



**PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN VIENNA**

64th SESSION OF THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF COPUOS

ITEM 8: General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources

STATEMENT BY GREECE

Mr Chairman,

Distinguished colleagues,

Over the last few years, there has been an intense debate on the development of activities related to the exploration, exploitation and utilization of outer space resources. Greece has been actively involved on the matter and strongly believes that any such activities need a solid and unequivocal legal framework. The dynamic emergence of the private sector in outer space activities creates new challenges, so it is expected that private entities will play an active role in the exploration and the exploitation of the resources of celestial bodies in general, as and when this becomes feasible. As developments and activities are speeding up, it is obvious that they are testing the boundaries of currently existing legal frameworks on space governance.

As a consequence, it is necessary to significantly reduce the legal risk arising from the absence of clear ad hoc regulations. It follows that the creation of a specific, solid international legal framework would be a decisive factor in making today's expectations a reality. The international character of the relevant framework, together with its consistency with the applicable international law and, in particular, Article III of the Outer Space Treaty, will certainly ensure a responsible use of space resources, on the one hand, and will effectively serve the

commonly accepted objective of the long-term sustainability of space activities,
on the other.

Mr Chairman,

It must be recalled that, in the *“For All Humanity –the Future of Outer Space Governance” our Common Agenda /Policy Brief 7*, which was elaborated by the *UN Secretary General* in view of last year’s UN Summit of the Future, the *Secretary General recommended MS*, among others, *“to Develop an effective framework for sustainable exploration, exploitation and utilization of the Moon and other celestial bodies. This framework could include binding and non-legally binding aspects and should build upon the five United Nations treaties on outer space and other instruments for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Without agreed international principles on activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources, these economic incentives carry a potential risk of conflict, environmental degradation and cultural loss.”*

In light of the above, Greece’s position is that the Legal Subcommittee is and should continue to be the primary forum for the discussions on an international legal framework for the development of space resource activities. In developing such a legal framework, the importance of international cooperation is more than crucial and, in this connection, we believe that any other existing multilateral initiatives, fora or models of constructive multilateral cooperation on the matter, such as for example the Artemis Accords, are most welcome, and could contribute to our collective aspiration to expand the horizons of human exploration and knowledge, in accordance with the applicable international law and, in particular, Article III of the Outer Space Treaty. It is our shared responsibility to ensure that existing international space law is fully implemented and that effective governance is in place to propel innovation and mitigate risks.

Mr. Chairman,

As said already, Regulations are needed to ensure legal certainty. They should not be too restrictive, to allow economic growth, but at the same time they should ensure that space is available for future generations.

The COPUOS Legal Subcommittee has proven its ability to deliver on its mandate. We welcome, in this regard, the progress made so far within the Legal Subcommittee’s Working Group on the Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, a progress that was also noted with satisfaction in para. 11 of the

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 79/87 of 2024 “*on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.*”

From our side, we commend the progress made since the establishment of the Working Group on Space Resources, under the effective leadership of its Chair, the late Ambassador, Andrzej Misztal, and its Vice-Chair, Professor Steven Freeland. In this connection, allow us to express our deep sorrow for the sudden loss of Ambassador Andrzej Mizstal, former Chair of the Legal Subcommittee, who has contributed significantly and guided successfully the work of the W.G.

We would also like, in this regard, to commend the Vice-Chair, Professor Freeland, for his work in preparing the Initial Draft of Recommended Principles for Space Resource Activities, which, in its Part 1, addresses fundamental concepts over which a common understanding appears to be within the WG, while, in its part 2, it addresses additional issues over which there does not appear to be a common understanding in the WG. The principal aim of the Recommended Principles is to facilitate initiatives by States, through either governmental or non-governmental entities, to utilize space resources in an efficient, lawful, sustainable, rational and equitable manner, in accordance with international law.

Mr. Chairman,

In concluding, let me assure you that Greece will continue to support the work of the working group on the Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities and will work continuously towards the implementation of a substantial international cooperation on the issue of exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources. We are looking forward to constructively participating in the WG’s meetings during the present LSC session.

I thank you