

## **Statement by Norway to the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the Legal Subcommittee - agenda item 4, General exchange of views**

Norway wishes to congratulate you with your election as Chair of this 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the Legal Subcommittee. Please rest assured of Norway's support. We would also like to thank the outgoing Chair, Ms Nomfuneko Majaja of South Africa, for her outstanding work in leading this Subcommittee during the last period and, as always, we thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their steadfast work in preparing this session.

Chair,

The United Nations Treaties relating to activities in outer space are the cornerstones of international space law and are fundamental for the safeguarding of a continued peaceful utilization and exploration of outer space for all nations. Norway remains committed to the work of COPUOS and its Subcommittees.

Among our priorities in COPUOS you find the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, the Working Group on Long-term Sustainability, space as an asset to combat climate change, the Space 2030 Agenda and the up-coming Summit of the Future.

Regarding the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities, it is important that the working group succeeds in promoting a common understanding of the way forward in order to be able to reach agreement on a common set of initial principles for space resource activities. During this session, the International Conference on Space Resources is of particular interest.

The International Conference was given the timeslot usually granted to the symposium organized by the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) and the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL). We trust that IISL and ECSL will be granted their usual timeslot again during next year's session of the LSC.

As for the Working Group on Long-term Sustainability, Norway welcomes further discussions in the working group during the meeting of the main committee in June.

When it comes to climate and sustainability, Norway continues its work under the International Climate and Forest Initiative and the Blue Justice Initiative. We will report on the progress made under the Space2030 Agenda at the COPUOS-meeting in June, and notes that a mid-term review on the Space2030 Agenda is scheduled for next year.

Norway also welcomes the new UNOOSA Leadership Strategy and its key priorities. Norway is currently considering how best to cooperate with UNOOSA on the strategy, and how we can contribute to it.

Space traffic management is gaining increased importance as the number of objects and activities in space continue to grow. A multilateral approach is required to secure a safe and sustainable use of outer space. For this reason, it is important that space traffic management remains an item on our agenda.

Chair,

Norway condemns Russia's illegal full-scale war against Ukraine. Norway calls for Russia to cease hostilities and unconditionally withdraw all forces and military equipment from within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders.

In conclusion, permit me to reiterate Norway's steadfast support of the vital work taking place in this committee and for you Chair, in your mission.

Thank you Chair