

AGENDA ITEM 3

GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

KEN HODGKINS

THE HAGUE INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE

Thank you Chair.

On behalf of the President of the Hague Institute for Global Justice, Sohair A. Salam Saber, I would like to thank Member states for the opportunity to address the Subcommittee as a permanent observer to COPUOS.

Chair, I wish to recall that the Space2030 Agenda recognizes that space systems are vital to sustainability, economic growth, scientific discovery, and the betterment of the human condition. It further underscores the importance of fulfilling the Space2030 Agenda through global partnerships with industry and private sector entities that take advantage of the practical experiences and contributions of different stakeholders.

It is in this spirit that the Institute decided to dedicate its work over the next decade to ways and means for the orderly and transparent use of outer space for the benefit of the global community. The Off-World Approach was created as a permanent, comprehensive platform for civil society to share their views and take actions on the future of the space enterprise that sets the foundation for global stability, economic growth, societal well-being and the rule of law as we proceed through the 21st Century and beyond.

Since the Subcommittee last met, the Off-World Approach has produced the first civil-society authored set of high-level commitments taken on a voluntary basis by Signatories and applicable to their outer space activities in Earth-orbit and on the surface, subsurface, and in the orbit of the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

On behalf of the Institute, I have the honor of presenting The Washington Compact on Norms of Behavior for Commercial Space Operations (The Compact). Conference Room Paper A/AC105/c.1/2023/CRP.27 contains The Compact.. The Compact is an unprecedented document generated by civil society to guide its presence in space. Non-governmental entities and leading personalities from all sectors and at all levels of the space enterprise contributed to The Compact with the aim of creating a new paradigm in governance for commercial space activities.

I am pleased to note that the reach of The Compact is universal with signatories from China, France, India, Russia, the United States and others from the regions of Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Western Europe.

The Compact represents the next phase in the evolution of international space law, policy and practice that embodies the time-tested principles of the UN Outer Space Treaties and COPUOS' soft-law instruments. In addition, The Compact embraces:

Transparency

Predictability

Interoperability

Fair and Equal Governance

Sustainability of the Space Environment

Use of Space Systems for Sustainability on Earth

Freedom of Scientific Inquiry and Data Exchange

Nurturing of the Next Generation of Space Entrepreneurs

At the heart of the Compact is self-governance among a group of like-minded Signatories using the good offices of the Institute to provide practical support for follow-on work under the Compact. There is no enforcement mechanism or governance structure unless the Signatories decide otherwise. Collective decisions will be governed by consensus among the Signatories. The Signatories commit to meet periodically to review the implementation of the Compact, consider revisions to the existing principles and/or adopt new principles. The Signatories also agree that, should the need arise, working groups may be organized to consider specific matters in greater detail.

In conclusion, the Institute presents The Compact as a tangible contribution to the fulfillment of the Space2030 Agenda and stands ready to cooperate with the Committee and its Member states in areas that are mutually beneficial.

Thank you.