



**Permanent Mission of Italy
International Organisations - Vienna**

**62th SESSION OF THE
LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE (LSC)**

**Statement by
Ambassador Alessandro Cortese**

Item 3: general exchange of views

Vienna, 20 March 2023

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Madam Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Italy aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, including the strongest possible condemnation of the Russian aggression against Ukraine, but let me add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Let me first congratulate you, Madam Chair, for presiding over this session of the Legal Sub-Committee and thank all the staff of UNOOSA for the excellent preparation of the meeting.

Madam Chair,

Italy believes that COPUOS and its subsidiary bodies continue to be the best forum within the United Nations for a comprehensive dialogue on matters related to the peaceful uses of outer space. We value the fundamental role of the Legal Subcommittee in promoting and strengthening the international legal regime governing outer space activities and the international cooperation in this domain.

We recognize the invaluable role played by the existing United Nations treaties on outer space, which consolidated a legal regime under which exploration and use of outer space have flourished.

At the same time, we recognize all new legal challenges brought about by the impressive developments of space technologies as well as the diversification and growth of the actors involved.

Madam Chair, Italy underlines that non-legally binding instruments, such as the Guidelines on Orbital Debris Mitigation and those on the Long-term sustainability (LTS), represent a significant instrument to address these new

legal challenges. We attach great relevance to the sharing of best practices on their implementation and recently submitted a Report on voluntary implementation of the LTS Guidelines.

We also believe that the issue of space debris and the long-term sustainability include important legal aspects and that the Legal Subcommittee should play a crucial role in their thorough examination.

In this vein, Italy fully supports the engagement of the Legal Subcommittee with regard to space traffic management (STM). Considering the crosscutting nature of STM, which entails legal/regulatory and technical aspects, I wish to reiterate the invitation to address this item also within the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee, allowing a comprehensive outlook of all issues at stake. Italy commends the efforts undertaken by the European Union to develop an STM approach for Europe encompassing all aspects of the problem, in view of a possible multilateral approach within the UN.

We are committed to reinforce coordination on regulation and standardisation and to contribute to the international debate over such crucial topic.

Madam Chair,

Italy attaches special relevance to the item on capacity building in space law and policy and is particularly committed to promoting capacity-building initiatives with emerging space countries.

In this respect, the International Astronautical Federation and the Italian Space Agency recently organized the fifth edition of the International Space

Forum (ISF) in Panama City. The event promoted a greater involvement of the academic community of Central America and the Caribbean region in space activities, with the ultimate goal of finding better space solutions to local and global challenges.

Italy also remains committed to promote capacity-building initiatives with African countries. To further reaffirm this commitment, just last week, the President of the Republic of Italy, Sergio Mattarella, paid an official visit to Kenya, with whom we have a long-standing bilateral cooperation in the space field. During his mission, the President visited the “Luigi Broglio” Space Center in Malindi that, managed by the Italian Space Agency, represent a unique model of strategic partnership and a great example of cooperation in the space field.

Madam Chair,

With regards to Agenda item 7 on National legislation, Italy deems it necessary to fulfil its obligations under the UN treaties in a sustainable way, with particular reference to private operators activities. For this reason, a new National Space Strategy is under consideration that is expected to foresee the adoption of a new piece of legislation on private and commercial space activities.

To conclude with, my delegation welcomes and encourages the discussions on the item on potential legal models for space resources exploration and utilization also in the framework of the dedicated Working Group. We commend the efforts pursued by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group (Prof. Andrej Mitzal and Prof. Steven Freeland). We are convinced

that under their wise guidance the Group will continue its deliberations already started successfully at the previous session, under the approved 5 years working plan. My delegation is ready to contribute to the forthcoming discussions.

Before I conclude, let me recall that Italy is among the first signatory countries of the 2020 Artemis Accords. The Accords provide a clear non-legally binding guidance for space exploration and establish a useful set of principles based on the Outer Space Treaty aimed at ensuring a safe, transparent, sustainable and beneficial use of space. We are ready to share with COPUOS members, in a format agreed upon by the Subcommittee, all the information concerning the practice related to the implementation of these Accords.

Thank you.