



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
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Statement

by

The Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran

at

**The Sixty-Second Session of
The Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS**

on

**Agenda item 10: General exchange of views on potential legal
models for activities in the exploration, exploitation and utilization
of space resources**

20–31 March 2023
Vienna, Austria

“In the name of God, the most Compassionate, the most Merciful”

Madam Chair, Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentleman;

The unprecedented accelerating development of space technologies by States or emerging actors, as well as our better understanding of outer space has opened the ground for the extraction and exploitation of its natural resources. Today, many governments and private companies interested in space mining, considering different approaches to identify and harvest space resources.

With the ever-growing desire to exploitation of outer space, the need to keep track of this newborn industry is more and more demanding, due to impact of these exploitations on all human generations. Therefore, the exploitation of these resources requires, as the common heritage of humanity, an appropriate legal framework to drive such development in a peaceful manner and taking safety, environmental concerns and the interests of all countries into account.

Madam Chair,

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that it is necessary to establish an international governing/regulatory framework under the supervision of the United Nations to manage and coordinate all activities around the exploration, exploitation and use of space resources in order to protect the rights and interests of all countries, especially developing countries.

The main purposes of our proposing international framework are as follows:

- (a) The fair management and equitable access to of all kind of space resources;
- (b) The expansion of providing opportunities for utilizing the resources;
- (c) An equitable sharing by all countries in the benefits derived from those resources, whereby the interests and needs of the developing countries, as well as the efforts of those countries which have contributed whether directly or indirectly to the exploration of the moon, shall be addressed.

Madam Chair;

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that some leading space countries are seeking to undermine the authority of existing international bodies, especially the COPUOS, through creating intergovernmental alliances out of the official framework of the United Nations; mainly to bypass legal frameworks like Moon Agreement as normative controlling structures. Hence, the creation of a model for exploitation of lunar

resources, out of the official framework of the United Nations, cannot guarantee the preserving space as a common heritage of humanity. In addition, the emergence of private sectors with novel business models by leading countries for exploration, exploitation and use of space resources, may lead to conflicts and the violation of the rights of developing countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran suggests that using the full capacity of the Moon Agreement (1979) and the creation of an international regime for the exploitation of space resources, should be proposed as a specific agenda of the working group on the exploration, exploitation and use of space resources. Furthermore, due regard must be paid to the interests of present and future generations as well as to the need to promote higher standards of living and status of economic and social progress and development in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Thank you, Madam Chair person.