



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY !

**Statement by Ambassador Barbara Žvokelj,
Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the International Organisations in Vienna,
at the 61st Session of the Legal Sub-Committee of the United Nations Committee
of the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,
Agenda Item 4: General exchange of views**

Vienna, 5 April 2022

Dear excellences and delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

Before I begin with my official statement, I would like to point out that we consider the COPUOS to be a technical committee. However, we cannot pretend to live in a vacuum and isolation from the pressing situation endured by the people of Ukraine. Slovenia condemns in strongest possible terms unjustified military aggression against Ukraine, which should stop immediately. Russia has violated international law and shown disregard for the global norms that the whole international community has pledged to respect. We recognize this as an ill decision of the Russian leadership, and not of its people.

Madam Chairperson,

It is my pleasure to represent Slovenia at its first meeting of the Legal Sub-Committee. I wish to thank all the Member States for their support to Slovenia's membership, and it is a pleasure to be among the countries who have brought the membership of COPUOS to 100.

Slovenia has joined this Committee in order to actively contribute to international cooperation in the peaceful use and exploration of outer space. It is priority for my country to utilise space science and technology for sustainable economic, environmental and social development.

Madam Chairperson,

In recent years, my country has been strengthening its space-related activities, including by launching its first satellites in 2020. Due to ever stronger engagement of the Slovenian space sector a need for legal regulation of this important field has arisen. I am pleased to report that our first Space Activities Act was adopted by the Parliament on March 16.

This is a very important first step in regulating this area in my country, as it establishes the national space registry and touches upon ensuring safety of space activities in relation to space debris and safe use of outer space.

Madam Chairperson,

We are pleased that the Committee has established the Working Group on Space Resources. We see this as an important first step in a long process of establishing a much needed multilateral legal framework that will regulate this important field.

In addition, Space Traffic Management (STM) is a topic very important to my country. We look forward to opportunities to address regulatory aspects of this essential question pertaining to the future outer-space related activities in the framework of the UN.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.