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Uses of Outer Space**  
**Sixty-eighth session**  
Vienna, 25 June–2 July 2025

## **Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its sixty-fourth session, held in Vienna from 5 to 16 May 2025**

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## **I. Introduction**

### **A. Opening of the session**

1. The Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its sixty-fourth session at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 5 to 16 May 2025. The session was chaired by Santiago Ripol Carulla (Spain).
2. The Subcommittee held 20 meetings.

### **B. Adoption of the agenda**

3. At its 1074th meeting, on 5 May 2025, the Subcommittee adopted the following agenda:
  1. Adoption of the agenda.
  2. Statement by the Chair.
  3. General exchange of views.
  4. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law.
  5. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity-building, to promote their implementation.
  6. Matters relating to:
    - (a) The definition and delimitation of outer space;
    - (b) The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.
  7. Future role and method of work of the Committee.
  8. General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources.
  9. General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation and remediation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
  10. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space.
  11. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management.
  12. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities.
  13. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its sixty-fifth session.
  14. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

### **C. Attendance**

4. Representatives of the following 85 States members of the Committee attended the session: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican

Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

5. At its 1074th meeting, the Subcommittee decided to invite observers for Liechtenstein, Malta and Uganda, at their request, to attend the session and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that doing so would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

6. At the same meeting, the Subcommittee also decided to invite the observer for the League of Arab States, at its request, to attend the session and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that doing so would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

7. Observers for the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat attended the session.

8. The session was attended by representatives of the European Union, in its capacity as permanent observer of the Committee and in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [65/276](#) and [73/91](#).

9. The session was attended by observers for the following intergovernmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee: Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere, European Space Agency (ESA), European Telecommunications Satellite Organization, International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), International Organization of Space Communications (Intersputnik) and Square Kilometre Array Observatory.

10. The session was also attended by observers for the following non-governmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee: Committee on Space Research, European Astronomical Society, European Space Policy Institute, For All Moonkind, Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation, International Astronomical Union, International Institute of Space Law (IISL), Moon Village Association, National Space Society (NSS), Open Lunar Foundation, Outer Space Institute, Secure World Foundation (SWF), Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), Space Renaissance International (SRI) and University Space Engineering Consortium-Global.

11. At its 1074th meeting, the Subcommittee decided to invite observers for the Alliance for Collaboration in the Exploration of Space (ACES Worldwide) and the Lunar Policy Platform Foundation, at their request, to attend the session and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that doing so would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

12. A list of the representatives of States, United Nations entities and other international organizations attending the session is contained in document [A/AC.105/C.2/2025/INF/56](#).

13. The Subcommittee was informed by the secretariat of the nominations for the Chair of the Legal Subcommittee for the period 2026–2027 (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.27).

14. The Subcommittee was informed by the secretariat of the applications for membership of the Committee submitted by Myanmar (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.2), the Gambia (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.3) and Zimbabwe (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.29), which were to be considered by the Committee at its sixty-eighth session, in 2025.

15. The Subcommittee was also informed by the secretariat of the applications for permanent observer status with the Committee submitted by ACES Worldwide (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.14) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.26), which were also to be considered by the Committee at its sixty-eighth session.

## **D. Symposium**

16. The Committee, at its sixty-seventh session, agreed that IISL and the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL) should again be invited to organize a symposium, to be held during the sixty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, with due account to be taken of the factors referred to in paragraph 253 of document [A/79/20](#). The symposium, on the theme “Due regard in outer space: current legal implications”, was held on the morning of Wednesday, 14 May 2025.

17. The symposium was opened by Kai-Uwe Schrogl, President of IISL, Sergio Marchisio, Chair of ECSL, and Aarti Holla-Maini, Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. After the opening, the following presentations were made to the Subcommittee:

- (a) “What do we owe to each other? Operationalizing the principle of due regard”, by Andrea Harrington;
- (b) “Due regard to the interests of all: perspectives from emerging spacefaring nations in Latin America”, by Olavo De Bittencourt Neto;
- (c) “Africa and common interests in outer space”, by Tare Brisibe;
- (d) “Proactive due regard: Japan’s recent guidelines for on-orbit servicing and collision avoidance”, by Setsuko Aoki;
- (e) “Due regard and the need for space traffic coordination”, by Tim Flohrer;
- (f) “Back to the Moon: the key role of due regard for peaceful, safe and sustainable lunar activities”, by Antonino Salmeri;
- (g) “Building a better tomorrow: the principle of due regard and the interests of future generations”, by Isi Casas Del Valle.

18. The Subcommittee noted that the symposium had contributed to the work of the Subcommittee and to raising awareness through its inclusive discussions on space activities.

## **E. Adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee**

19. At its 1093rd meeting, on 16 May 2025, the Subcommittee adopted the present report and concluded the work of its sixty-fourth session.

## **II. General exchange of views**

20. Statements were made by representatives of the following States members of the Committee during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico,

Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam. Statements were made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by the representative of Burkina Faso on behalf of the Group of African States. The representative of the European Union, in its capacity as permanent observer, made a statement on behalf of the European Union and its member States. The observers for APSCO, the Committee on Space Research, ESA, For All Moonkind, the Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation, the Moon Village Association, SGAC, SRI and the University Space Engineering Consortium-Global also made statements. In addition, statements were made by ACES Worldwide and the Lunar Policy Platform Foundation, which had been admitted to the session as observers.

21. At the 1074th meeting, the Chair of the Subcommittee made a statement in which he referred to the programme of work and organizational matters pertaining to the present session of the Subcommittee. The Chair noted that the agenda covered many pressing issues that required solutions and actions to be identified through deliberations by the Subcommittee. He also noted that the steady expansion of space operations throughout the world in recent years was a trend that highlighted both the growing importance of space activities for all nations and the corresponding growing need to coordinate legislative efforts, including non-binding guidelines and mechanisms.

22. At the same meeting, the Subcommittee heard a statement by the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, in which she noted that the space sector at large looked to the Committee for urgent guidance and clarity and was watching to see the delivery of multilateral solutions to address current needs and priorities. She also informed the Subcommittee that 2025 had started on a challenging note for the secretariat, as the liquidity crisis was critically affecting the delivery of the mandates across the five pillars of the Office's strategy. In that regard, she informed the Subcommittee of related impacts to Office activities and personnel, as well as Office fundraising and resource mobilization efforts.

23. The Subcommittee noted with regret and condolences the passing of Andrzej Misztal of Poland, who had been the Chair of both the Legal Subcommittee and the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities of the Legal Subcommittee, and of Adigun Ade Abiodun of Nigeria, who had been the Chair of the Committee and the Expert on Space Applications of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

24. The Subcommittee noted that, due to the exponential increase in outer space activities, there was a clear need for effective multilateralism to ensure the safety and sustainability of human activities in outer space.

25. The Subcommittee also noted the information provided by the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs on the negative impact of the liquidity crisis. It noted that the Office did not presently have sufficient resources to fulfil all activities mandated by Member States and that States would continue a dialogue with a view to ensuring that the Office remained fit for purpose.

26. Some delegations expressed the view that the Committee and its subsidiary bodies continued to be the only forum within the United Nations for comprehensive discussions on matters related to the peaceful uses of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies.

27. Some delegations expressed the view that the Pact for the Future contained a clear message that the work of the Committee was crucial for advancing the interests and development of humanity.

28. The view was expressed that a prior disassociation from the Pact for the Future had already been noted. The delegation expressing that view also underscored that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remained a non-legally binding framework and that that statement applied to all items on the agenda.

29. The view was expressed that emphasis should be placed on the critical role of the safe, secure and sustainable use of space in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, as well as on the need to establish new frameworks for space traffic, space debris and space resources through the Committee.

30. The Subcommittee recalled the importance of implementing, at the national level, the principles enshrined in the United Nations treaties governing space activities and called upon all States operating in outer space and States with operators conducting activities in outer space to develop and implement, to the extent that they had not already done so, national laws and regulations to govern those activities and operations.

31. Some delegations expressed the view that responsible space actors should be committed to promoting the universalization and implementation of the international instruments on outer space, in particular the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, and that all States were encouraged to ratify the United Nations treaties on outer space and fully implement their obligations.

32. Some delegations recalled their strict adherence to the principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, including those outlined in General Assembly resolutions 1884 (XVIII) and 1962 (XVIII), specifically: (a) universal and equal access to outer space for all countries without discrimination, regardless of their level of scientific, technical and economic development, and the equitable and rational use of outer space for the benefit and in the interests of all humankind; (b) the principle of non-appropriation of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, which could not be appropriated by any State, by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation or by any other means; (c) the non-militarization of outer space, which was never to be used for the placement and/or deployment of weapons of any kind, and, as the province of humankind, its strict use for the improvement of living conditions and peace among peoples; and (d) international cooperation in the development of space activities, in particular those referred to in the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries.

33. Some delegations expressed the view that, in light of the increased role of non-governmental organizations in space activities, there was a need to highlight the relevance of article VI of the Outer Space Treaty, in particular that, pursuant to that article, States Parties to the Treaty were responsible for their national activities in outer space and the activities of non-governmental organizations in outer space required authorization and continuing supervision by the appropriate State Party to the Treaty.

34. Some delegations expressed the view that utilizing partnerships and facilitating the activities of commercial endeavours were essential and that the Subcommittee's deliberations should be open to input from those involved in activities on the cutting edge of technology and discovery.

35. Some delegations expressed the view that the proposal for a draft General Assembly resolution entitled "Space science and technology for promoting peace" (A/AC.105/C.1/2024/CRP.7) would not be endorsed through consensus. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that the document was a matter for discussion in the appropriate disarmament forum.

36. The view was expressed that the draft General Assembly resolution entitled "Space science and technology for promoting peace" (A/AC.105/C.1/2024/CRP.7) was aimed at drawing the attention of the global community to a dangerous trend

involving the use of civil/commercial space objects for military purposes and that further development of that trend might jeopardize the sustainability of space activities and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals using space solutions. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that all parties interested in preserving space as a peaceful environment should join and contribute to the development of the initiative for the benefit of all humankind.

37. Some delegations reiterated their opposition to the affiliation to the United Nations of the regional centre for space science and technology education in the Eurasian region, hosted by the Roscosmos Corporate Academy.

38. The view was expressed that the regional centre for space science and technology education had already been established under the Roscosmos Corporate Academy and was already providing services within the Eurasian region and beyond. Moreover, the General Assembly, in its resolution 76/76 of 9 December 2021, had noted with satisfaction the progress in the establishment of the regional centre. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that additional consent or political blessing regarding the functioning of the centre, which was under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation, was not required.

39. The Subcommittee welcomed the establishment of the African Space Agency in Cairo on 20 April 2025, which constituted a major step forward in Africa's space aspirations, and of the convening of the New Space Africa Conference, also held in Cairo in April 2025.

40. Some delegations expressed the view that there were now 54 signatories to the Artemis Accords on the Principles for Cooperation in the Civil Exploration and Use of the Moon, Mars, Comets, and Asteroids for Peaceful Purposes, which were a common set of principles for the signatories for the safe, sustainable and transparent civil exploration and use of outer space.

