



**G-77 AND CHINA STATEMENT DURING THE SIXTY-SECOND (62nd) SESSION
OF THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE
ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE, FROM 20 – 31 MARCH 2023,
DELIVERED BY H.E. AFTAB AHMAD KHOKHER, AMBASSADOR,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN**

**AGENDA ITEM 14: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE APPLICATION
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW TO SMALL SATELLITE ACTIVITIES**

Madam Chairperson,

1. Presently, a legal or regulatory definition of a small satellite does not exist and under the United Nations treaties, principles and resolutions relating to international space law, the term “space object” refers to satellites, launch vehicles and their component parts.
2. Considering the essential roles of space objects, regardless of their size, in the socio economic development of Member States, the Group is of the view that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its Subcommittees should not create an ad-hoc legal regime or any other mechanisms, which might impose limitations on designing, building, launching and use of space objects by developing countries.
3. The Group also reiterates its previous statements regarding:
 - The importance of ensuring guaranteed and equitable access to orbital positions of the geostationary orbit according to the needs of all countries, in particular developing countries; and
 - That no space object should be removed or eliminated without prior consent or authorization of the Registering State.
 - Since debris generation goes against the interest of all States, satellite removal or elimination should be done in a responsible manner.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.