

Germany, Item 6

**UNCOPUOS Legal Subcommittee
61st Session 28 March – 8 April 2022, Vienna**

Statement by Germany

Agenda item 6 – Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space

Honorable Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

Germany regards universal acceptance of and adherence to the UN treaties on outer space of great importance to guarantee the peaceful exploration and use of outer space for all humankind. In this regard, we like to thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs for providing information on the status of international agreements related to activities in outer space. We note the growing number of States Parties to the Treaties with appreciation as it strengthens the rule of international law in outer space.

We wish to inform the Subcommittee that in 2021 registration information on 14 space objects was submitted to the Secretary-General – in accordance with the Registration Convention and guided by the General Assembly’s resolution on enhanced registration practices. Complete and coherent registration, including updates on the status of space objects, becomes more and more important with a view to the ever-rising number of objects launched per year.

In a related matter, we welcome the initiative by the Office for Outer Space Affairs to update the list of focal points for national registries. With the trend to have designated rideshare missions for a large number of satellites, it is valuable to be able to contact the relevant authorities to discuss questions of registration. Furthermore, we like to express our appreciation and offer support for the Office’s initiative to modernize the international Register of Objects launched into Outer Space with a view to developing an online platform for registration.

Honorable Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

The Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five UN treaties on Outer Space finished its important work under UNISPACE+50 Thematic Priority 2. We thank the chair of the working group, Prof. Dr. Bernhard Schmidt-Tedd, for his able leadership

and congratulate on finalizing the Guidance document entitled: “Bringing the benefits of space to all countries: a guidance document on the legal framework for space activities”. Furthermore, we appreciate the efforts of the Chair and the Secretariat, in preparing the summary of responses received over the years to the questionnaires on the five UN treaties and small-satellite activities as well as the background document on registration of large constellations. During this session, we look forward to discussing potential recommendations on the registration of large constellations and mega-constellations. In the past, Germany has already put an emphasis on registration. Our delegation is of the view, that new practices like dedicated rideshare missions and the rise of large constellations call for further consideration and possible guidance for States with regard to registration. The very broad and all-encompassing definition of space objects raises new challenges in the international coordination of registering the single satellites launched together. Furthermore, the sheer number of satellites launched for every single constellation raises questions of pragmatic approaches to achieve full registration without exhausting the capacities of the Bureau.

Thank you for your kind attention.