41. Some delegations expressed the view that 17 States and international organizations and more than 50 international scientific research institutions had responded positively and joined the cooperation on the International Lunar Research Station.

42. The Subcommittee was informed of international cooperation among the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean that had resulted in the Latin American and Caribbean Space Agency.

43. The Subcommittee was informed that the seventy-sixth International Astronautical Congress would be held in the Asia-Pacific region and was to be hosted by Australia on the theme "Sustainable space: resilient Earth".

44. The following events were held on the margins of the sixty-fourth session of the Subcommittee:

(a) "Enabling active debris removal and in-orbit servicing missions: perspectives from the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Japan", co-organized by Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(b) "Book launch side event of Si Tala at ang Kanyang Lakbay Kalawakan (Tala and Her Journey to Space)", organized by the Philippines;

(c) "Who owns space innovation? Between sovereignty and international cooperation", organized by the European Space Policy Institute;

(d) "Space traffic: managing versus coordinating – what's the difference and why it matters", co-organized by the European Union and the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(e) "Commercial perspectives on space situational awareness", organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs;

(f) "The Global Space Law Project: supporting space nations through law and policy", organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs;



(g) “Second meeting of national focal points on registration”, organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs under the project entitled “Registration Project: supporting implementation of treaty obligations related to the registration of objects launched into outer space”.

45. Some delegations welcomed the holding of the second meeting of national focal points on registration on the margins of the sixty-fourth session of the Subcommittee.

46. Some delegations noted that the publication of a toolkit on good registration practices was planned under the Registration Project.

47. The Subcommittee was informed that the thirty-first Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum, on the theme “Empowering the region through space ecosystems in action”, and the seventh International Space Forum: the South-East Asian chapter, would be hosted by the Philippines later that year.

### **III. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law**

48. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 79/87, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 4, entitled “Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law”, as a regular item on its agenda.

49. The representative of Ukraine made a statement under agenda item 4. Statements were also made under the item by observers for ESA, For All Moonkind, IISL, Intersputnik, NSS, SWF and UNIDROIT. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were made by representatives of other member States and observers for other international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

50. The Subcommittee had before it the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat containing information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law, received from APSCO, For All Moonkind and Intersputnik (A/AC.105/C.2/125);

(b) Conference room paper by the Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation containing information on activities carried out by the Institute (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.12);

(c) Conference room paper by the Open Lunar Foundation and the Lunar Policy Platform Foundation entitled “Lunar policy for peace, safety and sustainability on the Moon” (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.13);

(d) Conference room paper by SGAC entitled “Responsible uses of outer space” (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.16);

(e) Conference room paper by SRI entitled “Clarifying ambiguities in the Outer Space Treaty” (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.17);

(f) Conference room paper by SWF entitled “Growth of Committee membership and universalisation of the five United Nations treaties on space law” (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.18);

(g) Conference room paper by the Moon Village Association containing a report on the Global Expert Group on Sustainable Lunar Activities – status and plan for 2025; a report on International Moon Day 2024 and the outlook for 2025; and a report on the Benefit Sharing Project – policy brief (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.19).

51. The Subcommittee heard the following presentations:

(a) “APSCO Space Law Alliance”, by the observer for APSCO;

(b) “Balancing innovation and responsibility: international recommendations for artificial intelligence regulation in space, report by the IISL Working Group on Legal Aspects of Artificial Intelligence in Space”, by the observer for IISL;

(c) “Moon Village Association Benefit Sharing Project – policy briefing”, by the observer for the Moon Village Association;

(d) “The third International Moon Day results and outlook for 2025”, by the observer for the Moon Village Association;

(e) “Space Renaissance International, Space Sustainable Development Goal 18 and Space Renaissance 4 All Gallery”, by the observer for SRI;

(f) “Clarifying ambiguities in the Outer Space Treaty”, by the observer for SRI.

52. The Subcommittee noted the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law and the role of such organizations in the development, strengthening and furtherance of the understanding of international space law.

53. The Subcommittee was informed, *inter alia*, of the work by ESA to advance the Zero Debris Charter, including the recent release of a technical booklet; the hosting by For All Moonkind and partners of the world’s first comprehensive seminar on how heritage interlinks with human rights and space law; the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation, held within the framework of the forty-eighth Ibero-American Conference on Air and Space Law; the expanded global outreach and capacity-building activities of IISL through projects such as its Knowledge Constellation and the annual Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition; space law-related awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts, such as those focused on youth empowerment, by Intersputnik; expanded global engagement through educational and policy initiatives and the leveraging of key media platforms by NSS; the upcoming seventh Summit for Space Sustainability, to be co-hosted by SWF, the Centre national d’études spatiales (CNES) and the Government of France; and efforts by UNIDROIT to promote the use of harmonized private law in the space sector.

54. The Subcommittee agreed that it was important to continue to exchange information on recent developments in the area of space law with international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and that such organizations should once again be invited to report to the Subcommittee, at its sixty-fifth session, on their activities relating to space law.

#### **IV. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity-building, to promote their implementation**

55. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [79/87](#), the Subcommittee considered agenda item 5, entitled “Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity-building, to promote their implementation”, as a regular item on its agenda.

56. The representatives of Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), the Philippines, the Russian Federation, South Africa and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under agenda item 5. A statement was made by the representative of Kenya on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. A statement was also made under the item by the observer for ESA. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were made by representatives of other member States.

57. At its 1076th meeting, on 6 May 2025, the Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, with Franziska Knur (Germany) as Chair.

58. At its 1090th meeting, on 15 May 2025, the Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Chair of the Working Group, contained in annex I to the present report.

59. The Subcommittee had before it the following:

(a) Report on the United Nations Conference on Space Law and Policy, held in Vienna from 19 to 21 November 2024 ([A/AC.105/1352](#));

(b) Summary by the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space of views on the implementation of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty ([A/AC.105/C.2/L.342](#));

(c) Background paper by the Secretariat entitled “Implementation of article XI of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, and article IV of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space” ([A/AC.105/C.2/L.338](#) and [A/AC.105/C.2/L.338/Corr.1](#));

(d) Conference room paper containing a schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities ([A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.6](#));

(e) Conference room paper containing the directory of educational opportunities in space law ([A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.7](#));

(f) Conference room paper entitled “Capacity-building in space law”, containing replies received from Belarus, Djibouti, Ecuador, Latvia, Mexico, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Senegal and Slovakia ([A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.8](#));

(g) Conference room paper on the status of international agreements relating to activities in outer space as at 1 January 2025 ([A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.9](#) and [A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.9/Corr.1](#)).

60. The Subcommittee heard the following presentations:

(a) “Chile’s national space programme: a horizon of opportunities”, by the representative of Chile;

(b) “Capacity-building in space law – the Cologne Institute of Air Law, Space Law and Cyber Law at age 100”, by the representative of Germany;

(c) “Activities in celestial bodies, regulatory framework”, by the representatives of Spain.

61. The Subcommittee welcomed with appreciation the growing number of States Parties to the five United Nations treaties on outer space and encouraged those States that had not yet become Parties to the treaties to consider doing so.

62. The Subcommittee noted that space activities should be conducted in conformity with applicable international space law because they were expanding due to the growing number of space actors and benefits derived from space science technology and applications. To that end, States needed to ensure, through their national legal frameworks, that such activities were in compliance with the United Nations treaties on outer space, in order to ensure the safety of outer space activities. They could also consider reviewing their national legal frameworks as necessary.

63. The Subcommittee noted that various actions had been taken by member States to review, strengthen, develop or draft national space laws and policies, and to reform or establish the governance of national space activities.

64. The Subcommittee noted that the implementation of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty was important in enhancing transparency among member States and welcomed the work of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five

United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, which was currently focused on the development of a standardized template for the submission of information pursuant to that article, which could be used on a voluntary basis.

65. The view was expressed that article XI could be a basis for sharing information about novel space missions involving more than one space object and lunar missions, as well as for sharing information prior to the launch of space objects. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that, in anticipation of the growing use of article XI and an increase in submissions providing related information to the Office for Outer Space Affairs, consideration could be given to the establishment of a system whereby Member States themselves entered information into a catalogue maintained by the Office.

66. The Subcommittee was informed of the registration by various member States, as States of registry, of objects launched into outer space under the Registration Convention or under General Assembly resolution 1721 B (XVI), and noted the importance of registration as a fundamental tool for maintaining the peaceful uses of outer space.

67. The Subcommittee noted the ongoing work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to develop an online registration portal aimed at ensuring the efficiency of registration submissions.

68. Some delegations expressed the view that, as a consequence of progress in the field of space-related activities and the expansion of activities carried out in outer space, it was necessary to have clear regulations and an up-to-date legal regime governing outer space activities that would make it possible to promote even wider adherence to that regime.

69. The view was expressed that effective implementation of the existing legal instruments should be ensured before commencing the drafting of a new legal framework in order to avoid fragmentation or overlap between various legal frameworks relevant to outer space activities.

70. The view was expressed that owing to the increase in re-entries of space objects, particularly in cases where component parts fell to the Earth's surface, the sharing of experiences by member States might not only serve to reinforce the obligations under the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space but also offer an opportunity to assess whether that increase would raise any issues or challenges that might need to be addressed by the Committee.

71. The view was expressed that how the five United Nations treaties were interpreted was a matter of interest to all States Parties and, therefore, the matter should be pursued through the Committee and its subcommittees.

72. Some delegations expressed the view that it was important to recall article IV of the Outer Space Treaty, in which States Parties to the Treaty were required to use the Moon and other celestial bodies exclusively for peaceful purposes.

73. The Subcommittee agreed that capacity-building, training and education in space law were of paramount importance to national, regional and international efforts to further develop the practical aspects of space science and technology, in particular in developing countries, and to increase knowledge of the legal framework within which space activities were carried out. That would encourage States to ratify the five United Nations treaties on outer space and support the implementation of those treaties and the establishment of national institutions, and would make international space law more accessible and better known by all sectors of civil society.

74. The Subcommittee noted that a number of national, regional and international efforts to build and develop capacity in space law were being undertaken by governmental and non-governmental entities.

75. The Subcommittee noted the activities of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to enhance understanding of space law, including the United Nations Conference on Space Law and Policy, the Space Law for New Space Actors project, the Registration Project and a project on awareness-raising and capacity-building related to the implementation of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee.

76. The Subcommittee also noted capacity-building efforts such as the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, studies conducted as part of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum National Space Legislation Initiative, and the annual space law symposium by IISL and ECSL.

77. The Subcommittee noted that the Office for Outer Space Affairs had updated the directory of educational opportunities in space law (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.7), including the information on available fellowships and scholarships, and agreed that the Office should continue to update the directory. In that connection, the Subcommittee invited member States to encourage contributions at the national level for the future updating of the directory.

