

AGENDA ITEM 12
General exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities

**STATEMENT BY KATIE KING, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE UN COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE**

May 13, 2025

We have already seen the benefit satellites provide, including in times of natural disaster – such as the provision of supplemental cellular service or broadband internet during the devastating recent wildfires in California. As the number of satellites in orbit continues to grow, we must work together as an international community to both harness the benefits they afford and address the new challenges they may bring. The United States continues to carry out its obligations under the Outer Space Treaty to authorize and continually supervise the activities of our nationals, which includes commercial and other non-governmental entities' satellites and satellite constellations.. We also note the important benefits small satellites have provided to humanity, including improving communications to remote, rural areas that have difficulty establishing ground-based communications. Several nations have purchased commercially-available satellite internet services, which aim to bridge the digital divide and connect more people around the globe to the global digital economy, providing high-speed internet to areas where traditional terrestrial infrastructure is lacking or unreliable.

Finally, in response to the inaccurate characterization of financial sanctions, my delegation would like to stress that financial sanctions are a legitimate, important, appropriate, and effective tool for responding to harmful activity and addressing threats to peace and security. The United States is not alone in that view or in that practice. In cases where the United States has applied sanctions, we have done so in a manner consistent with international law and with specific objectives

in mind, including as a means to promote a return to rule of law or democratic systems, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, promote accountability for transnational crime, or to respond to threats to international security. Sanctions are expressly a tool for promoting positive and enduring behavior change. We are clear and transparent about these goals. Those who suggest sanctions are inherently unjustified advance a false narrative.

Thank you, Chair.