20 March 2023

English only

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Legal Subcommittee Sixty-Second session Vienna, 20–31 March 2023 Item 10 of the provisional agenda^{*} General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation, and utilization of space resources

Bahrain – Input to the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities

The present conference room paper was prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information received from Bahrain. The information was reproduced in the form it was received.

* A/AC.105/C.2/L.323.

V.23-04967 (E)





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.
 - Space laws, resolutions, etc. adopted and applied in each state members
 - o United Nations treaties and resolutions relevant to space and space utilizations
 - UNOOSA and COPUOS decisions and recommendations
- The type of activities that fall within the mandate and scope of the Working Group.
 - Holding regular meetings for state members to discuss legal aspects and to collect feedback
 - Monitoring new trends/activities in the space industry and discussing them with state members to set legal frameworks and standards
 - 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.
 - Create a database for the space legal status of each state's members
 - Collect and analyze state members' feedback and suggestions on the legal aspects relevant to the space industry
 - 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.

• 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.

- Currently there is no consistency between state members in submitting the required information
- \circ $\;$ Main challenge is to validate the collected information



- The benefits and challenges to the development of a framework for such activities.
 - Benefits:
 - To have a good model to be adopted by state members
 - To build on best practices and experiences
 - Challenges:
 - To convince state members to submit the required information, as currently, it is optional
 - To meet all state members' expectations

• The relevant factors for the development of a set of initial recommended principles for such activities.

- Getting the majority of state members' agreement on the adopted principles
- Practicality of the selected factors
- \circ $\;$ Cost and time for the implementations

• The format, agenda, topics and other details of the dedicated conference (currently) scheduled for 2024.

- Format:
 - Keynote speakers
 - Panel discussions
 - Committees and sub-committees meeting with a special focus on certain topics
- Agenda:
 - o Importance of international legal space collaborations
 - o Addressing new space industry trends and activities
 - o Sharing case studies
 - \circ $\;$ Current status of space law in state members and how to improve it
- Topics:
 - o Space debris
 - Space traffic management
 - Space activities privatization
 - Colonization of celestial objects
 - Space mining
 - Utilization of space resources
 - Are the UN space treaties still standing?
 - Is there a need for an international space law?
 - Access to space especially for emerging nations
 - How to maintain/support a new generation in the space law field
 - 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..