78. The Subcommittee recommended that States members and permanent observers of the Committee inform the Subcommittee, at its sixty-fifth session, of any action taken or planned at the national, regional or international levels to build capacity in space law.

79. The Subcommittee agreed that it was important to continue to regularly exchange information on developments in the area of national space-related regulatory frameworks. In that regard, the Subcommittee encouraged member States to continue to submit to the secretariat the texts of their national space laws and regulations and to provide updates on their national regulatory frameworks for space activities.

## **V. Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union**

80. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [79/87](#), the Subcommittee considered, as a regular item on its agenda, agenda item 6, which read as follows:

“Matters relating to:

“(a) The definition and delimitation of outer space;

“(b) The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.”

81. The representatives of Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Ecuador, France, Mexico, Norway, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under agenda item 6. Statements were also made by the representatives of Kenya on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were made by representatives of other member States.

82. The Subcommittee had before it the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat containing information received on national legislation and practice relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space ([A/AC.105/865/Add.29](#));

(b) Note by the Secretariat containing replies to questions on suborbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation ([A/AC.105/1039/Add.20](#));

(c) Note by the Secretariat containing views on the definition and delimitation of outer space ([A/AC.105/1112/Add.13](#));

(d) Note by the Secretariat containing information received relating to any practical case known that would warrant the definition and delimitation of outer space ([A/AC.105/1226/Add.4](#));

(e) Working paper by the Chair of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space entitled “Encouraging dialogue on issues concerning the definition and delimitation of outer space: towards developing a shared stance” ([A/AC.105/C.2/L.336](#));

(f) Conference room paper by Belarus containing information on national experience and legislation relating to outer space activities ([A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.10](#));

(g) Conference room paper containing a contribution from Côte d’Ivoire on issues relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space ([A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.11](#));

(h) Conference room paper by Norway containing observations on matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space ([A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.21](#));

(i) Conference room paper by NSS on the delimitation of airspace and outer space and suborbital space travel ([A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.22](#)).

83. The Subcommittee heard the following presentations:

(a) “Brazilian regulation: use of orbit and space sustainability”, by the representative of Brazil;

(b) “Functional spatialist theory for outer space delimitation”, by the representative of Brazil;

(c) “Space radio regulatory framework in China”, by the representative of China;

(d) “Definition and delimitation of outer space”, by the representatives of Ukraine.

84. At its 1074th meeting, the Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, with Ian Grosner (Brazil) as Chair.

85. At its 1089th meeting, on 14 May 2025, the Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Chair of the Working Group, contained in annex II to the present report.

86. The view was expressed that a clear boundary between airspace and outer space was essential for legal clarity, jurisdictional certainty and the effective application of laws; that it would enhance operational safety, particularly given the increase in suborbital flights and high-altitude platforms; and that it would support space traffic management.

87. The view was expressed that the boundary between outer space and airspace should be established at an altitude not exceeding 110 km above sea level and should be fixed in a binding international legal instrument. In that connection, the delegation expressing that view recalled the approach contained in document [A/AC.105/C.2/L.139](#).

88. The view was expressed that the current pace of technological development and the increased involvement of non-State actors could be expected to lead to more activity at higher altitudes, and that increased activity and ambition raised questions about the need for adequate State regulation in order to ensure safe and reliable

airspace operations and to maintain due regard for the safety and security of States, populations and other protected interests.

89. Some delegations expressed the view that the topic of the definition and delimitation of outer space should be kept on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee and that more work should be done on it, as the legal regimes governing airspace and outer space were different.

90. The view was expressed that discussions on the definition and delimitation of outer space should adequately take into account current national practices, should be conducive to promoting the free exploration and use of outer space, should fully respect the principle of sovereignty over airspace and should not undermine the rules of aviation law.

91. The view was expressed that discussions on the definition and delimitation of outer space would benefit from being conducted in close coordination with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and that a collaborative framework comprising representatives from both the Office for Outer Space Affairs and ICAO should be established.

92. Some delegations expressed the view that the functionalist approach to space law had been the norm since the inception of space activities, that the absence of a definition and delimitation of outer space did not create uncertainty as to the respective applicability of legal regimes and that it was not appropriate, in the current state of space activities, to define and delimit outer space.

93. Some delegations expressed the view that an attempt to define and delimit outer space would be an unnecessary theoretical exercise that could unintentionally complicate existing activities and that might not be adaptable to future technological developments.

94. The view was expressed that while some jurisdictions within a State had adopted or proposed definitions of outer space or related concepts for their own purposes, such as regulatory compliance, administrative clarity or tax laws, those actions did not relate to, and were not evidence of, the existence of a definition of outer space under international law.

95. The view was expressed that the lack of a definition or delimitation of outer space under international law did not give rise to a legal problem that needed to be studied by the Subcommittee at the present time and that moving on from the matter could free up the Subcommittee's time.

96. Some delegations expressed the view that the lack of progress in reaching consensus on the definition and delimitation of outer space should not be viewed as an argument in favour of suspending work on the topic.

97. Some delegations expressed the view that the geostationary orbit was a limited natural resource in clear danger of saturation and was not to be subject to national appropriation, and that its utilization should be governed by applicable international law and in accordance with the principle of non-appropriation of outer space, either by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or even by repeated use of an orbital position.

98. Some delegations expressed the view that the geostationary orbit should be used rationally and should be made available to all States, irrespective of their current technical capacities. That would afford States the possibility of gaining access to the geostationary orbit under equitable conditions, bearing in mind, in particular, the needs and interests of developing countries and the geographical position of certain countries, and taking into account the processes of ITU and relevant norms and decisions of the United Nations.

99. The Subcommittee noted that the geostationary orbit should be used in line with international law.



100. The view was expressed that the geostationary orbit should be used while respecting and observing the sovereign rights of States over that natural resource.

101. The view was expressed that commitment to the rational, efficient and economic use of the geostationary orbit, taking into account the particular needs of developing countries, was demonstrated through the free provision of resources such as the Global Positioning System. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that a Party to the Outer Space Treaty could not appropriate a position in outer space, such as an orbital location in the geostationary orbit, either by claim of sovereignty or by means of use, even repeated use, of such an orbital position.

102. Some delegations expressed the view that it was necessary to ensure fair, efficient and equitable access to orbital positions in the geostationary orbit, taking into account the needs of developing countries.

103. The view was expressed that in order to ensure the sustainability of the optimum utilization of the geostationary orbit, it was necessary to enhance resource allocations to developing States.

104. The view was expressed that the accumulation of fragments of space debris in the geostationary orbit was a matter of concern that should be addressed through international legal regulation.

105. The view was expressed that scientific research, the training of new generations of professionals and cooperation on space-related matters should be promoted with the aim of addressing the inequality between the capacities of developed and developing countries in terms of access to and the use of satellite technology operating in the geostationary orbit.

106. Some delegations expressed the view that it was necessary to keep the issue on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee in order to develop adequate mechanisms that could ensure the sustainability of and equitable access to the geostationary orbit.

107. The view was expressed that it was necessary to establish a sub-item on the Subcommittee's agenda focused on the use of the geostationary orbit from the perspective of equitable access for all countries.

108. The view was expressed that advances in the exploration and use of outer space had changed, to some extent, the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, and that it was necessary to reconsider the focus of the agenda item or its continued inclusion on the agenda of the Subcommittee.

## **VI. Future role and method of work of the Committee**

109. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [79/87](#), the Subcommittee considered agenda item 7, entitled "Future role and method of work of the Committee".

110. The representatives of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Canada, Chile, China, Czechia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States made statements under agenda item 7. A statement was also made by the representative of Kenya on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. A statement was made by the representatives of Pakistan and Romania as Co-Chairs of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation. A statement was also made by the representative of India, as the State whose delegation was leading discussions on organizational matters. In addition, a statement was made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of Italy and Morocco, as the States whose delegations were co-facilitating informal consultations on the proposal to hold a fourth United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE IV). During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were made by representatives of other member States.



111. The Subcommittee had before it the following:

(a) Conference room paper containing a note by the Secretariat on a proposal to hold UNISPACE IV and possible organizational arrangements (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.4);

(b) Conference room paper by Italy and Morocco on possible objectives, form, venue, dates, participants, organization and scope, and financial aspects of UNISPACE IV (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.30).

112. The Subcommittee noted that the Committee and its subcommittees served as a unique platform for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

113. Some delegations expressed the view that undermining the Committee, including by creating unnecessarily duplicative mandates in other United Nations forums or by transferring discussions on specialized issues to parallel platforms, should be avoided.

114. The view was expressed that the Committee and its subcommittees should focus on the safety and sustainability of outer space activities, and that security matters should be addressed by Geneva-based international bodies.

115. Some delegations expressed the view that the subcommittees should increase coordination, interaction and synergies on cross-cutting issues.

116. The view was expressed that there should be greater interaction between the Legal Subcommittee and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, which would strengthen the multidisciplinary vision at the time of the drafting of regulatory proposals arising from either subcommittee.

117. Some delegations expressed the view that the discussions of the Legal Subcommittee should not lead to any measures that would limit the access of developing countries and emerging spacefaring nations to outer space and that the international legal framework governing activities in outer space should be developed in a manner that addressed the concerns of all States.

118. Some delegations expressed the view that the principle of consensus remained fundamental to the work of the Committee.

119. Some delegations expressed the view that it was important to retain the intergovernmental nature of the governance of outer space activities.

120. Some delegations expressed the view that representatives of industry, the private sector, academia and non-governmental organizations played an essential role in enriching the discussions of the Committee and its subcommittees.

121. Some delegations expressed the view that initiatives by the Office for Outer Space Affairs such as the United Nations Space Sustainability Days and the United Nations Space Bridge allowed for increased interactions between member States and experts.

122. The view was expressed that although non-governmental processes could supplement the work of the Committee in certain ways, such processes should not interfere with that work.

123. The view was expressed that cooperation among regional centres for space science and technology education, affiliated to the United Nations, should be strengthened and that international cooperation and capacity-building efforts should address the needs of emerging spacefaring nations.

124. Some delegations expressed the view that new items should be added to the agenda of the Committee and its subcommittees only when other items were removed.

125. The view was expressed that the addition of a new agenda item should not depend exclusively on the removal of or exhaustion of discussions on another item.

