

Indonesia

Agenda 7 (b): Matters relating to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

By: Mrs. Dr. Dwie Irmawaty Gultom

Mr. Chair,

My delegation associates itself with the General Statement of G77 and China delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Laura Gil, Permanent Representative of Colombia in Vienna.

My delegation observes that equitable access to GSO is still a challenge for many countries: developing countries, countries with certain geographic situations, equatorial countries and as well as newcomers.

We have heard concerns of different delegations regarding GSO slots that are not proportionally distributed among countries. Inequalities, inefficiencies, and bureaucratic congestion in the utilization of the GSO remain serious challenges that must be addressed by COPUOS member states.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation would like to remind that the committee at its session in 2001 agreed on the following statement: "The geostationary orbit, characterized by its special properties, is part of outer space." Furthermore, according to the Space Treaty 1967, outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be free for exploration and use by all States without discrimination of any kind, on a basis of equality and in accordance with international law, and there shall be free access to all areas of celestial bodies.

In this regard, we believe that the application of GSO as a part of outer space shall be rational, balanced, efficient, and with equitable access for all countries without seeing their technical development in outer space technology.

Indonesia also observes that according to the Article 44, paragraph 196.2, of the ITU Constitution as amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference, held in Minneapolis, United States of America, in 1998 stipulates that: "In using frequency bands for radio services, Member States shall bear in mind that radio frequencies and any associated orbits, including the geostationary satellite orbit, are limited natural resources and that they must be used rationally, efficiently and economically, in conformity with the provisions of the Radio Regulations, so that countries or groups of countries may have equitable access to those orbits and frequencies, taking into account the special needs of the developing countries and the geographical situation of particular countries."

We should consider GSO as a specific area and special part of outer space which needs specific technical and legal governance as well. Therefore, in order to ensure the application of principles of equitable access for all States, particularly the needs of developing countries and countries which have special geographical conditions, my delegation believes that GSO should be regulated by a sui generis regime, according to the Space Treaty and the Article 44 of ITU Constitution. We look forward to working together on developing this sui generis regime.

Mr. Chair,

As the mandate of this agenda: “ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union”, Indonesia is of the view that this Legal Subcommittee needs to find a practical solution on Matters relating to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit.

As we look ahead to the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee (LSC) in 2025, we emphasize the importance of continuing discussions on equitable access to GSO. This issue should remain a priority on the agenda, reflecting the ongoing challenges faced by many nations in utilizing this vital resource.

In conclusion, Indonesia stands ready to actively engage in constructive dialogue and collaborative efforts within COPUOS to ensure the rational, equitable, and sustainable use of the Geostationary Orbit.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.