

Agenda Item 9: General exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilisation of space resources

Thank you Chair,

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China under this agenda item and has the following remarks to add in its national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

Pakistan welcomes the work being conducted by the Working Group on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilisation of space resources. We also reiterate our support of the Working Group's Work Plan and methods of work and look forward to continuing engaging actively in its substantive work. In this regard, Pakistan's position continues to be guided by the following principles and considerations:

Firstly, the normative and legal framework governing exploration, exploitation and utilisation of space resources must be consistent with existing international space law (i.e. five UN space treaties particularly the Outer Space Treaty and fully respect the principles of non-appropriation and equitable access.

Secondly, space resources activities must be conducted in a safe, sustainable and peaceful manner for the benefit of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development.

Thirdly, the Moon Agreement envisages the possibility of an international regime to govern exploitation of natural resources of the moon and in calling for an equitable sharing of the benefits derived from those resources and according to special consideration to the interests and needs of developing countries. It provides the best legal model for the framework to govern the exploration, exploitation and utilisation of space resources.

Fourthly, while engagement of the private sector is important in developing norms around exploration, exploitation and utilisation of space resources, the process must be State-driven as States bear international

responsibility for activities carried out by governments and commercial entities.

Finally, the Working Group should continue efforts to contribute towards the ultimate goal of negotiating a legally binding instrument governing the exploration, exploitation and utilisation of space resources through an inclusive process. This remains the best guarantee to ensure that space activities are carried out in a transparent, predictable and sustainable manner while avoiding risk of conflict and preserving space as a peaceful environment. In this regard, the UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS), with its track record in developing the international legal framework on space and its inclusive and transparent character, provides the best forum for further development of normative and legal framework on space resources.

I thank you, Chair.