126. Some delegations expressed the view that further consolidation of items on the agenda of the Committee and its subcommittees should be considered.
127. Some delegations expressed the view that agenda items 9, 11 and 12, on space debris, space traffic management and small-satellite activities, respectively, should be merged.
128. The view was expressed that agenda item 9, on space debris, should be preserved as a stand-alone agenda item.
129. The view was expressed that consideration should be given to merging agenda items 11 and 12, on space traffic management and small-satellite activities.
130. The view was expressed that agenda items 9 and 12, on space debris and small-satellite activities, should be merged into an item entitled “Sustainable and resilient use of outer space”, and that agenda item 11, on space traffic management, warranted a separate dedicated discussion.
131. Some delegations expressed the view that agenda item 6, on the definition and delimitation of outer space and the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, should be removed from the agenda of the Subcommittee.
132. The view was expressed that delegations should deliver statements strictly linked to the agreed agenda and should avoid politicizing the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.
133. The view was expressed that the Subcommittee should consider the feasibility of introducing, at the international level, a sample form for the yearly collection of statistical data on the space industry, which might be used as a starting point for the development of national forms to assess the situation and dynamics of countries’ space industries.
134. Some delegations expressed the view that it was important to incorporate an ethical perspective in the work of the Committee and its subcommittees.
135. The view was expressed that ICAO and the Office for Outer Space Affairs should discuss concerns relating to the topic of airspace management during space transportation activities.
136. The view was expressed that the Committee must work in coordination with ITU to ensure the effectiveness of measures in the radio domain.
137. Some delegations expressed the view that it was necessary to streamline the compendium on rules of procedure and methods of work related to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies (A/AC.105/2016/CRP.5).
138. The view was expressed that the compendium should be expanded to elaborate on the rules governing the conduct of meetings and negotiations on the reports of the Committee and its subcommittees.
139. Some delegations expressed the view that it was necessary to consider a more action-oriented approach for reports of the Committee and its subcommittees.
140. The view was expressed that the regular reporting format allowed the different perspectives of Member States on the evolution of space law to be reflected.
141. The Subcommittee noted that the webcasting of plenary sessions enhanced global participation and promoted transparency in debates.
142. Some delegations expressed the view that any reduction in the provision of interpretation services to the sessions of the Committee or its subcommittees would be detrimental to their work.
143. The view was expressed that all working languages of the United Nations should have equal status.

144. The view was expressed that the Secretariat must provide the Committee with adequate conference services in all official languages of the United Nations in line with General Assembly resolution [79/248](#).

145. Some delegations expressed the view that the time allotted for statements should be reduced from five minutes to three minutes.

146. At the sixty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, held in Vienna from 3 to 14 February 2025, the Working Group of the Whole discussed, under the agenda item entitled “Future role and method of work of the Committee”, the large number of requests for scientific and technical presentations to be made during the sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Committee. The Working Group recommended that discussions on that matter be led intersessionally by the delegation of India at the sixty-fourth session of the Legal Subcommittee and at the sixty-eighth session of the Committee, and requested the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements, including with regard to the use of interpretation.

147. The Legal Subcommittee noted that those discussions, led by the delegation of India, had been held from 7 to 9 May, and agreed on the following approach to the management of technical presentations at sessions of the Committee and its subcommittees:

(a) One or more full meetings per session of the Committee or its subcommittees could be allocated for technical presentations;

(b) Presentations should be grouped according to relevant agenda item;

(c) The dates of the meetings fully dedicated to technical presentations should be included in the indicative schedule of work contained in the annotated provisional agenda for the respective session;

(d) Whenever feasible, presentations should be followed by a question-and-answer segment to facilitate interactive discussions.

148. The Subcommittee also agreed that discussions related to the organization of technical presentations would not be held at the sixty-eighth session of the Committee in view of the liquidity situation faced by the United Nations.

#### *Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation*

149. The Subcommittee welcomed the establishment of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation by the Committee at its sixty-seventh session ([A/79/20](#), para. 351). The Subcommittee noted with appreciation the progress made in the work of the Action Team under the co-chairmanship of Hasan Abbas (Pakistan) and Ulpia-Elena Botezatu (Romania), which was focused on developing the workplan of the Action Team for the period from 2025 to 2027, or to 2028, as appropriate ([A/79/20](#), annex IV, para. 11), for endorsement by the Committee at its sixty-eighth session, in 2025.

150. The Subcommittee noted that the Action Team had held two intersessional meetings, on 19 March and 9 April 2025, to review and discuss contributions received from States members relating to its workplan.

151. The Subcommittee also noted the efforts by the Co-Chairs of the Action Team to exchange information with the Chairs of the working groups of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and of the Legal Subcommittee that had relevance to the work of the Action Team, in order to avoid duplication of work.

152. The Subcommittee noted that the Co-Chairs of the Action Team had held three meetings with interpretation and three informal meetings during the sixty-fourth session of the Subcommittee to advance discussions on the workplan of the Action Team.

153. The view was expressed that the workplan should take into account the perspectives of developing countries and that future lunar exploration must be governed by the principles of transparency and cooperation.

154. The view was expressed that a consolidated international framework for cooperation and capacity-building in relation to sustainable lunar activities that supported developing space nations was called for.

155. The view was expressed that the Action Team should not only devote attention to cross-cutting issues relating to the scientific and technical aspects of lunar exploration but also to legal aspects and international cooperation in that regard.

156. The view was expressed that the establishment of a strengthened consultation mechanism within the framework of the Committee for safe, sustainable and transparent lunar activities was timely and important. The delegation expressing that view recognized the critical importance of establishing communication channels and information-sharing mechanisms at the operational level for effective consultation and coordination with regard to lunar activities, and also expressed the view that those matters should be included as priority topics of the Action Team.

157. The view was expressed that the work of the Action Team was an important step towards ensuring that there was a forum for discussing important issues related to lunar activities, such as lunar debris disposal, heritage sites and the preservation of lunar science.

158. The view was expressed that the Action Team should focus on the core objectives for which it had been established, namely, to promote awareness-raising, information-sharing and cooperation in relation to lunar activities.

159. The Subcommittee noted that the draft workplan, together with an initial list of potential priority topics, as a living document and a part of the workplan, would be further reviewed and refined with a view to submission to the Committee for endorsement at its sixty-eighth session, in 2025. In that regard, the Subcommittee further noted that the Action Team was to meet during the intersessional period, in May and June 2025, and during the sixty-eighth session of the Committee, and requested the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements for those meetings. In addition, the Subcommittee requested the secretariat to invite contributions from States members of the Committee on an initial list of potential priority topics.

160. The Subcommittee noted that an increasing number of States had appointed their representatives to participate in the work of the Action Team (A/79/20, annex IV, para. 4). The Subcommittee requested the secretariat to continue to invite member States that had not yet done so to appoint their representatives to the Action Team.

*Holding of a fourth United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space*

161. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation the continuing efforts of Italy and Morocco to further deliberations on the possible convening of UNISPACE IV in 2027. The Subcommittee agreed that Morocco and Italy, as the incoming Chair of the sixty-eighth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Chair-designate of the sixty-ninth and the seventieth sessions of the Committee, respectively, should be appointed as the co-facilitators of the deliberations on the matter.

162. The Subcommittee further noted the additional proposals made by Italy and Morocco at its sixty-fourth session, as contained in document A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.30, concerning the possible objectives, form, venue, dates, participants, organization and scope, and financial aspects of UNISPACE IV. The Subcommittee requested that Italy and Morocco, with the support of the secretariat, use their aforementioned proposals as the basis for further discussions on the objectives, organizational arrangements, scope, duration and financial aspects of UNISPACE IV. Those discussions should take place at intersessional meetings to be held on at least

three occasions between the sixty-fourth session of the Legal Subcommittee and the sixty-eighth session of the Committee.

163. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation the intersessional work carried out by the Office for Outer Space Affairs prior to the sixty-fourth session of the Subcommittee to prepare a note on the possible organizational arrangements for UNISPACE IV (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.4).

164. The Subcommittee recommended that the Committee, as its sixty-eighth session, make a decision regarding the holding of UNISPACE IV in 2027, so as to allow sufficient time to decide on its objectives, agenda, organizational arrangements and deliverables.

## **VII. General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources**

165. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 79/87, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 8, entitled “General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources”, as an item under a workplan.

166. The representatives of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under agenda item 8. The representative of Kenya also made a statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. In addition, statements were made under the item by the observers for the Outer Space Institute, SGAC and the Square Kilometre Array Observatory. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were made by representatives of other member States.

167. At its 1074th meeting, the Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities established under the agenda item, with Steven Freeland (Australia) as Vice-Chair.

168. At its 1083rd meeting, on 9 May 2025, the Subcommittee appointed Steven Freeland (Australia) as Chair of the Working Group.

169. At its 1087th meeting, on 13 May 2025, the Subcommittee appointed Ayman Mahmoud Mohamed Ahmed (Egypt) as Vice-Chair of the Working Group.

170. At its 1089th meeting, the Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Working Group, contained in annex III to the present report.

171. The Subcommittee had before it the following:

(a) Note by the Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities entitled “Initial draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities” (A/AC.105/C.2/L.339);

(b) Updated summary by the Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities of views and contributions received on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group (A/AC.105/C.2/L.340);

(c) Conference room paper by the Islamic Republic of Iran entitled “Islamic Republic of Iran’s perspective on the initial draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities” (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.25);

(d) Conference room paper by Egypt entitled “Nomination for the Office of the Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities of the Legal Subcommittee” (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.31);

(e) Conference room paper by SRI containing its response to the invitation to provide information on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.15).

172. The Subcommittee heard the following presentations:

(a) “Tenacious: Europe’s first lunar rover and Luxembourg’s first authorization under the space resources law”, by the representative of Luxembourg;

(b) “Fostering international cooperation through space resources: the Moon as a blueprint”, by the representative of the United States;

(c) “Legal models for space resource activities: integrating heritage preservation for sustainability”, by the observer for For All Moonkind.

173. Pursuant to the agreement reached by the Working Group at the sixty-seventh session of the Committee ([A/79/20](#), annex III, para. 8), and in accordance with the five-year workplan and methods of work of the Working Group ([A/AC.105/1260](#), annex II, para. 6 and appendix), the Vice-Chair of the Working Group invited States members and permanent observers of the Committee to provide their contributions on the development of a set of recommended principles for space resource activities and, on the basis of the discussions held in its meetings during the sixty-third session of the Subcommittee and the contributions received, prepared an initial draft set of recommended principles for such activities.

174. The Subcommittee noted that the initial draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities prepared by the Vice-Chair of the Working Group provided a good basis for further discussions, taking into account the need to ensure that such activities were carried out in accordance with international law and in a safe, sustainable, rational and peaceful manner.

175. Some delegations expressed the view that the Committee and, in particular, the Legal Subcommittee, constituted the appropriate forum in which to discuss and develop a legal framework for space resource activities under international law.

176. The view was expressed that discussions on legal matters held by the Subcommittee should follow a balanced and inclusive approach that reflected the rapid advancement of space technologies, the emergence of new actors and challenges such as those related to space resource activities, space debris and the use of small satellites.

177. Some delegations expressed the view that a legal framework for the exploration, exploitation and use of space resources should be as inclusive as possible and be for the benefit and in the interest of all humankind and should take into consideration the needs of developing countries, and that any approach to developing such a framework should be equitable, constructive, collaborative and based on consensus. The delegations expressing that view also emphasized that such a framework must not leave behind or unfairly disadvantage developing countries and emerging spacefaring nations. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that discussions on space resources should not depart from existing legal principles, in particular the principle of non-appropriation of outer space and the principle of equitable access to outer space as the province of all humankind, and should be conducted in an inclusive and transparent manner.

