

Agenda Item 4 – General exchange of views, Statement by Germany

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates,

Given the extraordinary times we have to witness, allow me a short word on the unprovoked and unjustifiable war by **Russia** against Ukraine.

Pres. Putin has breached peace in Europe, has **gravely broken international law and damaged foundation of the European security architecture**. Germany condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's illegal aggression against Ukraine and deplores the untold human suffering and tragic loss of life it has brought over the people in Ukraine. Germany demands that President Putin immediately ceases all military operations against Ukraine and calls for an immediate and unconditioned withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukrainian territory. We demand Russia to respect the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

In this challenging period, and on behalf of the German delegation I want to congratulate you, Madam Chair/Mr. Chairman, on your election and assure you of our delegation's full support. We thank Professor Aoki for her able guidance throughout the past session. Let me also express our appreciation for the excellent work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs – not only during the preparation of this session, which takes place under unprecedented difficult circumstances, but also in fulfilling its multiple challenging tasks and mandates under the UN treaties and programs on outer space. We also thank Director Simonetta Di Pippo for her dedication and commitment in promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space during the last eight years. Germany recognizes her great efforts in bringing space closer to society. Personally I regret her leaving - we wish you all the best for your future endeavors.

Today more than ever, the world relies on outer space and space infrastructure. We continue to develop forward-looking space technologies and applications to tackle global challenges and to increase our knowledge about complex and factually connected issues such as climate and environmental changes. It is therefore of paramount importance that we **use outer space in a responsible and sustainable manner** and that we **preserve this fragile environment** also for the peaceful exploration and use by future generations. It is this Subcommittee's privilege and obligation to safeguard and to promote the **rule of international space law** and to address, in an ambitious and forward looking way, the legal questions involved with the unprecedented scale and range of modern space activities. **For Germany, it is very clear that preserving outer space as a global common requires the further development of global governance of outer space activities.** Therefore, our delegation looks forward to contributing to the work of this Subcommittee under its various important agenda items.

Of particular importance are a **global legal commitment to avoid the intentional creation of space debris** as well as a **comprehensive and legally binding international space traffic management**. In order to effectively manage the increasing volume of objects and activities in Earth's orbits, a multilateral approach towards STM is the most appropriate way forward. Therefore, we particularly welcome the UN Secretary General's Report "Our Common Agenda" and his intention to seek high-level political agreement on a global regime to coordinate and govern space traffic. We look forward to actively engaging in the preparation of this process here at UNCOPUOS and in close coordination with UNOOSA.

Another important agenda item is the **exploration, utilization and exploitation of space resources**. Acknowledging the great opportunities

of exploring and utilizing the moon and other celestial bodies including their resources, it is very clear to us that further legal guidance is necessary and that it can only be international and multilaterally developed in nature. Therefore, we welcome the establishment of the **Working Group on Space Resources** and wish to ensure the Co-Chairs of our delegation's full support. For us, the most important task of the Working Group will be to develop a set of principles for space resources activities to ensure that they are conducted in a safe and sustainable manner, in accordance with international law and not giving rise to conflict of any kind. We look forward to engaging with all delegations constructively also on the next steps in developing an internationally binding space resources regime.

Madam Chair/Mr. Chairmen, distinguished delegates,

the **five United Nations treaties on Outer Space** continue to serve the international community well, and it is an important task of this Subcommittee to promote their universal application. Therefore, we are glad that COPUOS welcomed the completion of the "**Guidance document on the legal framework for space activities**" developed under UNISPACE+50 Thematic Priority number two in the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space. We further welcome that the working group decided to discuss the issue of **registration of large satellite constellations**. In this regard, we reiterate the great value of the UN Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space considering that comprehensive registration information assists in the identification of liable state parties involved in space activities. Thus, the allocation of adequate resources from within the UN system needs to be warranted to enable the Office to adequately fulfil its responsibility to

maintain the register, irrespective of the anticipated exponential growth of the registration volume.

Last but not least, our delegation would like to draw attention to the fact that the General Assembly, with the adoption of the **Space2030 Agenda** in 2021, encouraged COPUOS and its Subcommittees to complement and develop international law related to outer space to respond to emerging issues, to strengthen capacity-building and technical assistance, to enhance existing registration practices and information exchange, to acknowledge the role of the UN Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space and to strengthen the interrelationship between the Committee and its subcommittees. My delegation is prepared to take this invitation seriously and looks forward to making the most of this year's session of this Legal Subcommittee.

Thank you for your kind attention.