



Permanent Mission of the Federative Republic of Brazil

Brazil, Item 6(a) - Matters relating to:(a) The definition and delimitation of outer space.

Mr. Chair.

The definition and delimitation of outer space remains an essential topic of this Committee, as the increasingly important space sector and the adoption of new technologies pose new questions to the international community, leading to novel considerations on the delimitation of outer space, for practical purposes.

Long debates at this Subcommittee have not succeed in achieving consensus on a multilateral delimitation of outer space. However, a legal border, still undefined, exists between the territorial air space, under national control and jurisdiction, and outer space, where no claim of sovereignty is possible.

The delimitation of outer space may clarify rights and obligations of space actors, while providing further legal certainty regarding international liability and responsibility. Space activities imply actions taking place not only in outer space, but also through airspace. Occasionally, space objects may cross other countries` territorial airspace, leading to questions regarding national security, air traffic control, and general safety of aviation. Space traffic management mechanisms currently under consideration by this Subcommittee would benefit from more clarity on the boundaries between airspace and outer space.

Mr. Chair,

Since a multilateral delimitation of outer space has not yet been achieved, states may and in fact have regulated, through their national laws, the boundaries between airspace and outer space for domestic purposes. Nevertheless, comparative studies have identified different standards on that regard, based on national interests and local demands.

Without a universal delimitation of outer space, the international community may eventually face a challenging situation whereby the border between air space and outer

space may differ from one state to another, leading to complex discussions and conflicts of jurisdiction.

Mr. Chair,

Complex problems, as the definition and delimitation of outer space, require a holistic approach as well as coordinated action by the international community, involving different stakeholders.

For that matter, the Brazilian delegation supports current international dialogues towards the delimitation of outer space, considering space traffic mechanisms and regulating passage rights for the launching and return of space objects.

Thank you.