

Item 3: General Exchange of Views**Madam Chairperson and Distinguished delegates,**

At the outset, the Indian delegation would like to congratulate you on assuming the chair of Legal Subcommittee and assure you of its full support in conducting the session. We also express our sincere appreciation to the Secretariat for its efforts in the conduct of the 60th session of Legal Subcommittee under the unprecedented pandemic-affected conditions. We believe that it is critical for States to continue to discuss on how to address the challenges posed by a rapidly evolving global space scenario.

Madam Chairperson,

As a major space faring nation, India has continued to expand its space programme to meet national needs for remote sensing and satellite communication applications, as well as space science and exploration missions. While pursuing its national space programme, India has remained engaged with other States bilaterally and through multilateral fora including COPUOS and its subcommittees.

While appreciating the significant achievements of various Member States in space endeavors, we would also like to inform this gathering on the significant national developments since the last session of the LSC meeting in 2019. ISRO has successfully executed 8 orbital missions from its spaceport at Sriharikota, namely, 4 Earth observation satellites, 2 communication satellites, Amazonia-1 satellite from Brazil all onboard PSLV and India's second lunar mission Chandrayaan-2 onboard GSLV Mk-III. Indian Human Spaceflight program Gaganyaan, Mission to Sun Aditya-L1 and the third lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 have made considerable progress. However, the challenges posed by Covid-19 pandemic have caused some delays in our space missions in 2020 and 2021.

Madam Chairperson,

India believes that technological benefits offered by space based applications hold great potential for addressing the problems faced by humankind. Recent years have witnessed a renewed interest across the globe in the utilization of outer space. The private entities are an important component of this revival, which has opened more and more avenues for commercial utilization of space based products and services. However, it has also resulted in rapid proliferation of space objects, bringing forth questions of the safety of space operations. It is crucial to ensure and enhance the long-term sustainability of outer space activities so that the benefits of space technology are preserved for the future generations. The international legal framework, therefore, needs to be strengthened to enhance the safety and sustainability of space for all space users.

India welcomes the adoption of preamble and 21 guidelines on long term sustainability of outer space activities by COPUOS and is committed to the voluntary implementation of these guidelines to the extent possible. India is also committed to share its experiences and lessons learnt from the national implementation of these guidelines to contribute towards global

efforts on sustainable space activities. India urges all the member states to work unitedly to progress towards this common goal.

Madam Chairperson,

India is a party to all the major international treaties/regulations related to outer space, including Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue Agreement, the Liability Convention and the Registration Convention and has also signed the Moon Treaty. India also implements all the outer space related instruments, including the UN Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines.

India also implements a number of Transparency and Confidence Building Measures (TCBMs)- including registering space objects within the UN register, prelaunch notifications, measures in harmony with the UN Space debris Mitigation Guidelines, participation in Inter Agency Space Debris Coordination (IADC) activities with regard to space debris management, undertaking Space Object Proximity Awareness (SOPA) and Collision Avoidance (COLA) Analysis and numerous international cooperation activities.

India initiated a major space reform in the year 2020 to enable participation of private sector in space activities. A number of private sector enterprises are expanding their activities within our evolving framework in this regard.

Madam Chairperson,

India has been actively engaging and sharing its vast experience in peaceful uses of outer space activities with other countries through international cooperation. Currently we have formal cooperation agreements with 59 countries and 5 multinational bodies, which include 23 cooperation arrangements signed in the last two years.

India has also been offering a unique capacity building programme on nano satellite development **UNNATI (Unispace Nanosatellite Assembly & Training by ISRO)** in fulfilment of its commitments made at UNISPACE+50. The 8-week long international programme has been conducted twice since its inception in January 2019, benefitting 59 officials from 33 countries.

The rapid pace of emergence of newer space technologies necessitates that the outer space legal regime, should closely monitor the scientific and technical developments and ponder on the legal challenges they may pose. A greater synergy with Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee would be useful in effectively addressing the legal aspects of challenges such as space debris mitigation, space traffic management, ITU allocations, etc.

Madam Chairperson,

India reiterates its commitment to continue working with other nations, to pursue shared interest in space security towards legally binding instruments as well as transparency and confidence building measures complementary to them, with a view to ensure safety and security of all legitimate space-based assets.

Thank you Madam Chairperson.
