



64th session of the Legal Subcommittee

5-16 May 2025

Statement by Australia

Agenda Item: 7 – Future role and method of work of the Committee

Thank you Chair, distinguished delegates.

Let me begin by reaffirming Australia's support for the work of this Committee.

Australia appreciates the efforts made by the Chair and the Secretariat to support an efficient and productive session of this Subcommittee.

Chair,

Australia once again expresses its condolences on the sad passing of Ambassador Andrzej Misztal of Poland. Ambassador Misztal was highly respected and made a significant contribution to the peaceful uses of outer space and the work of the Committee and its subcommittees. This included as Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities.

Under Ambassador Misztal's able leadership, with Mr Steven Freeland of Australia as Vice-Chair, the Working Group progressed its important work,

including towards the development of a set of initial recommended principles for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilisation of space resources.

We take this opportunity to again express our support for the Working Group to continue to progress this work, consistent with its workplan.

Australia supports Mr Freeland to become Chair of the Working Group moving forward. We are confident in Mr Freeland's ability – as evidenced in his performance as Vice-Chair – to facilitate an inclusive exchange of views during future deliberations of the Working Group.

We hope that any matters concerning the bureau of this Working Group be considered separately from that of the substantive work of the Working Group.

Chair,

Australia notes with concern the negative impact of the liquidity crisis on the operating budget of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the subsequent impact this has on activities that the Office undertakes as requested by Member States. In this regard, Australia appreciates efforts by Member States and the Secretariat to find ways to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of the meetings of the Committee and its Subcommittees, particularly in light of the growing membership cohort and increase in space activities.

This includes exploring ways to optimise our time and resources, such as in relation to the adoption of the draft report. It is important for the Committee to remain focused and constructive.

We welcome ongoing opportunities to explore reasonable adjustments so that our methods of work remain sustainable, and to empower current and new members of the Committee, including emerging spacefaring nations, as well as Permanent Observers and, where appropriate, other non-governmental stakeholders, to meaningfully contribute their diverse perspectives to the Committee's work.

We recall Action 56 of the Pact for the Future, which strengthens the Committee's role as the forum for intergovernmental cooperation in outer space, and encourages the Committee to further consult on the proposal to hold a UNISPACE IV in 2027. With the 70th anniversary of the Committee and the 60th anniversary of the Outer Space Treaty approaching, a UNISPACE IV in 2027 provides an opportunity to set a clear direction for the future, including work already underway in the Committee.

Australia thanks Morocco and Italy for taking forward the proposal for a UNISPACE IV, and looks forward to developing a pragmatic, action-oriented conference.

Chair,

Australia welcomes the establishment of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation, and is pleased its important work has commenced.

Australia thanks the Co-Chairs of the Action Team for preparing a non-paper for the consideration of the Action Team, and for convening the intersessional meetings in March and April.

We extend our full support to the Co-Chairs, Mr Hasan Abbas of Pakistan and Ms Ulpia-Elena Botezatu of Romania, and look forward to arriving at consensus on the workplan.

Chair,

Australia will continue to engage with Member States and Permanent Observers in considering further opportunities for the Committee to progress its important work in an efficient and productive manner.

Thank you.