General Exchange of Views

Mr. Chair and distinguished Delegates,
The Indian delegation takes this opportunity to congratulate the Chair on leading the 64th LSC session and assures full cooperation and support to ensure the success of this session. Indian delegation continues to support UNOOSA and its endeavors to fulfil the vision of UNCOPOUS.

Mr. Chair,
India remains steadfast in its commitment to major international treaties/regulations related to outer space, including Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue Agreement, the Liability Convention and the Registration Convention. India also implements the outer space related non-legally binding instruments including the UN Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the guidelines on Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

On December 30, 2024, ISRO's PSLV-C60 launched twin SPADEX satellites and the specially configured upper stage (PS4) of PSLV-C60 called PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM-4) in the same orbit. The POEM-4 hosting 24 non-separable payloads was de-orbited and re-entered the atmosphere within a span of 95 days and impacted in the Indian Ocean. The safe re-entry of POEM-4 is yet another accomplishment to ISRO's commitment to contain the growth of space debris, reaffirming the prominent role of ISRO in prioritizing sustainability in its space missions while adhering to the legal and non-legal bindings established by the United Nations.
Similarly, to minimise the accidental break-up potential, all upper stages of recently launched missions, namely GSLV-F14, SSLV-D3, PSLV-C59 were passivated by venting excess fuel. The upper stages of these will undergo natural orbital decay and would re-enter the atmosphere within 10 years. At its mission end, Scatsat-1 was de-orbited to a lower orbit expending all left-over fuel and decommissioned.

Developing and demonstrating capabilities for on-orbit servicing and active debris mitigation and addressing their associated technological and policy-related challenges are important. India has made significant progress in reusable space technology, conducting successful landing experiments in 2024. These advancements are crucial for reducing the cost of access to space and ensuring sustainable operations.

Mr. Chair,
India hosted the 42nd IADC annual meet at Bengaluru, where nearly 100 delegates participated and deliberated over a wide range of topics on space debris observation, modelling, and mitigation. During this meet, India declared its intent to work towards Debris Free Space Mission (DFSM), by undertaking necessary measures during design, operation, and disposal phase of space missions. This aligns with the ongoing global efforts for curtailing debris population.
Mr. Chair,
The renewed global interest in outer space has been accompanied by a surge in private sector participation, unlocking new opportunities for commercial applications of space products and

services. India has embraced this revival, fostering innovation and collaboration through initiatives such as the Indian Space Policy 2023 and the establishment of IN-SPACe to regulate and promote private sector involvement.

However, this rapid growth of private launches has also led to an increase in the proliferation of space objects, especially small satellites raising concerns about the safety and on-orbit collisions. Rideshare being the primary means for launching, there is a scope of ambiguity for the registration of an object when a launch involves multiple satellites from different States. The lack of contact details and registration also leads to serious spaceflight safety-related and hence demands necessary oversight by respective states and regulate such missions. It is also recommended to operate small satellites away from the immediate neighbourhood of the inhabited orbital regime and other already densely populated orbital zones. India also advocates for wider engagements among the States that can pave the way for a more harmonized framework for small satellite operations.

Mr. Chair,

The challenges of outer space use and sustainability cannot be addressed in isolation. It is imperative for nations to work together, fostering a collective spirit of collaboration and shared responsibility. The Legal Sub-Committee should continue to exchange views on legal mechanisms related to space debris mitigation, space traffic management, and the application of international laws to small satellites. A greater synergy with the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee would be invaluable in effectively tackling the above issues.

India reiterates its commitment to working collaboratively with other nations to develop legally binding instruments and transparency measures that ensure the safety and sustainability of all space-based assets and activities. Together, we can preserve the benefits of space technology for future generations and ensure that outer space remains a domain of peace, progress, and prosperity for all.

Thank you, Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates, for your kind attention.