



61th SESSION OF THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE (LSC)

Item 15: “General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources”

Thank you Madam Chair, for giving me the floor.

The Italian Delegation particularly welcomes the discussions under this agenda item and we wish to take this opportunity to thank again Amb. Mistzal and Prof. Freeland, as Co-chairs of the established Working Group on space resources for conducting so wisely the informal consultations and meetings held so far.

Italy expresses its support to the Co-Chairs’ “Second Further revised Five Year Workplan” whose approval will allow the start of the activities of the Working Group.

In this regard, allow me to recall that all UN Member States have already agreed on the EU participation in COPUOS and its subsidiary

bodies in the unanimously adopted 2018 UN General Assembly Resolution 73/91. Paragraph 38 of this resolution “grants permanent observer status to the European Union, and notes that the European Union will participate in the work of COPUOS and its subsidiary bodies in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 65/276 of 3 May 2011”. The WG on Space resources operates under the COPUOS Legal Subcommittee and is an integral part of its work; therefore, the EU shall participate in all its meetings, both formal and informal.

Our delegation wishes to commend the relevant efforts made by all delegations who contributed with concrete proposals on the Work plan and with specific suggestions for the topic to be addressed by the envisaged International Conference on space resources to be organized under the auspices of the United Nations. In particular, Italy welcomes the paper presented by the Czech Republic, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Luxemburg and Portugal.

Madam Chair,

In 2020, Italy signed the Artemis Accords, which provide non-legally binding guidance for outer space and celestial bodies exploration and sustainable use and will enable the next generation of international

partnerships for the exploration of the Moon and beyond. Principles such as transparency, interoperability, release of scientific data, sustainable use of resources, safe disposal of debris, and prevention of harmful interference in other's activities are aimed in fact at ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space use. The Accords embody a high-level political commitment and introduce some novel standards for a new kind of space exploration, "in accordance with relevant international law" and in compliance with the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.

They intend Artemis Accords intend to contribute to the reduction of the uncertainty in space resource recovery and utilization. Article I of the Outer Space Treaty grants the freedom of exploration and use of outer space, the Moon and other celestial bodies. We understand that this includes the recovery and utilization of space natural resources in conformity with the principle of "due regard to the interests of other States" provided in Article IX of the OST and with the Guidelines on the Long-Term Sustainability of outer space activities.

The Artemis Accords recognize "the benefits of coordination via multilateral forums, such as... COPUOS" and the commitment of the signatories to contribute to multilateral efforts to further develop international practices and rules. We trust that the Working Group on

exploration and utilization of space resources, which has been set up within this LSC, will constitute a useful vehicle to frame a legal model for the regulation of such activities.

I thank you Madam Chair.