



**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
JAURÈSGASSE 3, 1030 VIENNA

**Statement**

**By**

**the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**at**

**The Sixty-First Session of**

**the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS**

**Agenda item 4: General exchange of views**

**March-April 2022**

**Vienna, Austria**

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

**Madam Chairperson,**

At the outset and since this is the first time that my delegation is delivering a statement not in a pre-recorded format, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of this sub-Committee and assure you of our support and cooperation. We are confident that under your leadership we will have a successful session. I would further like to take the opportunity to both congratulate and thank the Acting Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and Secretary of Subcommittee, Mr. Niklas Hedman, and his able colleagues in UNOOSA for the preparations made to convene this meeting particularly in difficult circumstances that we are all facing due to the pandemic.

**Chair,**

Islamic Republic of Iran, attaches great importance to the developments of International Space Law and policy, in this vein, Iranian Space Agency plans to participate actively in the formation of the Space Law Alliance under the auspices of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) and to encourage Iranian universities and educational centers to join and contribute to this cooperation. As the first step, Iranian Space Agency participated in the meeting which was held in October 2021 to discuss the formation of the Union at the initiative of the APSCO Secretariat

with the participation of delegations from all APSCO Member States.

The Islamic Republic of Iran also expresses its readiness to hold joint training courses on legal aspects of space activities and calls for more attention to the spirit of international cooperation in matters related to space law as one of the mandates of COPUOS.

Another area of importance for my delegation is the issue of access to the geostationary satellite orbit which currently takes place according to the principle of "first come, first served", a principle that may suite developed countries yet disregards the principle of equity. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that this is a discriminatory approach and concrete steps must be taken to address it. In addition, we emphasize on the need for rational, efficient, and economic use of the geostationary orbit with particular attention to the needs of developing countries.

**Madam Chairperson,**

Given the rapid development and deployment of large and mega satellite constellations and its possible future implications, the Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view developing regulations applicable to the large satellite constellations is a necessity that we cannot afford to neglect thus should be urgently put on the agenda of LSC.

The space law, have not been well developed and updated in accordance with the technology growth at the national, regional as well as international level, Therefore, capacity building efforts and regional and international cooperation within the framework of UNOOSA play an effective and key role in this regard, particularly for developing countries.

**Chair,**

Current inclinations towards creating new norms for outer space activities with the view that these norms would establish a framework to avoid misperception and miscalculation, while not being ready to accept or comply with rudimentary applicable rules and principles to activities in outer space, are dubious. Unfortunately, some states are planning to use space for non-peaceful purposes and are trying to fortify their military capabilities in outer space which will most probably lead to weaponization of outer space. This is in contradiction to the article IV of Outer Space Treaty (OST 1967).

Prevention of an arms race and prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space are the foundation for legally-binding instruments or norm making efforts, other attempts, including through introducing political subjective norms might even be counterproductive. Advisory measures on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviors are

constituted of subjective factors like operation and perception which can be subject to different and sometimes contradicting interpretations.

**Madam Chairperson,**

Critical civilian infrastructures for health care, transportation, communications, energy, global communication networks, banking systems, financial markets and trade are increasingly dependent on space systems. Disabling or damaging such space systems, through kinetic or non-kinetic means, could have wide-reaching consequences for civilians on earth.

The same consequences occur when limitations or restrictions are arbitrarily imposed on States in the field of space activities. These restrictions are the main impediment for some countries to fulfill their commitments. Therefore, are in contradiction to the article 1 and 10 of the OST that reaffirm notions of “equality” and “freedom” for countries to access and use outer space. Furthermore, these restrictions obstruct bilateral and international cooperation.

To conclude Madam Chairperson, we are of the view that small satellites play a key and irreplaceable role in the development of space related technologies in developing and emerging space countries and should be considered as an important subject in international cooperation not an area which needs to be restricted or over regulated. In this vein, on March 8, 2022, the Islamic

Republic of Iran successfully launched a remote sensing satellite (Noor 2) into orbit of 500 kilometers using a three stage Satellite Launch Vehicle (Qased) which were developed based on generating indigenous science and technology.

**I thank you, madam chairperson.**