

STATEMENT ITALIAN DELEGATION on ITEM 8 of the AGENDA:

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

Italy welcomes the ongoing discussions on possible legal models for the exploration and use of space resources, including within the framework of the relevant Working Group. From the outset, we reaffirm our belief in the significant potential of space resource utilization for the benefit of all humankind. Italy has consistently supported international efforts to develop a global framework, irrespective of its final form.

We would like to express again our deepest condolences for the untimely passing of Ambassador Andrzej Misztal, whose leadership as Chair of the Working Group was deeply valued. He was a frank and sincere colleague and friend. We also commend the work of Vice-Chair Professor Steven Freeland in drafting the Initial Recommended Principles for Space Resource Activities, which provide a solid basis for building a shared legal understanding.

While the Working Group's conclusions do not constitute interpretations or amendments of UN space treaties, they are essential in clarifying the principles governing space resource activities. A common understanding will support legal certainty, promote responsible investment, and reduce tensions, particularly as we move toward sustainable human exploration of the Moon and beyond. This field is highly innovative and interdisciplinary, and it requires a coherent legal framework rooted in the UN outer space treaties.

In this spirit, Italy recalls its endorsement of the Artemis Accords in 2020, which reaffirm the principles of the Outer Space Treaty (OST) and introduce new norms for lunar exploration, including on space resource use.

To support the Working Group's efforts, Italy has submitted a national contribution in response to the Vice-Chair's invitation (Circular of 19 July 2024). This outlines what we consider to be the core principles to include in the initial draft set. These principles primarily restate and clarify existing OST provisions. As the Working Group's draft develops, we will provide further input.

Following the intersessional meeting last 24 of April, we understand that the WG will focus discussions on the headings outlined in Part 1 of the draft, which reflect a possibly shared understanding of key concepts.

At this session, we are ready to contribute to discussions on the structure, content, and terminology of the draft. We note with satisfaction that many of the principles Italy highlighted in its contribution align closely with those proposed by the Vice-Chair and could be widely supported by WG members.

We commend Professor Freeland for his dedication and the valuable work accomplished so far.

Thank You Mister Chairman