With reference to the Invitation Circular (Reference No. OOSA/2022/40-CU 2022/197) dated 1 July 2022, here is the official reply of the Kingdom of Bahrain through the National Space Science Agency (NSSA) on the invitation of the Chair and Vice-Chair to State members to provide their views with regard to the mandate and purpose of the Working Group:

• The type of space resources that fall within the mandate and scope of the Working Group.
  o Space laws, resolutions, etc. adopted and applied in each state members
  o United Nations treaties and resolutions relevant to space and space utilizations
  o UNOOSA and COPUOS decisions and recommendations

• The type of activities that fall within the mandate and scope of the Working Group.
  o Holding regular meetings for state members to discuss legal aspects and to collect feedback
  o Monitoring new trends/activities in the space industry and discussing them with state members to set legal frameworks and standards
  o Revise UN space treaties and suggest new ones to accommodate the new trends/activities in the space industry

• The type of information to be collected by the Working Group in accordance with its mandate.
  o Create a database for the space legal status of each state’s members
  o Collect and analyze state members’ feedback and suggestions on the legal aspects relevant to the space industry
  o Create a database for space legal experts and specialists in each state’s members

• The views of States members regarding the existing legal framework for space resource activities.
  o Surveying the purpose and provide a good source of information on the status of each state’s members

• The current practices and challenges in the implementation of the existing legal framework for such activities.
  o Currently there is no consistency between state members in submitting the required information
  o Main challenge is to validate the collected information
• The benefits and challenges to the development of a framework for such activities.
  o Benefits:
    o To have a good model to be adopted by state members
    o To build on best practices and experiences
  o Challenges:
    o To convince state members to submit the required information, as currently, it is optional
    o To meet all state members’ expectations

• The relevant factors for the development of a set of initial recommended principles for such activities.
  o Getting the majority of state members’ agreement on the adopted principles
  o Practicality of the selected factors
  o Cost and time for the implementations

• The format, agenda, topics and other details of the dedicated conference (currently) scheduled for 2024.
  o Format:
    o Keynote speakers
    o Panel discussions
    o Committees and sub-committees meeting with a special focus on certain topics
  o Agenda:
    o Importance of international legal space collaborations
    o Addressing new space industry trends and activities
    o Sharing case studies
    o Current status of space law in state members and how to improve it
  o Topics:
    o Space debris
    o Space traffic management
    o Space activities privatization
    o Colonization of celestial objects
    o Space mining
    o Utilization of space resources
    o Are the UN space treaties still standing?
    o Is there a need for an international space law?
    o Access to space especially for emerging nations
    o How to maintain/support a new generation in the space law field
    o Space activities insurance
    o The need for an international space court
• Any other background or information paper, or any other views, that States members may wish to share.

It is important to distinguish between emerging and well-established countries in space activities in applying any new rules/restrictions/conditions in utilizing the space.

End.