



Ministry of Economic Affairs
and Employment of Finland

**Finland's Statement in the 64th session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Vienna, 25 August – 3 September 2021, Agenda Item 7 – Report of the Legal Subcommittee on
its sixtieth session**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good morning/afternoon.

Finland considers the Legal Subcommittee as the main multilateral forum for the exchange of views on legal aspects of outer space activities and for fostering international cooperation, and would like under this agenda item to highlight some issues that it considers important in this regard. We wish to thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Chair of the Legal Subcommittee, Ms. Setsuko Aoki, for their hard work in successfully preparing and conducting the meeting in a hybrid format.

Mr Chair and distinguished Delegates,

Finland is of the opinion that exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources are best to be coordinated at international, multilateral level for the peaceful and sustainable exploration and use of outer space, that is carried out in accordance with international law and in the benefit and interests of all States.

Finland welcomes with great appreciation the establishment of the Working Group under the Agenda Item of Exploration, Exploitation and Utilization of Space Resources during the 60th session of the Legal Subcommittee in ensuring meaningful and effective exchange among the member States of the Committee. We wish to thank the co-moderators, Andrzej Misztal and Steven Freeland, for their efforts during the Scheduled Informal Consultations, and wish to congratulate them on their election as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group. We also wish to thank all the delegations for their active participation and constructive discussions. We specifically thank the delegations of Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Greece, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Spain, who joined to co-sponsor the conference room paper on the establishment of a working group on space resources initiated by Germany and Finland.

We find that there is a sense of urgency to enable timely discussion and clarity in the matter to seek consensus in an effective and result oriented manner at the intergovernmental multilateral level. We are convinced that under the able guidance of Mr. Misztal and Dr. Freeland, the 64th session of COPUOS can find an agreement on the methods of work, terms of reference and dedicated work plan, so that the working group can officially begin its work in 2022.

Mr Chair,

Finland has particular interest in the themes of sustainable use of outer space and the NewSpace economy. The Finnish space strategy supports innovation and sustainable growth in the space sector. We believe that having a legally clear and predictable operating environment is key in promoting competitiveness as well as sustainable development of the space industry. Furthermore, it can enable the entrance of new actors, as well as investments to the space sector. Ensuring substantially similar interpretation of the principles creates a level playing field for the non-governmental entities, and

supports the development of the space sector at large. On this note, we wish to highlight the Symposium held by the International Institute of Space Law (IISL) together with the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL) on the theme “Space law for the global space economy”. We wish to thank the organizers for these presentations, which provided valuable expert views and materials for further discussion.

The issue concerning safety and sustainability of space activities is a growing concern to all space actors and the society. Finland considers that the development of a global Space Traffic Management (STM) regime, which contributes towards creation, development and implementation of common international rules that take into consideration changes in the sector, is timely and essential. We are content that the issue of Space Traffic Management has been a single agenda item in the Legal Subcommittee since 2016. An effective space situational awareness capacity, including space weather, space surveillance and tracking and near earth objects capabilities, is vital in supporting these aims. Space Traffic Management is an interdisciplinary matter and encompasses regulatory, technical and operational elements at different levels. Finland considers that international cooperation, coordination, and information sharing with regards to all aspects of space activities is key to enable reaching the goals of both sustainable and safe use of outer space.

Finally, Mr. Chair,

The importance of national space laws in the governance of space activities is growing especially due to the commercialisation of space activities. The agenda item dedicated to National legislation space continues to provide delegations with a needed platform to inform others about their national regulatory developments. Authorization and continuous supervision of space activities is mandated by Article VI of the Outer Space Treaty for the States Parties to ensure that national space activities, including those by private actors, are carried out in compliance with international law. Coordination and information sharing at multilateral level is needed even more than before to ensure coherent application and development of the governance of space activities, including national implementation of non-legally binding instruments such as the Guidelines for Long-Term Sustainability.

Thank you Mr. Chair.