

**UNCOPUOS Legal Subcommittee
62st Session 20 March – 31 March 2023, Vienna**

Statement by Germany

Agenda item 5 – Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space

Honorable Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

universal acceptance of and adherence to the UN treaties on outer space is crucial to guarantee the peaceful exploration and use of outer space for all humankind. Hence, we would like to express our gratitude to the Office for Outer Space Affairs for its work in providing and disseminating key information on the status of international agreements related to outer space activities.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the parting chair of the working group, Prof. Dr. Bernhard Schmidt-Tedd, for his able leadership. Germany remains greatly committed to the Five-Treaties working group, which it assures of its continued support, and thanks all delegations for the support of the incoming German Chair of the Working Group.

Complete and coherent registration, including updates on the status of space objects, becomes more and more important with a view to the ever-rising number of objects launched per year. In this vein, we like to express our appreciation for the Office's initiative to modernize the international Register of Objects launched into Outer Space with a view to developing an online platform for registration and for launching the registration project, to improve awareness and promote coherent application of the Registration Convention.

In past sessions, Germany has repeatedly put an emphasis on the importance of registration. Our delegation is of the view, that the ever-growing number of space objects, the rise of large constellations and the practice of rideshare-missions call for further consideration and possible guidance for States with regard to registration. The very broad and all-encompassing definition of space object raises new challenges in the international coordination of registering the single satellites launched together.

Furthermore, the sheer number of satellites launched for every single constellation raises questions of pragmatic approaches to achieve full registration without exhausting the capacities of the Bureau. During the last session, a first set of recommendations has been presented by the former chair. We would like to invite the States already registering constellations to share their views and engage in discussions about best practices. Ideally, this could pave the way to a coherent registration practice.

With Article XI of the Outer Space Treaty, parties have agreed to inform the international community of the nature, conduct, locations and results of space activities. In light of the critical role of information-sharing for safe and sustainable space activities, and referring to a joint Conference Room Working Paper submitted by Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany, which is open for co-sponsoring in the first week and will be transferred in a CRP in the second week. We invite all delegations to share their views on dedicated tools and practices for enhanced information-sharing.

Finally, we note the growing number of States Parties to the Treaties with appreciation, as they strengthen their weight, range and ultimately application.

Thank you for your kind attention.