

### **Statement Kingdom of the Netherlands Item 3 – General Exchange of Views**

Mr Chair, distinguished delegates, I thank you for giving me the floor.

Let me start by thanking you, Mr Chair, for guiding this Subcommittee. You have my Government's full support. I would also like to express our gratitude to the Director, Ms Aarti Holla-Maini and the Secretariat on their excellent work in preparation of this session. My delegation is grateful for her clear account of the effects on the work of UNOOSA of the liquidity crisis. I would also like to thank the interpreters, who keep our multilingualism alive and without whom our efforts to cooperate would become futile.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, and would like to state the following in its national capacity.

Mr Chair, the Kingdom of the Netherlands participates in the work of this subcommittee with a view to confirming, codifying and developing international space law. We do so with a view to avoiding irresponsible behaviours, both in outer space and in our meeting rooms. A safe and sustainable use of outer space requires our cooperation, our due regard for the corresponding interests of other States. This Subcommittee is a unique platform to discuss international space law, in all its aspects. It cannot do so without an adequate budget, and for that reason, we regret the budgetary challenges that are being presented to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and would hope that the budget may be preserved.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to mark the issues that are of particular importance to the Kingdom of the Netherlands. More detailed observations on these topics will be presented under the relevant agenda items.

First, under Agenda item 5, we would place particular importance on the adherence to and development of international space law, as reflected in the five United Nations space treaties. Ratification of all five treaties would allow a more consolidated corpus of law. But this should be complemented by non-binding instruments guiding States in their behaviour in outer space. The Artemis Accords are an important example of such instruments, which are conducive to the constructive regulation of the relevant areas addressed in these accords, including space resource activities.

Second, in view of the importance of a peaceful, safe and sustainable use of outer space, my government would promote a comprehensive approach to all relevant issues. This would mean that space traffic management, space debris reduction, and small-satellite regulation could be considered together. A regulatory framework could be designed to ensure that our present activities in outer space are conducted in such a manner so as to not prevent future generations from the benefits of outer space. This Sub-Committee should dedicate sufficient resources to the development of the requisite legal frameworks to achieve these goals.

Third, the Kingdom of the Netherlands continues to attach great importance to the development of a legal framework for the regulation of space resources activities. In that regard, my government deeply regrets the passing away of Andrzej Mistal. He will be truly irreplaceable and dearly missed. There are big shoes to fill for his successor, and our thoughts are with his family and friends. We look forward to our discussions on this topic in the plenary and the working

group. With Luxembourg, and many others, we continue to support the Building Blocks as developed by the The Hague International Space Resources Working Group and have submitted them again to our COPUOS Working Group for our consideration. We also commend the Artemis Accords as a source of inspiration that could guide our work. Finally, Mr Chair, I wish to stress again the value of the Moon Agreement, which provides the strongest imperative for the development of a legal framework regulating space resources activities.

We are grateful to the Vice Chair, Mr Freeland, for having provided us with the Initial Draft Set of Recommended Principles for Space Resources Activities. The Draft Set provides an important start for the discussion. We are confident that, together, we can complete this work and create a comprehensive framework for the regulation of Space Resources Activities.

Fourth, if there ever was a time to ensure that our work is meaningful, efficient, and effective, it is now. The liquidity crisis in the United Nations, and the ensuing need to be responsible in how we spend our time, the increasing congestion in outer space, and the ensuing need to ensure continued safe and sustainable access, all call for careful consideration of our working methods. It requires our full attention.

Finally, the Kingdom of the Netherlands stands with Ukraine. The Netherlands condemns in the strongest possible terms the unprovoked and continuing acts of aggression by Russia. It is a blatant and serious breach of a peremptory norm of international law that all States must abide by.

With that Mr Chair, distinguished delegates, I thank you for your kind attention.