

**Azerbaijan Item 3**  
(General exchange of views)

Dear Chairperson and distinguished delegates,

The Space Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Azercosmos) is the first telecommunications and remote sensing satellite operator in the Southern Caucasus, active in the African, Southern and South-West Asian regions. Azercosmos as an emerging satellite operator, is interested in the development of small satellites in all orbital positions. Azercosmos has started cooperation with private commercial satellite operators from various countries, and Azercosmos is sincerely interested in investing in the development and utilization of small satellites, such as nanosatellites that are intended to be used merely for peaceful purposes. Particularly, Azercosmos, with other governmental bodies of the Azerbaijani Republic welcomes foreign investment projects that are dedicated to the development of telecommunication, navigation and remote sensing satellite activities in the Azerbaijan Republic.

Unfortunately, there is a lack of recognition of certain legal definitions in international space law that are essential for developing new space activities. Therefore, to bring into light the corporate social responsibility of private space actors besides state liability either through hard law or soft law norms, the international space community should recognize new standard definitions. Perhaps, international recognition of standard definitions may promote and safeguard investment projects in civil outer space activities.

The number of small satellites has been increasing in outer space, and the danger of collisions with space debris and harmful interference of radio frequencies is at stake. It is crucial to avoid more disputes, therefore, besides the ITU and UN COPOUS, an independent international organization similar to the World Trade Organization is needed. As this organization may adopt regulations at the international level that are needed to protect the interests of emerging space countries, and such organization may provide a fair balance and to hamper unfair competition .

We should accentuate that dispute settlement procedures in the course of harmful interference of radio frequencies are not accessible for private space actors, as communication with diplomatic channels is required. While taking into account barriers such as time limits, a more facilitated dispute settlement mechanism is essential to solving judicial disputes between operators of small satellites. Unfortunately, current ITU regulations, and the Liability Convention falls behind modern standards of commercial space activities.

We should also emphasize that Azercosmos is collaborating with various local and international non-governmental organizations and research centres. In this way, plenty of satellite images have been provided in order to alarm international communities about speed of global climate change.

Finally, as a symbol of support for civil outer space activities, Azercosmos is pleased with being a host of the International Astronautical Congress 2023 which is the most prominent event for the international space community, and we will be glad to see you in Baku during this event.