



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
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Statement

by

The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

at

**The Sixty-First Session of
The Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS**

on

**Agenda item 15: General Exchange of Views on Potential
Legal Models for Activities in the Exploration, Exploitation
and Utilization of Space Resources**

28 March – 8 April 2022

Vienna, Austria

“In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful”

Madam Chair, thank you for giving me the floor;

Distinguished delegates;

Technological Advances have opened the door not only for exploration and uses of outer space but also for the extraction and exploitation of its natural resources. States interested in space mining are considering a variety of approaches to identifying and harvesting space resources. In addition to technical challenges, considerable regulatory uncertainty surrounds this newborn industry. The exploitation of these resources, however, requires an appropriate legal framework to develop it in a peaceful and appropriate manner; based on the principle of all mankind heritage and benefits free of any discrimination and monopoly especially the rights of developing countries should not be violated.

Madam Chair

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that any activity aimed at the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources should be conducted in accordance with the basic treaties and principles of international space law, established under the Outer Space Treaty.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that all states should have equitable access to the resources of space within a legal framework of United Nations and declares COPUOS is the most appropriate one. Any activity by all states individually or as a club of countries outside of the United Nations framework should be avoided.

Madam Chair

The Islamic Republic of Iran declares that further development of norms consistent with the international space law could serve as a rational and sustainable basis for exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources of the Moon and other celestial bodies. Moon and other celestial bodies, is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means. All initiatives of states should avoid of any activities outside of the United Nations framework.

In this regard, in the working group of exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources, it is necessary to define a legal framework based on the treaties of outer space and the international space law regime.

Distinguished delegates;

Some multilateral procedures are going forward like Artemis (in section 10) while several strong concerns and questions remain in the field of space resources as follow:

- 1- Procedurally any multilateral space accords especially in the field of space resources should be negotiated in the framework of COPUOS not to skirt it.
- 2- The Artemis Accords refer to the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, while most of the member States to the Accord are not a member of the Moon agreement, the moon is of their most critical destinations.

3- A negotiated accord out of international procedures, imposing it to international organizations, neither legalizes it nor is it able to mark it as a legal multilateral treaty.

I thank you