

**AFRICAN GROUP STATEMENT
DURING THE SIXTY- FOURTH SESSION OF THE LEGAL
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE
PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE**

**TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MAIMOUNATA
OUATTARA
CHAIR OF THE AFRICA GROUP AND PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE
OF BURKINA FASO**

ITEM 3: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

05 - 16 MAY 2025

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the Africa Group, I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. Santiago Ripol Carulla of Spain, for his continued chairpersonship of the Legal Committee and assure you and the members of the Bureau of our full cooperation and support during this Session. (agreed ad ref).

2. The Group also expresses its appreciation to the Director of the Office of Outer Space Affairs, Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini, and the Secretariat for the preparations and planning for convening this meeting. (agreed ad ref).

3. At the outset, the Africa Group aligns itself with the Group of 77 and China. (agreed ad ref).

Mr. Chair,

4. As Africa continues to bear a disproportionate share of global poverty and the impacts of climate change, the Group emphasizes the growing significance of space-related activities in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this context, the Group reaffirms its strong commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its implementation Plan and the African Union's Agenda 2063. (agreed ad ref).

5. The Group welcomes the inauguration of the African Space Agency (AfSA) which took place on 20th April 2025 in Cairo, Egypt, representing a major step forward in Africa's space aspirations, to harness space science and technology for socio-economic advancement. (agreed ad ref).

6. The Group calls upon international partners to strengthen collaboration and support to the African Space Agency with the view to support African Countries on their aspirations and development goals. (agreed ad ref).

7. The group welcomes the convening of *the New Space Africa conference in Egypt in April 2025*, and further encourage African Countries and partners to collaborate in such events to advance Space sciences and applications in Africa. (agreed ad ref).

8. The Group reaffirms that COPUOS remains the sole United Nations forum for addressing issues concerning the peaceful uses of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies and encourages other States, especially African countries, to consider membership. (agreed ad ref).

Mr. Chair

9. The Group underscores the peaceful use and exploration of outer space for the benefit of all countries and without discrimination to economic or scientific development in line with the principles and objectives of international law, United Nations treaties, including the Outer Space Treaty. This includes the principle of the non-appropriation of outer space including the moon and other celestial bodies. All outer space activities have to be coordinated under the auspices of the UN in order to be **inclusive, universal, and consensual**. (agreed ad ref).

10. The Group appreciates the work carried out by the Legal Subcommittee in promoting international cooperation on the peaceful use of outer space and underscores the importance of adhering to the principle of non-militarization of outer space, which implies that it shall never be used for the placement and/or deployment of weapons of any kind. (agreed ad ref).

11. The Group calls for enhanced inter-regional and international cooperation to build regional and indigenous capabilities to be responsive to our challenges, capacity building and technical assistance remain key factors in knowledge transfer and building expertise. (agreed ad ref).

Chair,

12. The sustainable use of outer space must prioritize capacity-building efforts to bridge the significant gap faced by Africa and to secure the necessary resources to support these initiatives. Investing in space technologies is a powerful driver for empowering African women and youth, particularly through STEM education, contributing to inclusive and sustainable development across the continent. (agreed ad ref).

13. The Group underscores the need to consolidate the principle of benefit sharing in outer space and long-term sustainability particularly for the benefit of African Countries. The Group recommends for the collective consideration of Member States the idea of establishing an innovative support framework for developing countries. One potential mechanism to explore is a support or contribution system, whereby major spacefaring nations, non-traditional donors, and private commercial sector space actors contribute financially or in-kind to a fund/mechanism that supports developing countries. Such

mechanism and fund can be administered by the UN Office of Outer Space Affairs.
(agreed ad ref).

14. The Group reaffirms its commitment to the LSC and looks forward to the adoption of its reports by consensus. (agreed ad ref).

Thank you.