



66th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

31 May – 9 June 2023

Statement by Australia

Agenda Item 7: Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its sixty-second session

Thank you, Chair, distinguished delegates.

The 62nd session of the Legal Subcommittee was a welcome opportunity for Member States and Permanent Observers to exchange views on legal issues related to the peaceful use and exploration of outer space.

Australia thanks the Subcommittee Chair, Ms Nomfuneko Majaja of South Africa, and the Secretariat for their organisation of the 62nd session.

Australia considers that the session was successful and productive. We take this opportunity to reflect on some of its key outcomes.

Space resources

Chair,

Australia appreciated the opportunity to share its views on legal aspects of space resource activities under the agenda item and in the meetings of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities.

Australia, Austria and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, presented a Conference Room Paper (A/AC.105/C.2/2023/CRP.6) entitled *Relevant considerations for developing a set of initial recommended principles for the exploration, exploitation and utilisation of space resources*. We hope that this paper will continue to support the work of the Working Group as well as the Subcommittee's considerations on space resource activities.

Australia also welcomed the opportunity to provide a submission to the Working Group, following an invitation from the Chair and Vice-Chair, regarding the mandate and purpose of the Working Group.

We look forward to further discussions on arrangements for a dedicated international conference, in accordance with the terms of reference of the Working Group.

Australia thanks the Working Group Chair Ambassador Andrzej Misztal from Poland and Vice-Chair Professor Steven Freeland from Australia, for their able leadership.

Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space

Chair,

Australia was pleased to take part in discussions of the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties. We welcome Dr Franziska Knur from Germany to her role of Chair and thank her for her able leadership.

Australia also welcomes the agreement of the Working Group on recommendations relating to registration practices for space objects forming part of a satellite constellation.

Conclusion

Chair,

The 62nd session of the Legal Subcommittee progressed consideration of important matters in the peaceful uses of outer space.

Australia looks forward to further engagement with Member States at the 63rd session of the Subcommittee.

Thank you.