

## Germany, Item 10

### UNCOPUOS Legal Subcommittee

62<sup>nd</sup> Session 20 – 31 March 2023, Vienna/hybrid

#### Statement by Germany

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

Honorable Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

acknowledging the opportunities of exploring and utilizing the moon and other celestial bodies including their resources, my delegation welcomes the decision to move forward under this agenda item with a multi-year workplan.

Outer Space and celestial bodies are **global commons beyond national jurisdiction**. It is our joint responsibility to explore and use the moon and other celestial bodies peacefully and sustainably, and to preserve them for future generations. The five UN treaties on Outer Space continue to form the legal basis for all activities on celestial bodies, including those involving the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources. Still, further international legal guidance is necessary, and it needs to be developed in a multilateral manner. In the medium term, a **binding international legal framework** governing space resources shall facilitate the orderly and safe development as well as the rational management of space resources.

The **Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resources Activities** is a good starting point to discuss the implementation of the existing legal framework, to develop principles for space resources activities, and to recommend next steps. We thank all delegations having contributed with intersessional input on the mandate and role of the working group. Let me just highlight from our own submission, that we think it is important to ensure that our work is relevant and beneficial to the international community, that we therefore could consider space resources within reach for human activities first, that topographical features of the moon and other celestial bodies such as pristine conditions for astronomy, radio silence or cold traps should receive due consideration, and that special diligence is required to safeguard the freedom of scientific investigation.

The development of **principles for space resources activities**, eventually to be adopted by the UN General Assembly, is a priority for my delegation. They will be a valuable tool to promote safe, secure and sustainable conduct, in accordance with international law and not giving rise to conflict of any kind.

The foreseen **International Conference on Space Resources** will be an important means to gather information and to understand the needs of the scientific community, academia, governments, and private companies. We therefore should move forward with its planning effectively. We look forward to our discussions at the Working Group.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the Co-Chairs assisted by the secretariat for their thoughtful direction and preparatory work.

Thank you for your attention.