



**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**  
**64th SESSION OF THE LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE**  
**TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR RAPULANE MOLEKANE**  
**AGENDA ITEM 4: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS**

**Date: 05 May 2025**

## **Thank you Chair**

South Africa congratulates you on chairing the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the LSC. We also express our appreciation for the work carried out by UNOOSA under the excellent leadership of Ms Aarti Holla-Maini.

## **Chair,**

South Africa is committed to conducting outer space activities in accordance with international space law. These activities should contribute to the prosperity and sustainable development of all nations and safeguard the continued peaceful use of outer space.

Space resources on the Moon and other celestial bodies continues to be a topical issue within the subcommittee and South Africa welcomes the progress made in the Working Group (WG) on Space Resources.

## **Chair,**

The process of reforming our domestic space legislation to incorporate new trends in national space activities is undergoing executive consideration. The proposed legislation incorporates substantive issues relevant to the emerging global space dispensation, including proactive measures in the application of the Registration and Liability Conventions, as well as the guidelines being developed by this Sub-Committee.

The new draft legislation takes into account technological advances to keep pace with new trends and developments, including, but not limited to, in-orbit refuelling, and the transfer of assets in orbit. To support its space programme, South Africa is building a comprehensive space value chain, including the development of a rocket engine to establish an indigenous launch capability.

South Africa remains committed to international cooperation for mutually beneficial and peaceful uses of outer space. We firmly believe that countries should not be discriminated against implementing their respective development strategies. Accordingly, South Africa's National Space Policy focuses on harnessing space technologies and applications to contribute to the country's economic growth and social development.

**Chair,**

South Africa is once again honoured to organise the 2025 Africa Round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, which provides a platform for the space community across Africa to build capacity in international space law. South Africa is pleased to note the national coordination efforts in Nigeria, Kenya, and Uganda, highlighting the continent's growing enthusiasm for space law education.

**Chair,**

Our National Space Agency (SANSA) is revitalising cooperation agreements with key partners on the continent. This renewed collaboration focuses on capacity-building initiatives in satellite technology, space science and technology policy development, as well as aligning legal frameworks, bolstering national and regional capabilities.

**To conclude,** my delegation expresses concern about the liquidity crisis UNOOSA is experiencing, impacting the work of the Office to deliver on its mandate as well render necessary capacity building and training to developing countries. We have taken heed of the Director's concerns and echo her call for more funding.

Thank you.

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