



Permanent Mission of Italy  
International Organisations - Vienna

**64th Session of the United Nations  
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS),  
Vienna, 25 August – 3 September 2021**

**Agenda item 7 - Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its  
Sixtieth session**

**Statement by the Italian Delegation**

**Vienna, August 27, 2021**

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset of this intervention on the Report of the sixtieth session of the Legal Subcommittee, held from 31 May to 11 June 2021, the Italian delegation wishes to congratulate the Chair of the Legal Subcommittee, Ms. Setsuko Aoki, for having presided so wisely and effectively over the session held in “hybrid format”. My delegation also congratulates Director Simonetta Di Pippo and her colleagues of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for having ensured an excellent performance of the session despite the difficult circumstances related to the pandemic.

As a general comment, Italy reaffirms its commitment to support the role played by the Legal Subcommittee in strengthening the international legal regime governing outer space activities, and in promoting an ever-wider adherence to the existing international treaties on outer space. Considering the growth of space activities and their diversification, the Subcommittee is the most appropriate global forum where Member States can debate emerging legal challenges and

new crucial topics to find adequate solutions for the development of international space law.

Concerning the Report contained in Doc. A/AC.105/124, my delegation would like to express its appreciation for its overall content, which duly reflects the progress and achievements attained during the session and the variety of opinions expressed therein, and make reference to some specific points.

Firstly, we welcome the consensus achieved on the establishment of the Working Group on Space Resources and the election of Ambassador Misztal and Professor Freeland as Chair and Vice Chair of the WG respectively, and we sincerely congratulate both of them. We thank again all delegations which positively contributed with their proposals to this outcome, which constitutes a solid base for achieving further consensus on the mandate, methods of works and workplan of the Working Group, in order to start the substantive discussions at the 61st Session of the Subcommittee in 2022.

We also draw the attention of delegations to the organization, in the margins of the session, of the side event on the “Artemis Accords: Safe and Sustainable Space Exploration”, in which Italy, as one of the signatories, had the honour to participate. The Accords are aimed at

promoting the sustainable and beneficial exploration and use of space for all and we are committed to share in the future our experiences in implementing the Accords with the COPUOS Member States.

Secondly, my delegation attaches great importance to the very timely exchange of views under agenda item n. 12, devoted to Space Traffic Management. We share the view that the outer space environment is becoming increasingly complex and congested, and that space traffic management could be considered in that context with a view to developing and implementing a set of technical and regulatory provisions to promote safe access to outer space, the safety of operations in outer space and the safe return from outer space, free from physical or radio frequency interference. We reiterate the importance of analysing both the legal and technical aspects of this topic and the consequent need for a strengthened coordination between the two Subcommittees. We also underline the need to intensify the cooperation of the two Subcommittees on other topics interrelated to Space Traffic Management, like the Long-Term Sustainability of space activities and the issue of space debris, expressed by several Delegations.

Thirdly, we agree that capacity-building, training and education in space law are of paramount importance to national, regional and

international efforts to further develop the practical aspects of space science and technology, especially in developing countries, and to increase knowledge of the legal framework within which space activities are carried out. We emphasize that the Subcommittee and the Office for Outer Space Affairs have an important role to play in that regard. In this line, let me felicitate the International Institute for Space Law (IISL) and the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL) for the Symposium on the theme “Space law for the global space economy”, held during the session, which made a valuable contribution to the work of the Subcommittee.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,