

## **New Zealand Statement**

Agenda Item 4: General exchange of views

Sixty-First Session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS

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### *Check Against Delivery*

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Thank you Chair

Tēnā tatou katoa. We would like to join our colleagues in recognising your work and the work of the secretariat in ensuring this meeting can proceed under these challenging circumstances. We are pleased to be back here with you all and are looking forward to working together to progress the important work on the agenda.

Chair

New Zealand is committed to developing space policy and regulation that promotes the peaceful, safe, and sustainable use of space. As our space industry continues to grow, we are seeking to open access to space, foster innovative technology, and take a pioneering and transparent government approach.

In order to ensure New Zealand's space regulatory regime keeps pace with technological and commercial developments, we are in the process of reviewing our Outer Space and High-altitudes Activities Act. The review is scheduled to report to the New Zealand Parliament in the coming weeks. Although our legislation is only four years old, this review recognises the fast-moving nature of the space industry and importance of continuous review to ensure our regulatory regime remains fit for purpose.

Chair

New Zealand looks forward to discussions in this Committee on potential legal models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilisation of space resources - the mineral resources in and on the moon and other celestial bodies. This is a critical issue. New Zealand welcomes the work that has been done already in the working group to develop a work programme for the coming years. The exploration, exploitation and utilisation of space

resources will be a key enabler of the next phase of space exploration, including the possibility of sending humans to Mars. It will deepen scientific understanding, drive innovation and produce economic opportunity across the growing global space sector. New Zealand looks forward to working together constructively on this important issue. We are committed to collaborating with all stakeholders to ensure that the space environment will be available, and accessible, for the benefit of all, now and into the future.

Chair

Finally, and separately to our work here, we wish to acknowledge the work our colleagues are set to undertake in Geneva. The articulation of norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours in outer space are critical to the safe and sustainable use of outer space. While existing international law provides the core regulatory framework for all activities in outer space, further specific rules, norms and standards of responsible behaviour are needed to effectively operationalise these core obligations. In that regard, we welcome the work beginning in May by our colleagues at the open-ended working group in Geneva.

Thank you Chair