

Germany, Item 7**UNCOPUOS
64th Session, Vienna, 25 August – 3 September 2021****Agenda Item 7: Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its 60th session****Statement by Germany**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

Germany thanks UNOOSA for the excellent organization of this year's session of the Legal Subcommittee as well as for the preparation of the report. We also commend the chair Professor Setsuko Aoki for her excellent leadership during the session, which witnessed fruitful discussions and a number of highly welcome decisions.

Let us reiterate, that as outer space and space infrastructure are key to solving global challenges, Germany is committed to:

- preserving outer space as a global common,
- safeguarding the freedom of exploration and use of outer space as the province of all humankind and
- shaping the future global governance of outer space activities.

At times, where we increasingly rely on space infrastructure and explore new space ventures, we remain convinced that the **rule of international space law** is key to the sustainable exploration and use of outer space and celestial bodies. COPUOS and its Legal Subcommittee have a very **positive track record in developing international space law**. Therefore, Germany is committed to maintaining the Legal Subcommittee as the central forum for developing the legal regime of outer space. COPUOS member states have a joint responsibility to preserve outer space for peaceful exploration and use by present and future generations. Therefore, we are committed to work towards the development of legally binding rules on space debris, international space traffic management as well as an international regime for the utilization and exploitation of space resources.

In this regard, we particularly welcome the **Legal Subcommittee's decision on the establishment of a Working Group on Space Resources**. We note that this decision

was facilitated by the scheduled informal consultations and we thank the co-moderators as well as all delegations having contributed to this success. We congratulate ambassador Misztal and Professor Freeland on their election as chair and vice-chair of the working group and would like to assure them of our delegation's full support.

It is now up to the working group to **decide on its terms of reference and workplan**. These issues must be settled in a timely manner to allow the working group to start its work without further delay. Together with Finland and other European partners we submitted a working paper containing detailed suggestions. We now look forward to continuing the discussion on the basis of the latest proposal by the chair and the vice-chair.

For Germany, it is particularly important that we commit to a **results-oriented workplan and provide hands-on legal guidance** to ensure that space resources activities of the first generation are planned and conducted in a safe, sustainable and peaceful manner, in accordance with international law as well as for the benefit and in the interest of all humankind. The working group should therefore start as early as possible with the drafting of principles and practical measures for implementation by States and other actors engaged in space resources activities. We stand ready to work with all interested delegations in order to move forward on this important issue.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

The five UN treaties on Outer Space, together with complementary instruments developed by COPUOS and its Subcommittees, continue to serve the international community well in regulating space activities. **Their universal application** is more important than ever in times of an increasing diversification of space actors. The guidance document on the legal framework for space activities adopted by the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five UN Treaties is thus an important contribution. We commend the Working Group under the leadership of Bernhard Schmidt-Tedd on its successful adoption and thank everyone involved for their dedication and effort. We look forward to discussing, during the next session of the Subcommittee, potential recommendations on the registration of large constellations as well as continuing the important work of the Subcommittee under all other agenda items.

Thank you for your kind attention.