

Statement of the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

to the 64th Session of

the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS

Agenda item 3

General Exchange of Views

(5 May 2025)

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Mr. Chairman,

We are delighted to see you chairing this meeting and extend our sincere appreciation to you (Mr. Santiago Ripol Carulla of Spain) as the esteemed Chair of the Legal Subcommittee, for your continued leadership in guiding our discussions with professionalism and dedication.

We also appreciate UNOOSA's Director and the Secretariat for the preparations and convening of this meeting.

We support the statement made on behalf of the G77 and China under this agenda item.

Chair,

The Legal Subcommittee, alongside the Technical Subcommittee, remains a fundamental pillar of COPUOS in advancing dialogue on international space law, clarifying the rights and responsibilities of nations, and fostering equitable access to outer space resources.

Consensus forms the bedrock of our deliberations under the framework of COPUOS. It is through the collective agreement of member states, built on mutual understanding and respect for national interests, that we progress toward a stable and predictable legal environment for space activities. Consensus-driven decision-making not only strengthens our collective efforts but also ensures the legitimacy, applicability, and sustainability of COPUS decisions. This approach prevents marginalization, reinforces multilateralism, and solidifies space law as a tool for fairness and stability rather than division or exclusion.

The Islamic Republic of Iran underscores that **space resource activities** should advance global peace, technological equity, and fair access, preventing monopolization and discriminatory practices that exacerbate inequalities. We commend the efforts of the Chair and Working Group in developing a set of principles for space resource activities. We fully support this valuable effort and actively contribute to the Working Group discussions. While the current draft includes elements of consultation, coordination, and mutual assistance, these primarily address interactions among capable spacefaring nations. However, a more explicit emphasis on international

cooperation would strengthen the framework, ensuring equitable access, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and technology transfer, particularly for developing nations. By integrating a dedicated principle on international cooperation, the framework would align more fully with the spirit of the Outer Space Treaty, reinforcing inclusivity and fostering broader participation in space exploration.

The United Nations Treaties on Outer Space serve as the foundation for legal stability and multilateral cooperation, shaping our collective journey beyond Earth. These agreements contribute to preventing an arms race in space, ensuring sustainable access for all countries, and fostering international cooperation in the peaceful exploration of space. To uphold these treaties, member states must actively promote collaboration in scientific research, technology transfer, and joint exploration. Inclusive implementation of provisions related to international cooperation and capacity-building would ensure that the benefits of space activities are shared equitably among all humankind. Achieving universality in adherence to these treaties requires a renewed commitment to international cooperation, knowledge-sharing, and technology transfer.

Furthermore, any efforts to address new developments, opportunities, and challenges in outer space outside the framework of the UN Charter and COPUOS risk fragmenting existing space law, undermining the coherence and legitimacy of these treaties. Strengthening COPUOS as the primary forum for addressing both existing and emerging issues related to the peaceful use of outer space will reinforce the consistency and legitimacy of the UN treaties on outer space.

The mitigation of space debris has become an urgent issue as the number of space objects orbiting Earth has grown exponentially in recent decades. Any steps toward addressing this challenge must ensure a cooperative approach that does not impede the rights of developing states to partake in the exploration and use of outer space. We recognize the importance of Space Traffic Management (STM) in a rapidly evolving space environment. Our commitment to equitable access, capacity-building, and the sustainable conduct of space activities shapes our stance on STM. Space-leading nations bear a significant responsibility to mitigate and remove the space debris they have produced. We have carefully considered the proposal to establish an open-ended study group on STM. During the previous Legal Subcommittee session, we actively participated in discussions on this proposal. Similar to other bodies operating under the UN system, we believe the mandate and scope of this study group require thorough deliberation before its establishment.

Addressing space debris requires access to accurate Space Situational Awareness (SSA) data, ensuring transparent sharing of information on space objects, conjunction assessments, and collision avoidance maneuvers. SSA is fundamental to space safety, enabling tracking, collision prevention, and responsible operations. Iran underscores the negative impact of unilateral sanctions on access to SSA. Such sanctions, imposed arbitrarily by select nations, create barriers to international cooperation, restricting data exchange, tracking technologies, and participation in global SSA initiatives. These limitations not only compromise space security for sanctioned states but also disrupt broader space operations, affecting the safety and coordination of other nations' activities. Therefore, the safety of space operations and the space environment necessitates that

SSA remains globally accessible, free from geopolitical constraints, ensuring that no nation is unfairly disadvantaged due to external political considerations.

Mr. Chairman,

Our delegation stands ready to contribute constructively to this session's deliberations, reaffirming multilateralism and inclusivity as central tenets of the peaceful use of outer space.

I Thank you for your attention.