178. Some delegations expressed the view that the future legal framework for the exploration, exploitation and use of space resources should take into account the rights and interests of all countries and of present and future generations, notably with regard to the reasonable extraction and use of resources.

179. The view was expressed that, consistent with articles I and II of the Outer Space Treaty, no State, private entity or individual could claim sovereign or exclusive ownership over celestial bodies or their resources. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that exclusionary approaches, unilateral actions and the establishment of national legal regimes seeking to regulate space activities through

national frameworks, particularly concerning space resource exploration and extraction, posed a serious threat to the foundational principles of the Outer Space Treaty.

180. Some delegations expressed the view that measures should be adopted that enabled all nations to participate in space resource activities in a peaceful, equitable, secure and sustainable manner, irrespective of their degree of scientific and technological development and whether they had the capacity to engage in such activities at the present time.

181. Some delegations expressed the view that space resource activities and any related rules or principles should be consistent with existing international space law, particularly the Outer Space Treaty, in which core principles such as freedom of use, non-appropriation, environmental protection and due regard for other States' interests, which should be taken into account in developing an initial set of recommended principles on the exploration, exploitation and use of space resources, had already been established.

182. The view was expressed that space resources, as the common heritage of humankind, should be preserved and used to support research, development and global equity through international cooperation, including knowledge-sharing, the transfer of technology, regional education centres and joint research. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that, without inclusive cooperation, such activities risked being monopolized by a few capable countries, thereby excluding developing countries from participation.

183. The view was expressed that the technological divide among nations was a key challenge in the exploitation of space resources, and that international cooperation, the sharing of knowledge and the transfer of technology could help reduce disparities in access to space activities and benefits among States.

184. The view was expressed that there was a need to establish a more comprehensive and inclusive legal framework that enjoyed international legitimacy and legal recognition, and that such a framework should address the lack of clarity in the current legal instruments and serve to reduce the information gap between spacefaring and non-spacefaring nations.

185. Some delegations expressed the view that any discussions on the legal framework governing space resource activities should be firmly anchored in the provisions of the Outer Space Treaty and the existing framework of international space law. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that such discussions should prioritize practical principles, including the principle of non-appropriation, the promotion of scientific investigation, the enhanced coordination of space resource activities, the strengthened supervision of non-governmental entities and the long-term sustainability of space resource activities.

186. The view was expressed that the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies set out specific principles relevant to the exploration of the Moon, including the possibility of developing a legal regime to govern the exploitation of space resources, and that the Agreement could provide a flexible basis for the development of governance solutions involving both States Parties and non-States Parties.

187. The view was expressed that, consistent with articles I and II of the Outer Space Treaty, outer space and celestial bodies constituted a global commons that was beyond national jurisdiction and governed by international law, and that the principle of equal and non-discriminatory access to outer space and celestial bodies must also apply to space resources.

188. Some delegations expressed the view that the development of a set of principles relating to space resource activities should be guided by the concept of adaptive governance. It was emphasized that, given the early stage of such activities, any

principles should be sufficiently general and flexible to support rapidly evolving scientific, technological and operational developments while also providing a framework for promoting safety, sustainability and alignment with the existing international legal framework, in particular the Outer Space Treaty.

189. Some delegations expressed the view that it was important for the initial draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities to be shared widely to allow space actors, including civil society worldwide, to examine and submit their views for consideration by member States.

190. Some delegations expressed the view that it was important to have an international mechanism beyond the workplan of the Working Group, so that international discussions could continue once an agreement had been reached on the initial draft set of recommended principles.

191. Some delegations expressed the view that the Artemis Accords reflected principles relevant to space resource activities and could serve as a useful point of reference for future discussions on space resource activities.

192. The view was expressed that there were potential benefits to developing a general, high-level initial set of non-binding recommended principles, as that could help to ensure that all nations that engaged in space resource activities shared a common set of fundamental principles, including respect for the rule of law, transparency, open science, interoperability, the avoidance of harmful interference and the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that the Artemis Accords underscored those and other essential principles and served as a starting point for future work by its signatories on space resource activities.

193. The view was expressed that the Subcommittee, in particular its Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, should continue to be the primary forum for discussions on an international legal framework for the development of space resource activities. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that, in developing such a legal framework, the Working Group could be guided by, and use as a tool, the long-established, solid international legal practice adopted within the framework of specialized entities of the United Nations system, including the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, such as the administration of the international seabed by the International Seabed Authority, as established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; the frequency spectrum management regime of ITU; and the legal regime governing Antarctica, under the Antarctic Treaty of 1959.

194. The view was expressed that the technical mandate of the Committee and its subcommittees should be strictly preserved, also with respect to the work on potential legal models for space resource-related activities. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that maritime law, airspace law and outer space law had different dynamics and were regulated by different regimes, bodies and instruments, and that, as the regimes and instruments that were not related to outer space fell outside the scope and mandate of the Committee, references to them should be excluded from documents related to outer space produced in the context of the Committee and its subcommittees.

195. The view was expressed that the Subcommittee should consider the advantages and disadvantages of the existing legal frameworks used by ITU and the International Seabed Authority when discussing a framework for space resource utilization.

196. The view was expressed that the discussions on legal principles applicable to space resource activities should address legal issues along the entire chain of such activities, including research, production and commercialization, and should include consideration of in situ and ex situ exploration and use. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that such discussions should include consideration of aspects related to environmental safety, intellectual property rights and international trade law, and that principles such as the common heritage of humankind, good



governance and due regard to the interests of other States, as well as the potential establishment of a body dedicated to the management of space resource activities, should also be discussed.

197. The view was expressed that discussions on a legal framework governing space resource activities should take into consideration relevant work already undertaken, such as the building blocks for the development of an international framework on space resource activities, as set out in the working paper submitted by Luxembourg and Netherlands (Kingdom of the) ([A/AC.105/C.2/L.315](#)), including the definition of space resources proposed therein.

198. The view was expressed that space resources should be regarded as an integral part of outer space and, as such, should be subject to the provisions of the Outer Space Treaty.

199. Some delegations expressed the view that it was necessary to clarify the concepts of space resources and space resource activities.

200. The view was expressed that the establishment by the Working Group of definitions of terms falling within the scope of its work was a necessary first step towards the development of internationally acceptable approaches to the regulation of space resources and space resource activities. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that it was necessary to develop a mechanism for monitoring space resource activities, which was an important task for the Working Group.

201. The view was expressed that the creation of safety zones on celestial bodies might be necessary as part of a special legal regime to govern the developed areas of such bodies.

202. The view was expressed that national legislation should promote the establishment of internationally harmonized frameworks, developed in cooperation with other countries and international organizations.

203. Some delegations expressed the view that the development of principles on space resource activities should include efforts to clarify and define key terms and concepts relevant to such activities, including their scope and legal implications.

204. The view was expressed that a legal framework for the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources should be balanced in its approach, both ensuring compliance with international law and providing operators with sufficient legal certainty.

205. The view was expressed that certain space resources, such as lunar regolith and lunar ice, could enable key functions in future space exploration missions, including the production of solar panels, habitats and propellant, and held potential for supporting a sustained human presence in outer space.

206. The view was expressed that it was important to consider the creation of a mechanism for informing the international community of the nature, course and results of space resource activities, in order to improve transparency and strengthen confidence that those activities had been or were being conducted for peaceful purposes.

207. The view was expressed that, given the potential for interference with current or future space activities, information exchange and consultation prior to undertaking space resource activities were essential. Such consultations should include details of the status and condition of space resource reserves and reflect the principles of the Outer Space Treaty.

208. Some delegations expressed the view that the future legal framework for the exploration, exploitation and use of space resources should incorporate the principle that States should give priority to scientific research.

209. Some delegations expressed the view that any framework for the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources should incorporate the concept of

transparency and take into account the potential environmental, operational and scientific impacts of such activities.

210. The view was expressed that legal guidance should be established to ensure that space resource activities would be conducted in a safe, sustainable, transparent and peaceful manner and in full accordance with international law. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that the principles of the Outer Space Treaty should apply to such activities and that any preliminary principles adopted by the Working Group should align with international space law and should not reflect an undue influence of interest in the conduct of such activities for commercial purposes.

211. The view was expressed that the creation of a specific and robust international legal framework, consistent with international law and, in particular, article III of the Outer Space Treaty, would play an important role in ensuring the responsible use of space resources and in advancing the commonly accepted objective of the long-term sustainability of space activities.

212. Some delegations expressed the view that the extraction and utilization of space resources did not inherently constitute national appropriation under article II of the Outer Space Treaty. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that, if conducted in a responsible and transparent manner, such activities could contribute to safe and sustainable space operations.

## **VIII. General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation and remediation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee**

213. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [79/87](#), the Legal Subcommittee considered agenda item 9, entitled “General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation and remediation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee”, as a single issue/item for discussion.

214. The representatives of Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States made statements under agenda item 9. A statement was also made by the representative of Kenya on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were made by representatives of other member States.

215. The Subcommittee had before it the following:

(a) Conference room paper entitled “Compendium of space debris mitigation standards adopted by States and international organizations” (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.20);

(b) Conference room paper by NSS entitled “Space debris mitigation and remediation: policy and legal challenges” (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.24).

216. The Subcommittee heard the following presentations:

(a) “Update on arrangements between the United Kingdom and New Zealand to enable in-orbit servicing and active debris removal operations”, by the representative of the United Kingdom;

(b) “Takeaways from a regulatory analysis of lunar disposal options by the UK Space Agency”, by the representative of the United Kingdom;

(c) “Deorbiting large space objects: legal challenges and considerations”, by the observer for NSS.

217. The Subcommittee expressed concern at the increasing amount of space debris and noted that the endorsement by the General Assembly, in its resolution 62/217, of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had been an important step in providing all spacefaring nations with guidance on ways to mitigate the problem.

218. The Subcommittee noted with satisfaction that some States were implementing space debris mitigation measures consistent with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee, the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee (A/74/20, annex II), the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee, International Organization for Standardization standard ISO 24113:2023 (Space systems: space debris mitigation requirements) and/or ITU recommendation ITU-R S.1003 (Environmental protection of the geostationary-satellite orbit).

219. The Subcommittee also noted with satisfaction that some States had taken measures to incorporate internationally recognized guidelines and standards related to space debris into the relevant provisions of their national legislation. The Subcommittee noted that some States had strengthened their national mechanisms governing space debris mitigation by nominating governmental supervisory authorities, by involving academia and industry and by developing new legislative norms, instructions, standards and frameworks.

220. The Subcommittee noted with satisfaction that the compendium of space debris mitigation standards adopted by States and international organizations, developed at the initiative of Canada, Czechia and Germany, enabled all interested stakeholders to benefit from access to a comprehensive and structured set of current instruments and measures on space debris mitigation. The Subcommittee expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for updating and maintaining the compendium and continuing to make the latest version available on a dedicated web page.

