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**STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR MARY MUGWANJA, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA, DELIVERED TO THE SIXTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE (LSC) OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPUOS) HELD IN VIENNA FROM THE 20<sup>TH</sup> TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023**

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***Madam Chair, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,***

Allow me to begin by thanking you **Ms. Nomfuneko Majaja** for ably guiding the discussions during this 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I assure you of my delegation's full support.

We also take this opportunity to appreciate the efforts and work being undertaken by **Mr. Niklas Hedman**, the Acting Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Secretariat in organizing for this meeting amidst challenging times occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic among other challenges.

***Madam Chair,***

Kenya aligns itself with the statement by the African Group, and I would like to add a few remarks in our national capacity.

1. Kenya appreciates the collaboration with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) under the "Space Law for New Space Actors" project and the generous contribution of the Government of France towards the success of this initiative. The collaboration includes provision of a technical advisory mission to Nairobi, Kenya, from 18 to 20 April 2023, for capacity-building and legal advisory services tailored to regulatory authorities and stakeholders within the Kenyan space sector.
2. To date, this project has helped us establish a cross-government focal point network, secure international legal and technical assistance and provide peer-to-peer networking opportunities. We are confident that the technical advisory mission will assess Kenya's needs in the area of international space law, taking into account the specific judicial, administrative, and technical requirements of the country, and offer relevant training and guidance.
3. Kenya notes that the five United Nations treaties and principles on space-related activities form the primary legal framework towards creating a safe, secure and sustainable environment for the



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development and implementation of space-related activities, and has ratified the Outer Space Treaty and Space Liability Convention.

4. These instruments provide the foundation of the national space legislation currently under development with regards to space activities in Kenya. With the increase in space activities such as launch of satellites and suborbital flights, the Government of Kenya is considering ratification of the Registration Convention, the Rescue Agreement and the Moon Treaty.
5. As we continue with our internal processes for the necessary ratifications, we remain confident that the use and exploration of outer space shall be carried out exclusively for peaceful uses and in conformity to relevant space and international laws.

***Madam Chair,***

6. Kenya fully supports the equitable use of geostationary orbit, and welcomes further discussion with Member States towards achieving consensus on a mutually beneficial model for the exploitation of the geostationary orbit.
7. Kenya is of the view that the establishment of a system of space situational awareness coordination and space traffic management will provide a basis for developing a legal framework to protect the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.
8. With regards to the sustainable use of outer space, Kenya fully supports the ongoing discussions of the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space. We note that deliberations of this subcommittee, including on the guidelines should not deter the access to space for emerging space-faring countries.

***Madam Chair,***

9. As I conclude, I wish to reaffirm Kenya's commitment to meaningful partnerships with the international space community for the promotion of space science and technology and the supportive policy and legal framework for sustainable socio-economic development at national, regional and international levels.
10. In this regard, Kenya looks forward to concrete proposals from interested global space actors that wish to partner with us in the development of the space industry in Kenya.

**Thank you for your kind attention.**