

Check Against Delivery

**Statement of the Pakistan Delegation at the
64th Session of the Legal Subcommittee (STSC) of the United Nations
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
05 - 16 May 2025**

Agenda Item No. 3: General Exchange of Views (FULL VERSION)

Thank you Chair,

At the outset, we extend our full support to your continuing Chairpersonship of this Subcommittee and look forward to a successful conclusion to this Session.

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China delivered by the Ambassador of Kenya and has the following remarks in our national capacity.

We are delivering a short version of our full statement which we request be made available online for the Subcommittee's record.

Chair,

Outer space is becoming increasingly congested, competitive as well as contested. With the entry of the private sector, the number of actors in outer space is on the rise. We are also witnessing a clear trend towards unilateral national legislations governing space activities which may be at odds with obligations emanating from international instruments. Therefore, the international legal regime governing and regulating space activities needs to evolve through a transparent, inclusive and democratic approach.

This is of the utmost importance to ensure the rule of law in outer space; safety, security and sustainability of space operations; as well as equitable access to space for all states without any discrimination. While voluntary norms to regulate behaviour in space are useful, they cannot be a substitute for legally binding instruments. As the primary multilateral forum for progressive development of the legal regime and governance of outer space activities, the Legal Subcommittee has an important role to play in this regard.

Chair,

Pakistan is a State Party to all the five UN treaties on outer space, including the Moon Agreement. We reaffirm the principle that space is the common heritage of

humankind and not subject to national appropriation by claims of sovereignty. It should be used for peaceful purposes and should remain accessible to all nations on non-discriminatory basis, irrespective of their level of scientific, technical or economic development.

Pakistan's National Space Policy is founded on promoting the use of space technology and its applications for socio-economic development. The Policy has the following eight (08) thrust areas:

- i) Space Laws, Regulations and Governance Mechanism;
- ii) Space Technology Applications for Socio-Economic Development and National Security;
- iii) Development of Facilities, Infrastructure and Space Professionals;
- iv) Research and Development in Science, Technology and Innovation;
- v) Development of Local Industry and Commercialisation of Space Products and Services;
- vi) Space Education and Awareness;
- vii) International Cooperation and Collaboration; and,
- viii) Sustainable, Safe and Secure Space Environment.

The Policy envisions that national space activities will be undertaken in a safe, secure and sustainable manner without impeding nascent technological development.

Chair,

Space traffic management has also acquired ever greater importance with the crowding in outer space. There is a need for a multifaceted approach to space traffic management for sustainable and interference-free space operations. While setting up an international legal framework for space traffic management, a UN-based information-sharing mechanism should be established, comprising a database on space objects and events in space and respective procedures for its operation.

Moreover, with the ongoing technological advancements, exploration, exploitation and utilisation of space resources is becoming a distinct possibility. That said, the fundamental principles enshrined in the 1967 Outer Space Treaty continue to provide us with the basic legal framework. These include non-appropriation, peaceful use, protection of the space environment and the utilisation of space in the interest of all countries, especially developing countries.

The development of applicable relevant norms and rules in this area must conform to these principles and should take place through a multilateral approach from the UN

platform. It should also be fully responsive to the special needs of developing countries and emerging space nations.

Pakistan is also concerned about the proliferation of space debris and the increased possibility of collisions and interference with the operation of space objects, particularly in the Low Earth Orbit (LEO). Due consideration should be given to prevent space collision and interference mitigations to another spacecraft by sharing details related to Radio Frequency (RF) compatibility and Orbit and Spectrum Resource (OS&R) during satellite Launch and Early Orbit Phase (LEOP) and in-orbit Testing (IOT), drifting and de-orbiting.

Also, the Geo-Stationary Orbit (GSO), a limited natural resource, is an integral part of outer space which is supposed to be made available to all countries on an equitable basis irrespective of their technical capacities. However, it is obvious that the current dispensation governing access to the geostationary orbit is far from perfect and is suboptimal in protecting the interests of developing countries which are late entrants into the space arena and have fledgling capacities. We believe that this Subcommittee should play its due role in addressing this genuine and persistent issue that continues to negatively impact the access of developing countries to the geostationary orbit. We share the view that there are practices and technical regulations which if adjusted, in close coordination with the ITU, can lead to fairer and more equitable access to the geostationary orbit for space emerging and aspiring nations.

With this in mind, Pakistan will continue to support the work of all Working Groups, Action Teams and initiatives that can push towards the collective benefit of all Member States.

Chair,

Pakistan greatly values the work being carried out by the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) which has contributed to sustainable development by promoting cooperation in matters related satellite-based positioning, navigation and timing. GNSS technologies have become an integral part of our societies and economies.

Pakistan applied for its membership in 2021. Our application was strongly supported by all members of the Committee on its technical merits except for one member which refused to join consensus for extraneous, political reasons.

Pakistan believes that the ICG is a purely technical body whose work stands to benefit from the participation of countries that have growing GNSS capabilities. The ICG will not be able to pursue its stated objectives effectively if countries, which can contribute

to its technical work, continue to be excluded for short-sighted political point scoring by this Member State. We hope that technical considerations will retain merit and Pakistan can finally join this important platform at the earliest.

Chair,

We look forward to a fruitful exchange of views among member states during this important session of the subcommittee.

I thank you.

-----**End of Statement**-----