



Permanent Mission of the Federative Republic of Brazil

Brazil, Item 8 - General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources.

Mr. Chair,

Let me first reiterate my country`s condolences on the passing of Ambassador Andrzej Mistal. His contributions to the nascent discussions on space resources activities and, along with his vice-Chair, guiding the first Working Group on this issue under COPUOS, are invaluable. We extend our sentiments to Ambassador Andrzej`s family and friends, our Rumanian colleagues and the COPUOS` community in general.

Mr. Chair,

Discussion on space resources activities has picked-up momentum with the establishment, under this Subcommittee, of the aforementioned Working Group. We can highlight the International Conferences on Space Resources last year, as well as other initiatives. In November 2024, the Brazilian Space Agency (AEB) hosted in São José dos Campos, Brazil, the International Workshop on Space Resources: Perspectives for Future Ecosystems. The Workshop, organized with the Secure World Foundation, followed up on the discussions held in Daejeon, South Korea, in 2023. We thank UNOOSA and the countries and institutions that participated for their invaluable contributions to the discussions.

Mr. Chair,

As the debates continue on specific topics and issues, we feel that the Group has reached an important juncture with a first draft of recommended principles, for which we thank the vice-Chair Steven Freeland. We consider the current draft a very solid base for negotiations and we commend the participating delegations for it.

As we have previously stated, the existing international legal framework for space activities is not sufficient to effectively regulate space resources activities as envisioned for the future. The lack of legal certainty and relevant coordination between States can lead to dangerous and possibly catastrophic situations.

Individual States and groups of States are taking domestic steps to try and fill some of the more glaring legal voids. Brazil has recently adopted a new Law on Space Activities, which includes, for the first time, the concept of space resources. However, these initiatives are no substitute for multilaterally negotiated, universally recognized and, preferably, legally binding rules. Without a clear and accepted international legal framework on space resources activities, we will continue to thread a dangerous line.

In pursuing this objective, the existing rules dealing with the management and use of limited resources in international areas, such as in the context of Antarctica, the ocean floor and Earth orbits, provide valid examples.

Such agreements provide a broad spectrum of possibilities to guide the negotiation for developing a framework for the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources which is equitable, constructive and collaborative.

Mr. Chair,

The principles being discussed in the Working Group are the first step towards such a framework, consistent with existing international space law. Building upon the first draft, my delegation highlights the need to continue discussions on benefit sharing, taking into account all possible mechanisms and modalities proposed, and data sharing, bearing in mind the need to bridge the information gap between countries whose space programmes are in different stages of development. Such discussions must remain consensus-based and inclusive, paying due regard to the needs of all states, regardless of their degree of economic and scientific development, and including those that do not have the technological capability to independently explore and utilize outer space.

Thank you Mr. Chair.