



**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**Agenda item 5**

**LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER  
SPACE(UNCOPUOS): 64<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**

**STATUS AND APPLICATION OF THE FIVE UNITED NATIONS  
TREATIES ON OUTER SPACE INCLUDING CAPACITY BUILDING  
IN SPACE LAW**

**05-16 MAY 2025**

Check Against Delivery

**Chairperson,**

South Africa strongly believes that adherence to the United Nations treaties contributes to creating a safer, secure and sustainable environment for the development of outer space activities..

As a party to four of the five United Nations space treaties, with the exception of the Moon Agreement, South Africa places importance on aligning these treaties with national legislation and relevant regulatory frameworks.

**Chairperson,**

South Africa notes with appreciation the growing number of parties to the five UN treaties on outer space and encourage other States that have not ratified them to consider doing so. This treaty framework is further strengthened through the application of the non-legally binding Guidelines on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. The Committee, currently chaired by India, has made commendable progress work, which is essential in a domain where technological advancement often outpaces regulatory frameworks.

In light of the growing presence of non-state actors in space, South Africa emphasizes the need for all space activities—especially those promoting international and regional cooperation—to comply with international space law, UN declarations, and established guidelines

**Chairperson,**

The African Union adopted its African Space Policy and Strategy with the recent launch of the African Space Agency, which marks a significant milestone in Africa's effort to harness space science and technology as a powerful enabler of inclusive and sustainable development on the continent. This strategic framework reflects Africa's growing recognition of space as a vital tool for addressing pressing socio-economic challenges and unlocking new opportunities for growth. Similarly, South Africa's national space policy affirms our space activities is informed by our socio-economic growth and development

Accordingly, capacity building in space law is critical in enhancing our understanding and knowledge of the legal implications of exploitation and exploration of space resources as well as assisting countries in fulfilling their respective obligations under Treaties

**Chairperson,**

South Africa is committed to enhancing gender representstivity and encourages Member States to mainstream gender equality in their programmes to address current disparities and challenges women often face in the space sector. In this regard, my delegation expresses its appreciation to UNOOSA for its efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women across the continent.

**Chairperson,**

On the national front, the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) offers a new postgraduate qualification namely a Master of Engineering in Satellite Systems and Applications, which is designed to give students a more holistic understanding of the space sector, including the legal aspects and consideration of managing space technologies.

**To conclude:** Chairperson, South Africa remains committed to strengthening coordination with the continent and fostering international partnerships

**Thank you**

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