221. The Subcommittee agreed that States members of the Committee and international intergovernmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee should be invited to contribute further to the compendium of space debris mitigation standards adopted by States and international organizations by providing or updating information on any legislation or standards adopted with regard to space debris mitigation using the template provided for that purpose. The Subcommittee also agreed that all other States Members of the United Nations should be invited to contribute to the compendium and encouraged States with such regulations or standards to provide information on them.

222. The view was expressed that the compendium of space debris mitigation standards hosted on the web page of the Office for Outer Space Affairs demonstrated that action was being taken on debris in line with the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee.

223. The view was expressed that the elaboration of standards was the most effective mechanism for addressing matters of a highly technical nature because of the ability to update them to reflect changing situations.

224. The view was expressed that the development of technical and operational standards for implementation by all entities in the space sector, both governmental and non-governmental, should be supported.

225. The view was expressed that international regulation had resulted in considerable progress being made and that it must be continued and further developed as well as complemented by national efforts.

226. The view was expressed that the stability and sustainability of outer space activities could only be achieved through technological advancements and the establishment of international norms.

227. Some delegations expressed the view that active debris removal was a key aspect of debris mitigation and remediation, and regulatory frameworks must play a key role in enabling active debris removal missions.

228. The view was expressed that because approaches to mitigating the problem of space debris were linked to evolving technologies, and given the cost-benefit trade-offs of using them, it was not necessary to develop legally binding space debris mitigation standards at present.

229. Some delegations expressed the view that States should adopt national binding technical regulations applicable to all their space activities, in particular those conducted by private operators.

230. The view was expressed that there was a need to draft and adopt a legal definition of the terms “space debris” and “space debris object”.

231. The view was expressed that several fragmentation events had occurred, resulting in the creation of thousands of debris objects and underlining the need to prevent such events by implementing measures related to passivation and reduced orbital lifetimes.

232. Some delegations expressed the view that consideration should be given to preventing the proliferation of space debris, especially through easily avoidable actions such as the conduct of destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile testing. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that it was not solely a security issue, as such actions could have a significant impact on the long-term sustainability of outer space.

233. The view was expressed that the prohibition of destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile tests was essentially a space security issue that should be addressed in international forums based in Geneva, while discussions in Vienna should focus on the peaceful uses of outer space.

234. The view was expressed that the Subcommittee should promote responsible behaviour in outer space, disseminate good practices and develop further norms and rules, including legally binding instruments.

235. Some delegations expressed the view that international cooperation and frameworks that promoted responsibility, transparency and cooperation among all space actors were needed to overcome the challenge of space debris.

236. Some delegations expressed the view that it was important for all States to register all space objects launched into outer space and that no object should be removed or eliminated from outer space without the prior consent or authorization of the registering State.

237. The view was expressed that the criterion of whether a space object was non-functional, put forward within the framework of principles of responsible behaviours in space, was insufficient grounds for considering the removal of an object from outer space. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that only the registering State had the ability to declare a space object non-functional.

238. The view was expressed that it was important for there to be mutual cooperation in sharing accurate data, knowledge and experiences, in expanding capabilities and in developing technical resources, modified prediction models and sophisticated facilities, provided that such effective collaboration took place under the umbrella of the Committee.

239. The view was expressed that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee provided several opportunities for further collaboration in relation to the sharing of scientific and technical information with other nations under the auspices of the United Nations.

240. The view was expressed that there was need for further discussions at the international level on lunar debris mitigation. The delegation expressing that view

was also of the view that such discussions should be held in the context of the Action Team on Lunar Activities Consultation.

241. The view was expressed that it was important to enhance the legal capacity of emerging spacefaring nations and to encourage member States to adopt and implement the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on a voluntary basis.

242. Some delegations expressed the view that the act of intentionally or knowingly creating multiple pieces of debris made a significant contribution to space debris, and that States should refrain from such acts, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 77/41.

## **IX. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space**

243. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 79/87, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 10, entitled “General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space”, as a single issue/item for discussion.

244. The representatives of Canada, Chile, Colombia, India, Japan, Mexico, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under agenda item 10. A statement was also made by the representative of Kenya on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were made by representatives of other member States.

245. The Subcommittee had before it a conference room paper entitled “Compendium on mechanisms adopted in relation to non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space: submissions by Belarus, Djibouti, Greece, Latvia, the Philippines, the Russian Federation and Slovakia” (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.5).

246. The Subcommittee encouraged States members of the Committee and international intergovernmental organizations having permanent observer status with the Committee to continue to contribute to the compendium of mechanisms adopted by States and international organizations in relation to non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space and to share information on their practices related to such instruments.

247. Some delegations expressed the view that the existing non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space of the Committee, in particular the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (A/74/20, annex II), the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines, the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, the Safety Framework for Nuclear Power Source Applications in Outer Space and the Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space, provided a valuable framework for the responsible conduct of outer space activities.

248. The view was expressed that the non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space were crucial for developing the multilateral governance framework for space as they offered a flexible, low-risk and effective approach to adapting to new uses of outer space and addressing the dynamic challenges of outer space activities, and that such instruments could serve as precursors to future legally binding instruments.

249. Some delegations expressed the view that the effectiveness of those instruments lay in their practical implementation at the national level, and that such instruments contributed to and influenced the formation of customary international law and promoted international cooperation in the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space.

250. The view was expressed that, in light of further developments in activities in the exploration and use of space for peaceful purposes, it was important to discuss and,

if necessary, adopt new non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that the development of non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space should not override efforts to develop legally binding international treaties and agreements because a number of areas of space activity, such as space traffic management, the active removal of space debris and activities related to the extraction and use of space resources, could be carried out only on the basis of legally binding international agreements, which established liability in the event of the failure to implement them.

251. The view was expressed that the non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space fostered transparency, trust and cooperation, but should not replace or weaken the existing binding legal framework.

252. The view was expressed that the development of non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space was particularly important for addressing emerging and urgent issues such as space debris mitigation and remediation.

253. The view was expressed that it was important to reiterate commitment to the peaceful uses and exploration of outer space, as well as to the principles established by the General Assembly in its resolutions, specifically the following: (a) the principle of equal and non-discriminatory access to outer space for all States, regardless of their level of scientific, technical and economic development; (b) the principle of non-appropriation of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies; (c) the principle of the non-militarization of outer space; and (d) the principle that the exploration of outer space should be carried out for the sole purpose of improving living conditions and consolidating peace on the planet.

254. Some delegations recalled General Assembly resolutions 1721 A and B (XVI) on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and the Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space (Assembly resolution 1962 (XVIII)), and encouraged States launching objects into orbit to furnish information on those objects to the Secretary-General and to consider establishing a national registry for the purpose of exchanging information on space objects, as appropriate.

255. Some delegations recalled the Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space and underscored the importance of upholding the principle of promoting the availability of remote sensing data on a non-discriminatory basis. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that such data were essential for sustainable development in areas such as agriculture, disaster risk reduction and management, climate change and global health, and promoted transparency and confidence among States.

256. The view was expressed that a range of guidelines had been developed on space debris mitigation, the long-term sustainability of space activities and the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that those non-binding instruments helped to ensure the protection and sustainability of the space environment and of human life.

257. Some delegations, recalling the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries, stressed the importance of that instrument in further promoting international cooperation with a view to enabling all States to maximize the benefits of space applications. Those delegations called on all spacefaring nations to contribute to promoting and fostering international cooperation on an equitable basis and to refrain from introducing unilateral restrictive measures that could hamper such cooperation.



## **X. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management**

258. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 79/87, the Subcommittee considered agenda item 11, entitled “General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management”, as a single issue/item for discussion.

259. The representatives of Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Slovenia and the United States made statements under agenda item 11. A statement was also made by the observer for IISL. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were made by representatives of other member States.

260. The Subcommittee had before it the following:

(a) Conference room paper by Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates entitled “Proposal for a study group on legal and policy aspects of space traffic” (A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.28/Rev.1);

(b) Conference room paper by NSS entitled “Space traffic management: legal challenges and considerations” (A/AC.105/C.2/2025.CRP.23).

261. The Subcommittee was informed of a number of measures undertaken or envisaged at the national, regional and international levels to improve the safety and sustainability of space flight. Those measures included the following: the development of a comprehensive space situational awareness system comprising a debris monitoring network, an orbital database and a collision early warning system to comprehensively improve the capability to manage the safety of spacecraft in orbit; a regional partnership that provided a publicly available collision avoidance service to satellite operators around the world, including for countries launching space programmes; a collision risk assessment and mitigation system that provided important data that allowed satellite operators to react quickly in the event of danger and that were shared with many operators around the world; space situational awareness information that was made available on a free and public web platform; the transition to a new traffic coordination system for space that would leverage data from operators, Governments and commercial, academic and international sources; an air traffic management system that demonstrated a high level of situational awareness and technical and operational excellence; new draft national legislation that took into account technological advances to keep pace with new trends and developments, including in-orbit refuelling and the transfer of assets in orbit; national guidelines for the licensing of on-orbit servicing; the enactment of new national guidelines on collision avoidance; national administrative measures that provided clear guidance for objects that required a rendezvous assessment, collision avoidance coordination and information communication; authorization for the first commercial return of a space object to a commercial spaceport anywhere in the world; continued support for the development of new, industry-led space sustainability standards that sought to incentivize good practice throughout the life cycle of space activities in order to protect future access to space; improvements to the registration of space objects; the Space Safety Programme and the Zero Debris Charter of ESA; relevant efforts undertaken by the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee, the International Organization for Standardization, the International Academy of Astronautics, the Consultative Committee on Space Data Systems, the Space Traffic Management Technical Committee of the International Astronautical Federation, and IISL; and related awareness-raising and capacity-building work by the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

262. Some delegations expressed the view that, as the volume, diversity and interdependence of space activities continued to increase, the norms, rules and principles that guided outer space activities also needed to evolve to ensure the safety, security and sustainability of outer space activities, and that space traffic management should be considered in that context.

263. The view was expressed that while States had the freedom to explore and use outer space, they were also called upon to use space responsibly, and that could most appropriately be achieved through the international management of space traffic, referring to the entirety of coordinated international efforts, policies, legal regulation, standards, technologies and strategies designed to ensure the safe, sustainable and efficient operation of objects in space and, in particular, in Earth orbit.

264. The view was expressed that the establishment of a global space traffic management regime was imperative for the coordination and safety of operations during all phases of space missions, including launch, in-space operations and re-entry.

265. The view was expressed that space traffic management comprised two pillars: an operational pillar composed of space surveillance capabilities and operational services to prevent the risk of collisions; and a regulatory pillar, involving the development of a set of good practices and technical and legal standards intended to govern space operations.

266. The view was expressed that the collective priority should be the coordination of existing and developing space surveillance systems, which was a necessity in the face of the exponential congestion of Earth orbits.

267. The view was expressed that reliable space situational awareness information and services were necessary to support global space flight safety and sustainability. The delegation expressing that view noted that it was necessary to enable the continued growth of a vibrant commercial space industry and ensure ongoing access to the many practical benefits provided by space systems, and that international coordination, including the implementation of best practices, guidelines and recommended principles, should reflect operational realities.

