

UK Statement under Item 7 Future Role and Method of Work of the Committee at the
64th Session of the Legal Subcommittee

Chair, As this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor, please allow us again to express our sadness regarding the passing of Ambassador Andrzej Misztal. We saw the Working Group on the Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities make excellent progress under his leadership. He will be greatly missed.

Chair, Please allow me to set out the view of the United Kingdom on the future role and method of work of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The United Kingdom has taken a leading role on the sustainability, security, and safety of outer space. Along with other delegations, we believe that the LSC has a crucial role in ensuring the ongoing sustainability and peaceful use of the space environment.

Regarding the role of the Legal Subcommittee, there is an important distinction between discussions held in Geneva and those held in Vienna. The discussions here in Vienna should focus on safety and sustainability, which may support the security agenda. While discussions in Geneva should focus on security which may support safety and sustainability. The fact that many space systems are dual-use shows why it is important to have distinct yet complimentary discussions in Geneva and Vienna.

We would now like to share some remarks on the ways of working. The United Kingdom calls upon all Member States to work with us on streamlining the reports of our sessions, including for this Subcommittee. Although we view the report as an important outcome of our discussions, the UK is here to exchange best practice and to engage in constructive discussions on important issues. We believe that negotiating the report

and preparing statements in order to influence the outcome of the report, has become an impediment to constructive and open discussions. Member States bring experts from around the world and we should seek to ensure that their time in Vienna is as productive and valuable as possible. We welcome all pragmatic ideas to reduce this burden on Member States, and on the Secretariat. We look forward to further collaboration with the UNOOSA Secretariat as we look for ways to improve the ways of working of this Subcommittee. Additionally, we welcome the conversation on organisational matters, including improving technical presentations, led by the distinguished Chair from India, Mr. Prakash Chauhan.

The LSC should be easy for observers to understand, not just governments. The UK joins other delegations in the call for improvement regarding the current Compendium on Rules of Procedure and Methods of Work. We feel as though recent sessions of the Subcommittees have highlighted that the current compendium is not fit for purpose, and we join the request for the Secretariat to streamline the compendium. We call upon all delegations to consider ways to innovate and make our work easier for non-experts to understand, as we have witnessed the success of such innovation in the call for the consolidation of agenda items.

Next, the United Kingdom is pleased to see that we have a diverse range of observers represented at COPUOS and its Subcommittees. Space sustainability does not fall to governments alone. We believe that we should do more to fully engage the private sector and the scientific community. We would encourage delegations to consider including non-governmental actors as part of their delegations throughout the COPUOS

meeting cycle. Our colleagues from industry leading on Active Debris Removal will join the UK delegation at a side event in partnership with Japan and New Zealand.

The UK believes that sharing experience, ideas and creating a common vision, is one of the defining benefits of the multilateral system. We welcome the initiatives by UNOOSA that allow for increased member state and expert interactions such as the UN Space Sustainability Days and the UN Space Bridge. Next, the United Kingdom would like to thank Chile, Spain and South Africa for their work pertaining to Dark and Quiet Skies. We are pleased to be a member of the Group of Friends and we look forward to further discussions on this important subject. We would also like to express our support for the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation (ATLAC). The United Kingdom would like to thank Romania for their early efforts to establish an action team, specifically Mr. Dorin Prunariu for his efforts. We'd also like to thank Romania and Pakistan for their co-chair nominations. We are pleased to have Ms. Ulpia Botezatu and Mr. Hasan Abbas serving on the Bureau.

The UK has actively engaged in cross-regional discussions, here in Vienna, and we look forward to continuing these discussions in the lead up to UNISPACE IV. UNISPACE IV has the potential to create a step change in our ambition and engagement in peaceful uses, but only if we continue to engage constructively. The UK pledges to be a positive example in that regard. Chair. Our work is only just beginning. We hope that our future is rooted in practical, open, informal and expert discussion. We need to focus on the mandate of COPUOS and seek to hear from every actor making a contribution to our collective endeavours. Thank you Chair and to all of the participants at this session