

- Thailand, Item 3 -

The Statement of Thailand to the 60<sup>th</sup> Legal Subcommittee of UNCOPUOS

2 June 2021

Item 3 General exchange of views

Vienna, Austria

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Madame Chair,

Let me first take this opportunity to congratulate you Dr. Setsuko AOKI on your new role as the Chair of the Legal Subcommittee under the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and extend my gratitude to Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo (Director of UNOOSA) and Mr. Niklas Hedman (Chief of the Committee, Policy and Legal Affairs) for the great efforts in furthering the work of the Legal Subcommittee. I believe that under the leadership of Madame Chair, the Subcommittee would continue to make tremendous contributions to the development of international space law. We are pleased that this Subcommittee continues to successfully provide effective supports to the peaceful uses of outer space, especially for emerging and developing space countries. In addition, we warmly welcome Dominican Republic, Rwanda and Singapore as the latest member states of the COPUOS and we also welcome the applications from Angola, Bangladesh, Panama and Slovenia.

At present, we recognize that number of new space actors has increased rapidly, not only in the space faring countries but also in the emerging space countries. This is a good sign of humankind in broadening utilization of outer space. Thailand is one of

the countries putting high efforts to push forward its national legislation to regulate space activities for the new space actors. We have developed a draft of the national space law to fulfill our national legislation to meet the international obligations and accede to present space-related international instruments.

Madame Chair,

COPUOS is an important inter-governmental body of space activities and one of its significant deliverables is the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities or LTS Guidelines. The guidelines will not be able to achieve its goal without further deliberation between a member state and the committee. Thailand applied the LTS Guidelines to the domestic procedure of registering space objects launched into outer space. We have planned to establish a regional network center of the space situation awareness and research collaboration to support and provide the analyzed data of space weather, space debris monitoring and mitigation among countries in Southeast Asia:

Thailand considers multilateralism cooperation as an efficient mechanism of the utilization and the exploitation of space resources. In this regard, we welcome the discussion on this issue as well as commit to work closely with all the Member States of COPUOS, to support the work of Working Group on Legal Aspect of the Exploration, Utilization and the Exploitation of Space Resources under Legal Subcommittee in consolidating several important agenda items during this meeting of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS.

Furthermore, from Thailand's perspective, the issue of space exploration, especially

space resource utilization, has both scientific and legal aspects. However, at present, the agenda of the utilization and the exploitation of space resources have been placed in the agenda item in the Legal Subcommittee only. Therefore, we encourage the COPUOS to consider placing this issue in the agenda items in the Scientific Committee as well.

Madame Chair,

Last but not least, we have the regret to inform you that the situation on the outbreak of COVID-19 last year caused the cancellation of the consultation workshop on space law and policy for emerging space countries in Asia-Pacific. The workshop which would be jointly organized by UNOOSA and GISTDA was originally planned to hold in April 2020 in Bangkok, Thailand. We firstly considered an online event but we think organizing the event physically after the pandemic will be more fruitful. We are considering new dates for the above-mentioned workshop and we hope to be able to hold it as soon as the conditions allow.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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