268. The view was expressed that defining a minimum safety distance between satellites, both in low Earth orbit and geostationary orbit, as well as rules for manoeuvres, among other measures, would mitigate collision risks and the consequent generation of orbital debris.

269. The view was expressed that the increase in small-satellite activities in the space sector, while greatly beneficial for start-ups and academic instructions, was also commonly accompanied by the difficulties of a lack of operator details, accurate orbital data and capability to perform collision avoidance manoeuvres and, consequently, one of the key enabling factors of space traffic management was awareness-raising of the obligations of States, on-orbit collision risks and inter-operator coordination among emerging space actors, including those operating small satellites.

270. The view was expressed that there was an urgent need to establish a multilateral mechanism within the United Nations system for the timely, accurate and non-discriminatory sharing of space situational awareness data, as equitable access to such information was essential for improving transparency and ensuring that all States could assess collision risks and safeguard their space assets.

271. The view was expressed that information about not only space objects but also planned manoeuvres was key to space traffic management, and that a number of related proposals were reflected in the draft guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities contained in document [A/AC.105/C.1/L.367](#), as well as in a conference room paper entitled “The United Nations information platform as a larger configuration of competencies in the domain of sharing information on objects and events in outer space” (A/AC.105/C.1/2025/CRP.26).



272. The view was expressed that in order for space traffic management to be effective, emphasis should be placed on exploring manoeuvrability standards, which should be consulted early in the authorization process for space activities.

273. The view was expressed that discussions on the legal aspects of space traffic management should focus on promoting international cooperation to jointly address practical challenges, such as the surge in space debris and the increased risk of spacecraft collisions, and that, given that there were considerable differences in the understanding of relevant issues and practice among countries, it was necessary to give special consideration to developing countries and emerging spacefaring nations and the basic rights of all countries to enter and use outer space on an equal footing.

274. The view was expressed that the definitions of “space-qualified” (if above an altitude of 100 km) and “sub-orbital craft” were effective under the relevant international arrangement, and that resolving the issue of space traffic management might have a practical value in terms of flight safety, the protection of public order and peaceful civil life.

275. The Subcommittee noted that interested delegations had conducted informal consultations on the margins of its sixty-fourth session on the proposal to establish a study group on the legal and policy aspects of space traffic.

276. Some delegations expressed the view that such a study group should be established, with the mandate, terms of reference, methods of work and workplan contained in the annex to conference room paper A/AC.105/C.2/2025/CRP.28/Rev.1. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that the proposal on the study group complemented the discussions on space situational awareness being held in the context of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

277. Some delegations expressed the view that further amendments to the proposal on the study group were needed.

278. The Subcommittee noted the importance of further discussions on the legal and policy aspects of space traffic management, taking into account the interests of developing countries and emerging spacefaring nations and giving equal consideration to the work of both subcommittees. The Subcommittee further noted that the Committee should be able to rely on the expertise of both of its subcommittees with a view to producing tangible outcomes for a possible UNISPACE IV.

279. The Subcommittee recommended that the proposal for a study group on the legal and policy aspects of space traffic be considered further during the sixty-eighth session of the Committee.

## **XI. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities**

280. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [79/87](#), the Subcommittee considered agenda item 12, entitled “General exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities”, as a single issue/item for discussion.

281. The representatives of Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States made statements under agenda item 12. The representative of Kenya also made a statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were made by representatives of other member States.

282. The Subcommittee noted the opportunities and benefits of small-satellite activities for accessing space, in particular for developing States and related governmental and non-governmental organizations, including universities and educational and research institutes, as well as for private industries with limited resources.

283. The Subcommittee noted that, in view of the growing trend of small-satellite activities and in order to guarantee the safety and sustainability of outer space activities, those activities should be carried out within existing international frameworks, including the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space, the ITU Constitution and Convention and the ITU Radio Regulations.

284. The Subcommittee noted that non-binding instruments, such as the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee and the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee ([A/74/20](#), annex II) contributed to the mitigation of space debris.

285. Some delegations expressed the view that, at the present time, there was no legal or regulatory definition of a small satellite and, under the United Nations treaties, principles and resolutions relating to international space law, the term “space object” referred to satellites, launch vehicles and their component parts. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that, considering the essential role of space objects, irrespective of their size, for the socioeconomic development of States, the Committee and its subcommittees should not impose any limitations on the design, building, launch or use of space objects by developing countries, and that it was important to ensure guaranteed and equitable access to orbital positions in the geostationary orbit according to the needs of all countries, in particular developing countries.

286. The view was expressed that, in order to effectively address the emerging challenges associated with small-satellite activities, it was important to adhere to the established framework of international space law, in particular the Outer Space Treaty, and to uphold the core principles of international space law in conducting such activities. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that those principles included the peaceful use of outer space, international cooperation, mutual assistance, free access to outer space by all countries and due regard for the interests of other States. That delegation also expressed the view that, in light of the rapid growth of small-satellite activities, the relevant legal and regulatory frameworks for small-satellite activities could be further refined and enhanced to ensure more effective governance in that domain.

287. Some delegations expressed the view that States bore international responsibility for authorizing and continuously supervising small-satellite activities, including those conducted by non-governmental actors, ensuring that such activities were carried out in conformity with international legal obligations.

288. The view was expressed that activities pertaining to all space objects, including small satellites, should be carried out in full compliance with the norms of international space law, including the requirements on the registration of spacecraft and the requirements under article IX of the Outer Space Treaty. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that it was important to implement, in national legislation, the internationally agreed recommendations pertaining to small-satellite activities, including guideline B.8 of the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Committee, on designing and operating space objects, regardless of their physical and operational characteristics, and guideline A.5, on enhancing the practice of registering space objects, irrespective of their size.

289. Some delegations expressed the view that, despite the advantages of using small satellites, there were also growing concerns about the impacts that small-satellite activities had on astronomical observations conducted by ground-based observatories and on access to space, because of the challenges of predicting and preventing collisions of space objects given the increased congestion of low Earth orbit and of near-Earth space.

290. Some delegations expressed the view that commercially available satellite Internet services, which were aimed at bridging the digital divide and connecting

more people around the world to the global digital economy, provided high-speed Internet in areas where traditional terrestrial infrastructure was lacking or unreliable.

291. The view was expressed that international cooperation was key in addressing both the legal and technical challenges related to small satellites, and that sharing technical knowledge and facilitating the transfer of peaceful space technologies would enable the effective participation of developing countries in the space domain through small-satellite activities. The delegation expressing that view emphasized the importance of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, and of joint initiatives such as the International Space Station Japanese Experiment Module known as “KiboCUBE”, and other educational and research programmes on small satellites promoted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and other international entities.

292. The view was expressed that transparent data-sharing, increased coordination among nations, capacity-building initiatives, particularly for emerging space nations, and adherence to international treaties were essential to mitigate the risks associated with small-satellite activities.

293. Some delegations expressed the view that, in light of trends connected to satellite constellations, it was important to further address the rational and equitable use of low Earth orbit and frequency spectrums, how to avoid operational interference and reduce collision risks, international coordination and the sharing of information and data on space situational awareness activities.

294. The Subcommittee agreed that the continuation of its work under the present item would provide valuable opportunities to address topical issues relating to international and national policy and regulatory measures regarding the use of small satellites.

## **XII. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its sixty-fifth session**

295. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [79/87](#), the Subcommittee considered agenda item 13, entitled “Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its sixty-fifth session”, as a regular item on the agenda.

296. The representatives of Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Panama, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under agenda item 13. The representative of Nigeria also made a statement on behalf of the Group of African States, supported by Brazil, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Mexico, Panama and Pakistan. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were made by representatives of other member States.

297. The Subcommittee agreed that the following items would be proposed to the Committee for inclusion in the agenda of the Subcommittee at its sixty-fifth session:

### *Regular items*

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of the Chair.
3. Statement by the Chair.
4. General exchange of views.
5. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law.

6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space, and ways and means, including capacity-building, to promote their implementation.
7. Matters relating to:
  - (a) The definition and delimitation of outer space;
  - (b) The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.
8. Future role and method of work of the Committee.

*Items under workplans*

9. General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources.  
  
(Work for 2026 as reflected in the multi-year workplan of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities ([A/AC.105/1260](#), annex II, appendix))

*Single issues/items for discussion*

10. General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation and remediation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.
11. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space.
12. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management.
13. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities.

*New item*

14. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its sixty-sixth session.

298. Some delegations expressed the view reaffirming the need to operationalize the principles of international cooperation and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from outer space activities, in accordance with international space law, and suggested that an item entitled “Benefit-sharing to support developing countries” be added to the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee with a view to identifying options for implementing benefit-sharing in support of developing countries, with the aim of achieving an inclusive outcome based on consensus.

299. Some delegations expressed the view that sharing the benefits of space was exactly why they were engaged and active participants in the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. The delegations expressing that view, while noting the possibility of intersessional discussions, did not agree to new workstreams and agenda items that could place a burden on the secretariat at a time when budgetary resources had placed a strain on the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

300. The Subcommittee noted the suggestion to add an item on benefit-sharing to support developing countries to the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee. The Subcommittee also noted that the delegations making that suggestion would hold informal consultations and invite all member States to participate and report to the Committee on the outcomes of those consultations.

301. The view was expressed that the agenda items entitled “General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation and remediation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee” and “General exchange of views on the application of international law to small-satellite activities” should be consolidated into one agenda item entitled “Sustainable and resilient use of outer space”.

302. The view was expressed that the agenda item “General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation and remediation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee” should be retained as a stand-alone agenda item.

303. The view was expressed that the Subcommittee should strictly adhere to the agreed agenda and intensify its consideration of priority issues that required legal regulation, primarily the topic of ensuring the long-term sustainability of space activities. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that the agenda item entitled “Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law” was informational in nature and that such information could take the form of working papers that were posted on the website of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, with links to relevant information resources on the Internet.

304. The Subcommittee agreed that IISL and ECSL should again be invited to organize a symposium, to be held during the sixty-fifth session of the Subcommittee, with due account to be taken of the factors referred to in paragraph 253 of document [A/79/20](#) in order to reflect a broad range of opinions, and that the organizers should seek the cooperation of interested academic entities for that purpose.

305. The Subcommittee noted that its sixty-fifth session had been tentatively scheduled to be held from 13 to 24 April 2026.

