



Permanent Mission of the Federative Republic of Brazil

65th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Item 6: *Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes*

[*Check against delivery*]

Mr. chairperson,

With all modesty, we should congratulate ourselves for the many achievements of this committee since its creation. For more than six decades, member states and the technical secretariat have made COPUOS an example of success in curbing the benefits of interstate competition in space. Its accomplishments in deepening and widening the institutionalization of space politics stand with no comparison with other multilateral institutions. It has created an institutional frame that facilitates diplomatic negotiations and fosters the legitimacy of cooperative policies and consultations for peaceful conflict resolution. Consequently, states are now more likely to balance by institutional and diplomatic means than by armaments buildup.

To keep up with such purpose, there is need to strengthen the legal regime that regulates the uses for military support purposes, with new negotiated rules that secure the most diverse interests. To put forward this agenda, Brazil has steadfastly supported initiatives meant for structuring dialogue around relevant issues. It has chaired the subsidiary body of the Conference on Disarmament (UNCD) on the Prevention of Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS), as well as the Group of Governmental Experts on Further Effective Measures for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, and the 62nd session of COPUOS, in which the Guidelines on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS Guidelines) were formally adopted.

As part of its contribution, Brazil has also signaled its commitment to three fundamental aspects: transparency, coherence, and inclusion. In our vision, these elements are crucial for either fostering agreement or accommodation, as the case may be. For instance, it is known for a fact that states that accede to reporting rules share a normative commitment to stability,

system maintenance, and recognition of international responsibilities. That is why my delegation has continuously encouraged UNOOSA to align disclosure and dissemination procedures with modern information management practices. We also note with a keen interest the work of Article XI Project, as one which aims at increased transparency and information sharing on upcoming activities in the exploration of the Moon.

Similarly, Brazil supports policies which are based on coherence, stability and consistency. Sharply controversial practices, like interference with satellite systems, or unwarranted proximity operations, are prone to erode commitment and therefore to harm the overall setting of restraining policies. Inconsistent practices, as the ones compiled by the Secretary General in the report A/76/77, should be avoided, especially in times of uncertainty and turbulence. In addition, we cannot display lofty ambitions of working for the benefit of humankind, while showing little commitment to its underpinnings by testing, developing and using anti-satellite weapons (ASAT). In that tenet, Brazil welcomes the US decision to observe a moratorium on anti-satellite missile tests. We hope that relevant countries do not wait to adopt similar policies and seek to extend this voluntary ban to all forms of destructive space-related technologies.

Finally, Brazil is in favor of inclusion and universality, both in terms of the number of members states engaged and in terms of their positions. To be sure, we understand that finding landing zones that accommodate the interests of a broad segment of international society, rather than a particular caucus of states, has its complexity, but inclusive policies have a higher chance of success in making member states comply with the agreed conditions, as they offer prospective security, economic, and legitimacy gains as rewards for keeping the uses of space peaceful. The enlargements of stakeholders are also a potential effective instrument for sustaining shared interest, while preventing new stakeholders from sliding away. The Dark and Quiet Skies Initiative is illustrative of the feasibility of working effectively with the private sector, and setting work streams that inform better policy settings, while spreading scientific knowledge and experience.

Thank you.