global space governance.

Brazil has made significant progress in regulating small satellites. In May 2020, the National Telecommunications Agency (Anatel) introduced the "Spectrum and Orbit Manual for Amateur and Educational Small Satellites." This manual resulted from a collaboration between the Brazilian Space Agency (AEB) and the Brazilian Amateur

Radio League (LABRE), aiming to optimize and simplify the frequency registration process for these satellites with the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). Currently, the document is undergoing review and updates to incorporate the latest advancements in the sector.

We highlight the importance of sharing national experiences and best practices. Such exchanges enhance transparency, foster cooperation, and strengthen capacity-building, particularly for emerging space actors.

Equally important is the inclusion of all relevant actors, both governmental and non-governmental, in these discussions. As the space domain becomes more diverse, inclusive dialogue is essential to ensure that legal frameworks are representative, effective, and responsive to the realities of a rapidly evolving space environment. In this regard, we also emphasize the importance of fostering a frank and frequent dialogue between the Legal and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. The interdependence of legal norms and technical developments demands greater coordination between these bodies to ensure that international space governance evolves in a coherent, informed, and forward-looking manner.

Thank you, Chair.