## Annex I

### Report of the Chair of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space

1. At its 1074th meeting, on 5 May 2025, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space reconvened its Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, with Franziska Knur (Germany) as Chair.
2. From 6 to 15 May 2025, the Working Group held six meetings. The Working Group considered the following items:
  - (a) The status of the five United Nations treaties on outer space;
  - (b) The schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities;
  - (c) Exchange of views on the implementation of article XI of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies;
  - (d) Future topics to be considered by the Working Group.
3. The Working Group had before it the documents listed in paragraph 59 of the report of the Legal Subcommittee on its sixty-fourth session.
4. The Working Group agreed to suspend the development of the schematic overview of national regulatory frameworks for space activities, on the understanding that the Working Group could revisit it and that the information on national regulatory frameworks would be updated in the database maintained by the Office for Outer Space Affairs.
5. The Working Group continued its exchange of views on the implementation of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty and initiated the preparation of a template that could be offered to States and international intergovernmental organizations as a voluntary tool, in accordance with its workplan (A/79/20, annex II).
6. The Working Group agreed to use the following discussion questions proposed by the Chair in the information circular dated 17 April 2025 to structure its work:

*Section 4 – General considerations concerning the preparation of a template or model submission form for submitting information with reference to article XI of the Outer Space Treaty*

4.1 Are the elements listed in article XI (“nature, conduct, locations and results” of activities in outer space) suitable and sufficient to structure a template? Are there other elements that should be considered?

4.2 Would a template be suitable to accommodate the sharing of information on all types of space activities, in particular regardless of the location in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, where they take place?

4.3 Would a template be suitable for sharing information on space activities regardless of whether they are planned (pre-launch or pre-manoeuvre information/notifications), ongoing or have been completed? Would periodic updates or amendments to initial submissions be possible and, if so, under what conditions and/or procedures?

4.4 Are member States aware of any international information exchange mechanism that could provide useful inspiration, such as the Antarctic Treaty

## Information Exchange Requirements and the Antarctic Treaty Electronic Information Exchange System?

### *Section 5 – Specific considerations concerning the preparation of a template*

5.1. What would member States consider to be useful categories, parameters and/or questions to be offered in a template for sharing information on the nature, conduct, locations and results of a space activity?

5.2. Would member States consider any of the following categories, parameters and/or questions as useful for sharing information on a space activity?

(a) Nature of a space activity: primary objective; type of space programme; space objects involved; key technical specifications; a brief description;

(b) Conduct of a space activity: operator/who conducts the activity?; mission timeline; information on international cooperation; information on mission management, safety and sustainability; other sources of information on the conduct of the space activity;

(c) Locations of a space activity: space facilities involved in the space activity; location(s) of the space activity, including orbital parameters or location(s) of celestial bodies;

(d) Results of a space activity: (expected) primary results or outcomes; other scientific, technological, economic or societal benefits; possible long-term effects; other relevant information or context;

(e) Other: related web pages or other information on the space activity.

7. The Working Group noted that since the sixty-third session of the Subcommittee, four States had sent additional notifications to the Secretary-General in relation to article XI of the Outer Space Treaty.

8. The Working Group was informed of the background paper prepared by the Secretariat concerning the implementation of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty and article IV of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space ([A/AC.105/C.2/L.338](#)) upon its request, and noted that it contained valuable information and food for thought on how established procedures and practices regarding registration and information exchange under article XI of the Outer Space Treaty could be mutually beneficial and contribute to greater transparency and international cooperation in the spirit of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty.

9. The Working Group noted that while submissions under the different treaty provisions were kept distinct, they still could be displayed in a coherent and mutually beneficial manner, as was to some extent already the case in the Online Index of Objects Launched into Outer Space, which linked registration information and article XI submissions in cases where the information related to the same space object.

10. The Working Group noted that States Parties to the Treaty agreed to share information on their space activities to the greatest extent feasible and practicable and that in that context, relevant national regulations and policies would have an impact on the availability and scope of information to be shared.

11. The Working Group noted that article VI of the Outer Space Treaty could be a vehicle for overcoming the challenge of obtaining information from non-governmental entities, given that the article required activities by non-governmental entities in outer space to be authorized and continuously supervised by the appropriate State Party to the Treaty.

12. The Working Group noted that in order to allow States to initiate consultations on their activities at an early stage, the disclosure of information before the commencement of an activity could be encouraged and, in that connection, it should

be possible to amend and update the information shared at any time so as to ensure that the latest information was reflected in the repository.

13. The Working Group agreed that the template under development should be designed in such a way as to accommodate the sharing of information on all types of space activities, and that the elements of article XI of the Outer Space Treaty should inform its structure. Taking into account the preliminary reactions expressed on initial ideas presented by the Chair of the Working Group in a non-paper, a draft template should be made available in all official languages of the United Nations for consideration by the Working Group at the sixty-fifth session of the Subcommittee.

14. The Working Group also agreed that a background paper would be produced by the Secretariat, in all official languages of the United Nations, on how an easily accessible and searchable repository of information submitted under article XI of the Outer Space Treaty could be maintained, drawing on the experience of other international information exchange mechanisms such as the Electronic Information Exchange System established pursuant to the Antarctic Treaty or the Global Integrated Shipping Information System and also taking into account the ongoing work on the enhanced space object registration portal in order to foster synergies while avoiding duplication.

15. At its sixth meeting, on 15 May, the Working Group adopted the present report.



## Annex II

### Report of the Chair of the Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space

1. At its 1074th meeting, on 5 May 2025, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space reconvened its Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, with Ian Grosner (Brazil) as Chair.

2. The Chair recalled that, pursuant to the agreement reached by the Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session and endorsed by the Committee at its forty-third session, both in 2000, and pursuant to General Assembly resolution 79/87, the Working Group had been reconvened to consider only matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space.

3. The Working Group had before it the documents listed in paragraph 82 of the report of the Subcommittee on its sixty-fourth session.

4. The Chair noted that submissions had been received from States that had previously not made submissions, enriching the collection of views.

5. The Chair also noted that, despite the substantive views contained in the documentation before the Working Group, the Working Group was not ready to take new decisions at the present session.

6. The Chair recalled that the Working Group had requested that the secretariat, on a biennial basis, in preparation for the meetings of the Working Group in the years when it was to be reconvened ([A/AC.105/1285](#), annex II, para. 8):

(a) Continue to invite States members of the Committee to submit information on national legislation or any national practices that may exist or were being developed that related directly or indirectly to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and airspace;

(b) Continue to invite States members and permanent observers of the Committee to submit concrete and detailed proposals regarding the need to define and delimit outer space, or justifying the absence of such a need, or to provide the Working Group with specific cases of a practical nature relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and the safety of aerospace operations. Such structured, consistent and grounded contributions would be considered by the Working Group at its future meetings;

(c) Continue to invite States Members of the United Nations and permanent observers of the Committee to provide their replies to the following questions:

(i) Is there a relationship between plans to establish a system of space traffic management and the definition and delimitation of outer space?

(ii) Is there a relationship between suborbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation and the definition and delimitation of outer space?

(iii) Will the legal definition of suborbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation be practically useful for States and other actors with regard to space activities?

(iv) How could suborbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation be defined?

(v) Which legislation applies or could be applied to suborbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation?

(vi) How will the legal definition of suborbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation impact the progressive development of space law?

(vii) Please propose other questions to be considered in the framework of the legal definition of suborbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation;

(d) Continue to invite States Members of the United Nations and permanent observers of the Committee to provide information relating to any practical case known to them that would warrant the definition and delimitation of outer space.

7. In that connection, the Chair noted that new documentation would not be prepared by the secretariat for the sixty-fifth session of the Legal Subcommittee, to be held in 2026, but would be prepared for the sixty-sixth session, in 2027, when the Working Group would next be reconvened.

8. On 14 May 2025, the Working Group considered and adopted the present report.

## Annex III

### Report of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities

1. At its 1074th meeting, on 5 May 2025, the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space reconvened the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities established under the Legal Subcommittee's agenda item entitled "General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources", with Steven Freeland (Australia) as Vice-Chair.
2. The Working Group noted that at its 1083rd meeting, on 9 May 2025, the Subcommittee had appointed Steven Freeland (Australia) as Chair of the Working Group.
3. The Working Group also noted that at its 1087th meeting, on 13 May 2025, the Subcommittee had appointed Ayman Mahmoud Mohamed Ahmed (Egypt) as Vice-Chair of the Working Group.
4. From 6 to 14 May 2025, the Working Group held six formal and four informal meetings. The Working Group recalled that, in accordance with its five-year workplan ([A/AC.105/1260](#), annex II, appendix), its activities for 2025 included the following:
  - (a) Presentation by the Chair of the Working Group of the activities undertaken thus far by the Working Group to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its sixty-second session;
  - (b) Continue exchange of views on the preliminary summary prepared by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the information collected and views expressed, in line with the work for 2023; review and update the preliminary summary and consolidate any additional relevant information and views presented, for submission to the Working Group for further consideration;
  - (c) Exchange of views on the development of a set of 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.
5. The Working Group had before it the documents listed in paragraph 171 of the report of the Legal Subcommittee on its sixty-fourth session.
6. The Working Group noted that the Vice-Chair of the Working Group had made a statement at the sixty-second session the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in February 2025, and that the Subcommittee had noted the ongoing work of the Working Group, including the preparation of an initial draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities ([A/AC.105/1338](#), para. 122).
7. The Working Group noted that an initial draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities ([A/AC.105/C.2/L.339](#)) had been prepared by the Vice-Chair of the Working Group on the basis of the discussions held during the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee and the contributions received by States members and permanent observers of the Committee.
8. The Working Group noted that further submissions by States members and permanent observers of the Committee, as well as substantive discussions during the online intersessional meeting held on 24 April 2025 and during the sixty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, had represented valuable contributions to the continued development of a set of recommended principles for space resource activities in accordance with its five-year workplan.
9. The Working Group noted that the initial draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities provided a good basis for further discussions, taking into

account the need to ensure that such activities were carried out in accordance with applicable international law and in a safe, sustainable, rational and peaceful manner.

10. The Working Group agreed to continue its work on the development of a set of recommended principles for space resource activities, while striving to achieve a greater common understanding and identifying areas of convergence.

11. The Working Group agreed at its first formal meeting, on 6 May 2025, to apply a step-by-step approach to the discussions on the initial draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities, as prepared by the Vice-Chair, beginning with the draft headings of the principles, followed by the preambular paragraphs.

12. The Working Group noted that there were a number of elements and questions that could be addressed in the course of the continued development of a set of recommended principles for space resource activities. Those included, inter-alia, the development of definitions; the centrality of the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies; the principles of non-appropriation and the peaceful use of outer space; the nature and purpose of space resources and their potential benefits for both scientific research and economic development; the prioritization of scientific research and investigation; environmental and equitable aspects; the protection of the interests of current and future space actors and generations; international cooperation; coordination and consultation measures; licensing, supervision and control mechanisms; notification and registration; the involvement of the private sector; and aspects related to benefit-sharing and the interests of developing countries and emerging spacefaring nations.

13. The Working Group agreed that on the basis of the discussions held at the sixty-fourth session of the Subcommittee, the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Working Group would prepare an updated draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities, in accordance with its workplan, that would be disseminated in a timely manner to States members of the Committee in July 2025.

14. The Working Group further agreed to hold one or more online intersessional meetings to advance discussions on the updated draft set of recommended principles for space resource activities.

15. At its sixth meeting, on 14 May 2025, the Working Group adopted the present report.

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