



South Africa

Statement on the Report on the Legal Subcommittee (LSC)

Agenda 7

Check against Delivery

Thank you Chair,

South Africa would like to express its sincere appreciation to the committee for its confidence in and support provided to Ms Nomfuneko Majaja, who ably led the Legal Sub Committee.

We are pleased with the robust discussions and cooperation amongst members during the subcommittee, which has both enhanced our understanding of the legal aspects, as well as drawn us closer on issues of mutual concern and led the Committee to finalise its report.

At the outset, South Africa aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Group of 77 and China and wish to deliver a few comments in its national capacity:

- We support that the topic on definition and delimitation of outer space should remain on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee and express our appreciation for the constructive discussions during the March session.
- We reiterate the importance of geostationary orbit and that its utilisation remains outside the realm of national appropriation. Further to this, its use should be in line with international space laws.
- South Africa places importance on capacity building in Space law and acknowledges the support provided by UNOOSA and various illuminating symposia co-hosted with a number of international institutions in the past, including the International Institute of Space Law. It encourages the Office to further strengthen its efforts in assisting developing countries build the required legal expertise within their national domains. Capacity Building in Space Law is critical especially new areas such as understanding and knowledge of the legal implications of exploitation and exploration of space resources as well assist countries in fulfilling their obligations under Treaties, they are party to. In that regard, National legislation in space activities and inclusive of implementation of Treaties remain important for the Sub-Committee

- We believe that International space law is the cornerstone of space governance and building requisite capacity in space activities will help promote international development and cooperation in space activities. In this regard, South Africa reaffirms the importance of international cooperation to ensure that developing countries also benefit from the utilization of space applications and the exploration and use of outer space in a non-discriminatory manner.
- We note the constructive work undertaken in the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resources Activities and express our appreciation for the frank discussions held on the international Conference envisaged to be held in 2024 and the need to adopt an inclusive and collaborative approach, which accommodates all countries' concerns.
- We look forward to engaging further on the modalities of the conference so that it is truly reflective of the diverse composition of COPUOS membership. In this regard, we wish to thank Luxembourg for taking our concerns on board and their ongoing efforts to facilitate inclusive participation of experts from developing countries.

I thank you.