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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee
Sixty-Second session
Vienna, 20–31 March 2023
Item 10 of the provisional agenda*
General exchange of views on potential legal models
for activities in the exploration, exploitation, and
utilization of space resources**

Azerbaijan – Input to the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities

The present conference room paper was prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information received from Azerbaijan. The information was reproduced in the form it was received.

* [A/AC.105/C.2/L.323](#).





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No 134-1-9/585-22

To: United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)
United Nations Office at Vienna, Vienna International Centre,
Wagramerstrasse 5, A-1220 Vienna, AUSTRIA

Re: The UNOOSA letter dated 01.07.2022 №OOSA/2022/40 CU 2022/197

Subject: Submission on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities by the Space Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Azercosmos) (hereinafter, the "Space Agency")

Dear Sir/Madam,

We welcome the chance to contribute our viewpoints in response to the Invitation Circular to submit information on the mandate and purpose of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resources Activities under the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (hereinafter, referred as the "WG").

For the purpose of exploring new ideas and methods to enhance the framework of the activities undertaken by the WG, it would be valuable to involve delegates from the Member States and form groups to identify and focus on specific issues born by the space related activities of the Member States. It may be preferable for the WG to create appropriate circumstances for the Member States to exchange views, ideas and methods of work regularly and collect information efficiently. We believe such group will benefit to the cooperation among Member States, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations and private sector entities. As the Outer Space Treaty established the importance of international cooperation in the field of activities related to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, as well as the importance of developing the rule of law in this new area of human endeavor, we would like to propose putting international cooperation with newly emerged space actors into framework. International cooperation under voluntary norms is critical for maintaining political, diplomatic, and labor stability. International cooperation in space resource management can introduce a programmatic dependency into the architecture of a system, requiring all partners to deliver on time and within the agreed-upon parameters. These concerns give rise to the adage that international cooperation

is best for a country when its partners are not on the "critical path" of the system. We are proposing a sophisticated legal framework for international cooperation in order to maintain trust and confidentiality.

In order to create a safe and transparent environment for the peaceful use of the Outer Space, the WG itself would share its vision of initial principles for exploration, scientific and commercial activities in the Outer Space for the benefit of humankind which would be a model for the Member States.

We also would like to recommend the WG to cover the space debris problem in its work plan, thus the Outer Space Treaty highlights the freedom of outer space which is subject to the condition that space should be explored and used for the benefit and in the interest of all countries. Therefore, everyone must behave responsibly to ensure their space activities are beneficial for the humanity, and to be sure that we can benefit, we must avoid any risks on the unregulated access to the space. As the number of satellites increases significantly, potential risks to the space continue to grow. It has been noted that, only a negligible number of space objects are directly de-orbited at the end of life, while most of them remain in orbit and add to the space debris. Therefore, space debris pose a serious hazard and creates a great risk to the possibility of future access to space.

Although several guidelines were formulated in this regard, none of them is legally binding. The next step should be the transfer of guidelines into actual regulations. While some countries have already taken this step and reflected space debris mitigation in their national regulations, worldwide implementation is still pending. In order to ensure a safe and sustainable use of outer space, we recommend to adopt legally binding requirements on space debris mitigation under international law.

Furthermore, Azerbaijan supports and deems it necessary to continue the discussions on the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources. We extend our appreciation to the Chair, Mr. Andrzej Misztal (Poland) and Vice-Chair Mr. Steven Freeland (Australia) for opening this chance to exchange views on the comprehensive deliberations which are necessary to develop an international regulatory framework that takes into account the interests of all stakeholders.

Please, accept assurances of my highest consideration to entire team of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

Sincerely,

Samaddin Asadov
Chairman of the Board

