



Ministry of Economic Affairs
and Employment of Finland

Finland's Statement in the 63rd session of the Legal Subcommittee of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Vienna, 15 April – 26 April 2023

Agenda Item 4 – General exchange of views

Thank you Mr. Chair,

I would like to begin by congratulating you for your election as the Chair of this subcommittee and express my delegation's full support and cooperation throughout this session. We also thank Director Aarti Holla-Maini and her team for their support in organising this meeting. Finland recognizes the importance of the Legal Subcommittee as an indispensable forum for the exchange of views on legal aspects of outer space activities and for fostering international cooperation in this regard.

Mr. Chair, distinguished Delegates,

Finland fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

COPUOS exists to improve conditions for expanding international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The unjustified invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation continues to severely hurt our common efforts in this regard. Finland stands in full solidarity with Ukraine and continues to firmly support Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Mr. Chair,

The themes of sustainable use of outer space and sustainable growth of the space sector, in particular the NewSpace economy, are key priorities of the Finnish space policy. Finland has recognized the increasingly important role of space-based services in everyday life. We are currently updating our national space strategy to help develop national capacity and to strengthen Finnish space industry.

Finland would like to inform the Legal Subcommittee on the current status of its national space legislation. Finland is a party to four of the UN Space Treaties. Accordingly, Finnish satellites are authorized and supervised by virtue of these treaties and in accordance with our national space law – Act on Space Activities that has been in force since 2018. It was amended for the first time last year when new regulations on satellite remote sensing entered into force. Thus, our current Space Act applies respectively to both launching and operating a space object as well as to operating a high accuracy remote sensing instrument onboard a space object.

Mr. Chair,

The issue concerning safety and sustainability of space activities is a growing concern to all. We are pleased to see the continued discussions on pressing topics such as Space Traffic Management and space debris mitigation in this subcommittee. Finland is also of the opinion that space resource activities are best coordinated at the multilateral level, and we thank the Committee and active delegations for their work on this theme.

Finally, Mr. Chair,

Finland believes that the United Nations treaties on outer space, together with the related UN General Assembly resolutions and sets of principles form the cornerstones of international space law. We encourage the widest possible implementation of and adherence to the relevant international treaties and guidelines to support the rules-based international order.

Thank you Mr. Chair and distinguished Delegates.