



**STATEMENT BY
DIRECTOR GENERAL
MALAYSIAN SPACE AGENCY (MYSA)
TO THE
62nd SESSION OF THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (LSC
COPUOS), VIENNA
20 – 31 MAR 2023**

**AGENDA ITEM 10: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON
POTENTIAL LEGAL MODELS FOR ACTIVITIES IN THE
EXPLORATION, EXPLOITATION AND UTILIZATION OF SPACE
RESOURCES**

Madam Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

Since this is the first time our delegation is taking the floor, on behalf of Malaysia delegates, I would like to express our gratitude to Ms. Nomfuneko Majaja for your chairmanship of the 62nd Session of the Legal Subcommittee (LSC) of the COPUOS. We assure the Chair of our full support and active participation in the proceedings of this session. We would also like to extend our appreciation to Mr. Niklas Hedman, the Acting Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and the Secretariat for their excellent preparations for this session. We assure you and all member states our full support to this session.

2. Malaysia associates itself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China on this agenda item, and would like to make the following remarks.

Madam Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

3. Malaysia welcomes the establishment of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities and its five-year work plan and methods of work. On this note, Malaysia records its appreciation to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group for their extensive work in supporting this Agenda Item.

4. Malaysia acknowledges a discussion pertaining to space resources is very relevant since technological advances have extended space activities to the exploitation of space resources.

5. Malaysia would like to highlight that only the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (Moon Agreement) explicitly mentions the exploitation of natural resources whereby the establishment of an international regime is required to govern such activities for rational management, equitable sharing and expansion of opportunities in the use of these resources. Be that as it may, the obligation merely binds the states parties to the Moon Agreement.

Madam Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

6. In this regard, Malaysia wishes to highlight the “non-appropriation” principle of outer space, the moon and other celestial bodies by claim of sovereignty as a rule of customary international law.

7. Further, the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (OST Treaty) emphasizes space activities be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development and shall be the province of

all mankind. On this note, Malaysia believes that this notion is to ensure that no State shall be discriminated against in the use and exploration of outer space and that all States are entitled to share the benefits therefrom.

8. On another note, Malaysia underscores the importance to conduct a scientific and technical study as to whether the exploitation of space resources would adversely affect space, and cause harmful contamination and also adverse changes in the environment of the Earth consistent with the very basic object of exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. Accordingly, it is Malaysia's view that it is best to engage and refer to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) being the primary forum on the technical aspect of space activities for purposes of the said studies.

9. Based on the above, Madam Chair, Malaysia is amenable to discussing the specific international regime to regulate the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources and its future legal models. We look forward to hearing other delegations' views under this Agenda item.

With that Madam Chair, I thank you.