

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 64th Session of the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee
(05-16 May 2025, Vienna)**

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

**Mr Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,**

The delegation of Ukraine welcomes the continued efforts of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, particularly in advancing the *Recommended Principles for Space Resource Activities*, as well as the recent establishment of the *Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation*. These initiatives represent valuable progress in shaping a shared understanding of the legal dimensions of resource use in outer space.

Alongside national, bilateral, and regional developments, these efforts contribute meaningfully toward the development of a comprehensive international framework for the exploration, exploitation, and utilization of space resources. However, significant legal gaps remain—particularly concerning foundational issues such as property rights, benefit-sharing mechanisms, and interoperability.

To avoid the emergence of a fragmented or de facto “first come, first served” system, we believe that positive national practices—especially in the domain of property rights—should be harmonized through inclusive, transparent, and multilateral legal processes. Existing international governance models offer useful precedents in this regard, including:

- The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which ensures equitable access to radio frequencies and satellite orbits;
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which establishes legal pathways for managing environmental impacts;
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which provides guiding principles for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;
- And the International Seabed Authority (ISA), which offers a structured model for regulating seabed resource activities.

Mr. Chair,

We believe it is essential to clarify which categories of space resource-related activities may be considered as falling within the scope of the “province of all mankind”—for example, the development of interoperable

infrastructure for connectivity, the sustainable use of celestial environments, and the protection of extraterrestrial heritage sites.

The principle of interoperability—critical for safety, coordination, and long-term sustainability—also raises important legal and regulatory questions. These include the use of blockchain technologies, autonomous systems, and robotic operations, which are increasingly central to space resource activities.

In conclusion, Ukraine believes that any future legal regime governing the exploration and use of space resources must:

- be firmly grounded in international law;
- foster harmonization of national legal approaches;
- incorporate the principles of adaptive governance;
- and align with the overarching objective of preserving outer space for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all humanity.

We remain committed to contributing constructively to this dialogue and to working with all delegations toward a coherent, equitable, and future-ready legal framework.

Thank you, Mr Chair.