

**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE**  
**COPUOS 61<sup>st</sup> Legal Subcommittee Meeting**  
**(28 March-8 April 2022)**  
**Agenda item 4 – General exchange of views**

At the outset, we would like to join other delegations in welcoming you as the Chair of the Legal Subcommittee. We are confident that your experience and able guidance will bring this session to a fruitful conclusion. We would also like to express our full support for the success of the meeting.

We would like to commend Dr. Simonetta di Pippo for her leadership and wish her every success in her future endeavours. We would also like to commend UNOOSA Acting Director Mr. Niklas Hedman and the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Legal Subcommittee.

Madame Chair,

In recent years, the space field has been developing rapidly and the states are becoming increasingly reliant on space-based activities for the well-being and sustainable socio-economic development of our societies. Communication, navigation, agriculture, education, climate change, environmental protection, global health and disaster management are just a few areas where space-based systems play an indispensable role for our common future. Moreover, we also witness the increase in the number of new actors such as private companies in space. These current developments bring new challenges and new regulatory needs to space activities.

In this context, we consider that the activities of the Working Group on Space Resources gain importance. We support the Working Group and contribute to its discussions.

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Outer Space (COPUOS) and its Subcommittees have played a pivotal role for the regulation of the space activities and laid down a sound legal basis. In view of the above mentioned developments in the space environment, we are confident that COPUOS will continue to serve as a unique forum for enhancing international cooperation, exchanging information among states and developing international norms and guidelines.

On this occasion, we would like to reiterate the importance of the states' commitment to the basic principles of the Outer Space Treaty.

Our country, as a member of COPUOS, is a party to all the UN Space Treaties. We call upon those who have not yet done so to sign and ratify all five treaties in order to ensure a safe, secure, sustainable and peaceful outer space.

Madame Chair,

Our country has long been expanding its space activities and capabilities. In this regard, Turkish Space Agency aims to strengthen the industry, improve scientific infrastructure and develop human resources in the field of space technology in the framework of the National Space Program announced on 9 February 2021.

Madame Chair,

Last year's agreement in the COPUOS on the Space2030 Agenda and its Implementation plan and the subsequent adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution on the "Space2030" Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development, was a significant achievement.

Our country attaches importance to the continuous utilization of outer space for the scientific, social and economic development of humankind. In this context, we support the efforts for the long term sustainability of outer space activities and the LTS Working Group. We will constructively contribute to the Working Group.

Guided by the word and spirit of the international treaties, our country supports initiatives and exploration of non-binding measures aimed at addressing legal gaps and challenges toward achieving the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

We firmly believe that any current and future international legal framework should not impose difficulties, unattainable standards or thresholds for countries in their space activities.

Madame Chair,

Lastly, regarding the Conference Room Paper of the Moon Village Association CRP.16 on International Moon Day, we would like to emphasize and put on record once more that the Greek Cypriot Administration does not represent the whole island. They cannot claim authority, jurisdiction or sovereignty over Turkish Cypriots, who have equal status. In this regard, we cannot accept cooperation with the UNOOSA and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the UN in this context.

Madame Chair,

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our support for the COPUOS, UNOOSA and to you for a successful meeting.

Thank you.