

Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities

**Statement by the Vice-Chair of the Working Group to the
sixty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (Agenda item 11)
February 2025**

Chair, Distinguished Delegations, Dear Colleagues

At its sixtieth session in 2021, the Legal Subcommittee decided to establish, under a five-year workplan, a working group under the agenda item on the general exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources, with Andrzej Misztal (Poland) and Steven Freeland (Australia) as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. The Working Group is titled the 'Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities'.

In accordance with its multi-year workplan, the activities of the Working Group undertaken thus far are to be presented to this Subcommittee at its current session by the Chair and/or Vice-Chair of the Working Group.

It is with great sadness that I inform the Subcommittee of the passing of the Chair, my dear friend and colleague Andrzej Misztal, in early January 2025. Ambassador Misztal was highly respected by many delegations and will be sorely missed but always remembered.

Despite this tragic loss, I want to assure delegations, as reiterated in an information circular distributed to Member States and Permanent Observers last week, that I remain fully committed and determined that the work of the Working Group, in accordance with its multi-year workplan, will continue unchanged. I sincerely appreciate the support of Member States in this regard.

During numerous Working Group meetings at sessions of the Legal Subcommittee and the Committee, as well as several intersessional meetings, the discussions in the Working Group have been rich, substantive and positive. We have made good progress in a highly cooperative manner that epitomises the 'Vienna spirit' and we should remain conscious of the work still to be done.

In April 2024, the Working Group held an International Conference on Space Resources during the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee. This followed an expert meeting, held in Luxembourg in March 2024, collecting preliminary inputs for consideration at the international conference, co-hosted by Belgium and Luxembourg and organized in cooperation with the United Nations. Both events focused on specific topics agreed by the Working Group.

These events provided important contributions to the work of the Working Group, addressing the multifaceted nature of the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources and assessing the benefits of further development of a framework for such activities.

Also in accordance with its multi-year workplan, the Working Group will develop a set of initial recommended principles for space resource activities, taking into account the need to ensure that they are carried out in accordance with international law and in a safe, sustainable, rational and peaceful manner.

In this regard, on 22 July 2024, the Secretariat circulated to States Members and Permanent Observers of the Committee an invitation from the Chair and Vice Chair to provide contributions on elements for an initial draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities. To date, we have received responses from 17 Member States and six Permanent Observers, to whom I extend my appreciation.

The Working Group agreed that a 'zero' draft set of initial recommended principles should be prepared by the Chair and Vice-Chair based on responses received and discussions thus far. I take this opportunity to remind Member States that I welcome any further contributions in

response to this invitation and ask for these to be submitted by 28 February 2025, so that they might be taken into account in the preparation of the zero draft.

This zero draft will be circulated to Member States in March 2025, and an online intersessional meeting of the Working Group will be held in April, where I will introduce the zero draft, prior to the sixty-fourth session of the Legal Subcommittee in May, where there will be an exchange of views on the zero draft and the ongoing development of the initial recommended principles.

In closing, I would like to thank the Chair of this Subcommittee for giving me the opportunity to inform delegations of the activities to date of the Working Group. I am available for discussions with delegations at any time and welcome their further contributions and inputs. I look forward to working with delegations as we continue to progress the work of the Working Group.

Thank you again and I send you best wishes for a successful and productive session of this Subcommittee.