

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

Republic of Korea

UN COPUOS Legal Subcommittee,
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Thank you, Mr. Chair

Space resources present new and boundless opportunities for humanity. To fully realize these possibilities, it is imperative that we, as a global community, strive to transform them into reality.

As we have consistently stated, the Republic of Korea plans to engage in future space resource activities and is actively conducting related research and development. Under the leadership of the Korea Aerospace Administration (KASA), national research institutes and private companies are involved in developing necessary technologies. Recently, the Korean Society for Space Resources and Energy was formally established to foster cooperation in this field.

In addition, in March of this year, the Republic of Korea launched the first international academic journal dedicated to space resources, titled “Space and Planetary Resources”, led by the Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources (KIGAM). This English-language journal serves as a comprehensive platform for publishing innovative data, concepts, technologies, and models, as well as research addressing the economic, environmental, legal, and policy aspects of space resource exploration, extraction, processing, and utilization.

We hope that these efforts to build a dedicated academic community will contribute to global cooperation and knowledge-sharing in the field of space resources. Ultimately, we believe that space resource activities will evolve in ways that benefit all of humankind.

We also recognize that the development of internationally agreed-upon principles is essential to ensuring that space resource activities are conducted in a responsible and transparent manner that earns the trust of the international community. In this regard, the Republic of Korea reaffirms its full support for the work of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities.

The delegation of the Republic of Korea would like to express its deepest condolences on the passing of Ambassador Andrzej Misztal of Poland, who served as the Chair of the Working Group. We are sincerely grateful for his tireless dedication and invaluable contributions to the COPUOS community, particularly his leadership of the Space Resources Working Group.

We trust that Professor Steven Freeland, the Vice-Chair of the Working Group, will continue to guide its important discussions in a constructive manner. We also wish to express our sincere appreciation for his efforts in preparing the initial draft recommendations on the principles for the space resources activities in advance of this session. The Republic of Korea believes that this draft will serve as a critical foundation for the Working Group's future deliberations.

The Republic of Korea holds the view that the extraction and utilization of space resources does not inherently constitute national appropriation under Article II of the Outer Space Treaty. Furthermore, we believe that space resource activities, if conducted in responsible and transparent manner, can contribute to safe and sustainable space activities. We hope that this perspective will be broadly shared by the international community and duly reflected in the initial set of recommended principles for space resource activities to be developed

by the Working Group.

The Republic of Korea remains committed to contributing actively to its progress, ensuring that it proceeds effectively in accordance with its work plan and produces meaningful outcomes.

Thank you. /END/